

## A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



Dear Neighbor,

I feel privileged to be able to join with so many other East Siders and New Yorkers who are stepping up to help our neighbors, including CityHarvest, Vision Urbana, and a Beam Living from Stuyvesant Town and Kips Bay. We have been working together to ensure that elderly and/or low-income residents who need food during this crisis can have it safely delivered to them at no cost.

Our office has also been reaching out to constituents with the help of volunteers to make sure they are taken care of during this crisis. **If you need help filing for unemployment, obtaining SNAP benefits, paying rent, have a small business issue, or have another concern, please call my office at [212-979-9696](tel:212-979-9696) and leave a message or send an email to [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com). My staff and I will work to promptly return your call or email.**

**If you can volunteer, please email us as well. We need all the help we can get to make phone calls, put up posters or distribute food. If you can help, help in the way you feel comfortable doing.**

While fatalities and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus are trending down, Governor Cuomo announced yesterday that NYS PAUSE has been extended until May 15th. This means that non-essential businesses will remain closed, social distancing requirements will continue to be enforced, and so will wearing face coverings in public starting today at 8pm. Read more about that below.

Hope to see you today at our **Hang with Harvey today at 5:30pm**. Join me for a question or just raise a glass with me and others who are helping flatten the curve.

Harvey

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### In This Newsletter:

1. Upcoming Events:
    1. **TONIGHT:** Virtual Hang with Harvey Happy Hour (5:30pm - 6:30pm) : [Register here!](#)
  2. NYS PAUSE Extended to May 15th
  3. Update on Absentee Ballot Voting
  4. City Bar Justice Center's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project
  5. How Some financial well off folks Are Getting Stimulus 'Checks' Averaging \$1.7 Million
  6. Advocates for Children of New York's Education Helpline
  7. Census Video Prize Challenge extended to May 7!
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## **NYS PAUSE Extended to May 15th**

Governor Cuomo announced yesterday all NYS on Pause restrictions and closures will be extended until May 15th. This action is taken in consultation with other regional states. The states will re-evaluate after this additional closure period.

The Governor also directed all New Yorkers to wear masks or face coverings on public transportation systems and while taking private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles. Additionally, all operators of public systems, private carriers and for-hire vehicles must wear a mask or face covering at all times while working. These directives expand on the Executive Order [announced](#) by the Governor yesterday requiring all people in New York to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. The Executive Order will go into effect today, Friday, April 17th, at 8 PM.

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## **Update on Absentee Ballot Voting**

In my last email to you all, I gave instructions from the NYS Board of Elections website on how to apply for an absentee ballot for the upcoming June 23rd election. It has been brought to my attention that the information on the Board of Elections website has yet to be updated with the necessary instructions to ensure you can vote safely in the next election. My staff was in touch with the Governor's office about this issue to make sure the instructions on the Board of Elections website are correct and up to date. In addition to the Board of Elections not providing accurate information, I also flagged their lack of language accessibility in their online forms. I have always supported making voting more accessible - especially now. I will continue working to ensure absentee ballot voting is seamless so that you can make sure your voices are heard.

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## **How Some Financially Well Off folks Are Getting Stimulus 'Checks' Averaging \$1.7 Million**

I found this [article](#) deeply disturbing. At a time when tens of millions of Americans are losing their jobs, the stimulus package signed by the President smuggled in a \$90 billion dollar tax break for capital gains earnings, which applies retroactively to 2018 and 2019. It's a shameless display of greed and an attack on everyday Americans who are hurting during this crisis. In this moment especially we need to consider raising taxes on the wealthiest--not giving them handouts they don't need--and on the big corporations who can afford to pay for the essential public services on which so many regular people rely.

If you are looking for an update on the status of your federal stimulus check, you [can look here!](#)

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## **City Bar Justice Center's Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project**

In partnership with L4GG and several New York City law firms, NELP has launched the [COVID-19 Remote Small Business Legal Clinic](#) (CV-19 Clinic). The CV-19 Clinic will offer limited scope pro bono legal consultations to entrepreneurs and small business owners (with fewer than 100 employees) to help them understand and act upon options available under the federal government's COVID-19 stimulus package and other opportunities available through federal, state and local programs. CV-19 Clinic consultations will also prepare clients to navigate broader legal issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Small business owners will be able to receive advice in the following areas: small business loans & grants, contracts & force majeure clauses, employment law matters, real estate and commercial leasing Issues, and insurance matters.

To participate in the CV-19 Clinic, NYC entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking COVID-19-related legal advice can put in a request for assistance by filling out our online [intake form](#). Qualified applicants can expect to be contacted by an attorney within 3 business days.

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## **Advocates for Children of New York’s Education Helpline**

Advocates for Children of New York’s Education Helpline is continuing to help families during the period of school closure. If you have questions about education you can speak with an education specialist Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm, by calling our toll free number at [866-427-6033](tel:866-427-6033).

They are also posting education updates at <https://www.advocatesforchildren.org/covid-19-updates> and sending weekly bulletins with the latest education information.

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## **Census Video Prize Challenge extended to May 7!**

We hope this note finds you well and that you’re navigating this new normal safely. Census Accelerate, an initiative of the [Census Open Innovation Labs](#), at the U.S. Census Bureau, has launched its first-ever video prize competition to reward the most engaging, impactful and informative videos about the 2020 Census - with a total of \$50,000 in cash prizes. Census Accelerate has partnered with national and local advocacy groups, entertainment industry, federal, state and local government, as well as civic engagement groups to leverage outreach efforts of cross-sector organizations dedicated to ensuring a complete and accurate count. Now, we’re challenging civically engaged content creators and organizations in supporting a complete count of your communities by [submitting your outreach videos](#).

Due to feedback and sensitivity to [rapidly evolving developments](#) with the public health environment and the [2020 Census operational timeline](#), we’ve extended the deadline for video submissions to May 7th at 11:59pm EDT.

- Grand Prize - \$30,000, Runner Up \$10,000, Student Prize \$10,000
- Video should be 30 sec to 3 min
- Extended Deadline: May 7th
- We want you to remain socially distanced and are understanding that videos will be limited to what you can produce while at home. Judges will factor that into their evaluation.
- Videos should speak to a [hard to count community](#).
- Content should align with the ‘reminder phase’ of the census: "It's not too late to respond either online, via phone, or by mail."
- Please see [FAQ's here](#).
- Join us for an [Info Session/ Video Prep event](#) on April 23rd from 3:00-5:00pm EDT.

**Please contact [census.accelerate@census.gov](mailto:census.accelerate@census.gov) if you have any questions.**