

## A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



This week my colleagues and I are passing a historic package of bills to increase accountability and transparency of police departments in New York. Yesterday, we passed 5 key bills including the Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act, legislation protecting new yorkers' rights to record law enforcement activity, legislation to prevent the biased misuse of emergency services, the STAT Act to bring transparency to policing data, and legislation requiring officers to promptly report discharge of a firearm.

Today, we are going to take up a bill to repeal 50-a, the section of the civil rights law that has been broadly interpreted to shield police officers' disciplinary records. As public servants, officers' disciplinary records must be publicly accessible. With this information, we can hold police officers accountable and get bad cops out of our communities. People coming out to protest made this happen. The importance of the protests, many of which I participated in, allowed us to get to these bills on the floor and I believe the Governor will sign them. Read more about the package [here](#).

On another note, New York City entered Phase 1 of it's reopening plan. Read more about what that means for you below.

As always, we are working to provide support to constituents during this difficult time, including: help with obtaining unemployment benefits, free food delivery, small business aid, questions about your child's education, and more. Please reach out to our office at 212-979-9696 and leave a message. My staff will return your call as soon as possible. You can also write to [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com) and we will respond as soon as possible.

See you around the district,

Harvey

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### **In This Newsletter:**

1. Re-Opening Office
2. Protests Across the Country
3. RGB Hearing
4. Antibody Tests
5. Coronavirus Testing Sites
6. NYC Phase 1 Re-opening Updates from City Agencies
7. Important Information for Small Businesses
8. Information for Families With Public School Students Who Need Food
9. Resources
10. Volunteer if you can
11. Financial Hardship Info for Kips Bay Court and Stuy Town Peter Cooper Village Residents
12. Changing Trash Collection Schedule for Community Board 3 Residents

13. Assembly Small Business Hearing
14. Busway Expansions

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### Re-Opening Office

Our district office located at 107 Avenue B (on the corner of 7th St and Avenue B) is opening slowly. Below you will find a schedule - feel free to stop by to pick up masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. If you need constituent services, please be sure to make an appointment by calling 212-979-9696 and leaving a message or emailing [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com). My staff will follow up and find a time for you to drop by.

This week, we will be open on Thursday, June 11th from 10am to 2pm and next week we will be open on Thursday, June 18th from 10am-2pm.

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### Protests Across the Country



I, like millions of other people in our country, participated in the rallies against police brutality throughout the past week. These movements have moved forward with demands including our need to change policing in this country. I and my colleagues are working on legislation to make large structural change in community and police relations

and take huge steps to reduce and dismantle the existing police system and structure. I am happy to hear from you all about suggestions to improve our community and how it relates to public safety.

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## RGB Hearing

**On Wednesday, June 10, 2020 the Rent Guidelines Board will hold a Public Hearing Time: 4 P.M. – 7 P.M. I will be submitting a letter signed by dozens of my colleagues calling on the Board to freeze rents. In times of great economic hardship, we must freeze the rents to prevent additional evictions in our city. We have too many homeless families today, we must work to prevent additional families from losing their homes. The final vote of the RGB is Wednesday June 17th. I hope you will join the zoom to ensure we get the rent freeze we need.**

Virtual Public Hearing where the public can testify live. [Public hearing registration](#) is now available. The public can also [submit written, video and voice comments](#) prior to the hearing. (Additional details in [Public Notice](#).)

If you are not going to testify, you may watch the hearing via the RGB [YouTube](#) site. If you are testifying, you must access the meeting either via the Zoom app, or via the telephone.

The public may participate in the hearing online by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87476147429> (video) or by telephone by dialing 646-558-8656, then entering Meeting ID: 874-7614-7429. Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish will be available. For further information, please see [Public Hearing Testimony Instructions](#).

Special Instructions for Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish via telephone on June 10:

If you are listening to the Spanish interpretation by telephone and plan to testify during one of the hearings, you will have to switch over to the main webinar to testify. Your testimony will be interpreted in English for the Board. Shortly before it is your turn to speak, call 646-558-8656, then:

- Enter Meeting ID: 835-2890-1027 (press # and then # again)

If you are testifying during one of the hearings, you will have to switch over to the main webinar to testify. Your testimony will be interpreted in English for the Board. Call 646-558-8656, then:

- Enter Meeting ID: 874-7614-7429 (press # and then # again)
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## Antibody Tests

NYC will begin offering free antibody tests to 70K New Yorkers, this initiative is a partnership w/BioReference Labs. This first survey will run through late May and we'll repeat for an additional 70K in June. Priority is given to local communities, and results will be provided – in 24-48 hours.

The initial capacity will be 1,000 tests a day at each of these first five antibody testing sites:

- Brooklyn: 127 Pennsylvania Avenue
- Bronx: 4006 Third Avenue, Bathgate

- Manhattan: 21 Old Broadway
- Queens: 34-09 Queens Boulevard
- Staten Island: St. John's Villa

Important to note that these are not walk up sites. For additional information, or to schedule an appointment for a test, please visit: <http://nyc.bioreference.com/antibodysurvey> or call 888-279-0967.

Ryan Health NENA is now also offering the COVID-19 antibody test in the district. RYan Health NENA is located at 279 E 3rd St, New York, NY 10009. This antibody test finds out if you had COVID-19 in the past, that is, if you had been exposed and didn't have any symptoms, or you were ill and have recovered. To schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 antibody test, call 212-749-1820.

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## Coronavirus Testing Sites

### **Gouverneur Health**

227 Madison Street, New York, NY 10002

212-441-5000

M - F : 9 AM - 5 PM

### **Midtown Manhattan Statcare Urgent & Walk-In Medical Care**

715 9th Avenue, New York, NY 10019

917-310-3371

9 AM - 7 PM

### **ProHEALTH Pediatric Urgent Care - Yorkville/Upper East Side**

1601 3rd Ave, New York, NY, 10128

[www.solvehealth.com](http://www.solvehealth.com)

M-F : 8 AM - 8 PM

Sat & Sun : 8 AM - 5 PM

### **MEDRITE Walk-in Urgent Care**

919 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017

212-935-3333

8 AM - 8 PM

Make sure to call before going. Be ready to explain your symptoms. Wear a mask, gloves, and keep your distance where possible.

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## NYC Phase 1 Re-opening Updates from City Agencies

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection:

Beginning Monday, June 8, 2020, as part of Phase 1, certain businesses can reopen in New York City. Learn more about important guidelines and resources available to workers: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/workers/NYC-Business-Reopening-WhatWorkersNeedToKnow.pdf>

Price Gouging: Please be advised that effective March 16, DCWP has issued an emergency rule regarding price gouging of products that are used to treat, prevent, or limit the spread of COVID-19. Learn more: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/media/Face-Masks-in-Short-Supply-Due-to-COVID-19.page>

COVID-19 Scams and Safety Tips: Important Information that describes common COVID-19-related scams and tips to stay safe. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/COVID-19-Scams-and-Safety-Tips-English.pdf>

Workplace Guidance: NYC Workplace laws are still in effect. Learn more about employee rights and employer responsibilities here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/workers/Complying-with-NYC-Workplace-Laws-During-COVID-19.pdf>

NYC Free Tax Prep: The tax filing deadline is July 15. While all NYC free tax prep providers have suspended in-person services, we are now providing virtual and assisted self-prep free tax prep services.

- New Yorkers who earned \$64,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for Virtual Free Tax Preparation with a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) certified preparer.
- New Yorkers who earned \$69,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for free Assisted Self-Preparation.

Filers will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone and a stable internet connection. Learn more: [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep)

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers: For the health and safety of our providers and clients, all Financial Counseling sessions will be conducted over the phone. Our counselors can help New Yorkers manage their bills amidst the coronavirus crisis, understand student loans, and more. Book an appointment at [www.nyc.gov/talkmoney](http://www.nyc.gov/talkmoney)

Have a Student Loan?: Important information about payments and resources can be found at [www.nyc.gov/studentloans](http://www.nyc.gov/studentloans)

Expecting an Economic Impact Payment from the IRS?: Check out everything you need to know here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/What-You-Need-to-Know-about-Economic-Impact-Payments-English.pdf>

Debt Collection: DCWP has created a joint [letter](#) template that you can fill out and mail (required by federal law) so debt collectors can't contact you until the State of Emergency in New York City has ended. More information found at

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/DCA-Template-Cease-Debt-Collection-Communication-Letter-for-Consumers.pdf>

Questions about Funeral Planning During COVID-19? : Important Information for New Yorkers who have lost loved ones can be found here:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/Funeral-Planning-During-COVID-19-English.pdf>

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

Recent Guidelines and Tools: All the latest guidance from face masks to how to properly document your eligibility for NYS Emergency Paid Sick Leave can be found here:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

NYC Human Resources Administration:

Cash Assistance: You may be eligible for an emergency cash grant if it will meet certain special needs. For more information call HRA's Infoline at 718-557-1399.

Funeral and Burial Guidance and Assistance: HRA will provide financial assistance to individuals in need of assistance to meet qualifying funeral expenses. For more information e-mail [burialservices@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:burialservices@hra.nyc.gov)

NYC Department of Education:

Regional Enrichment Centers: Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) are places where the children of first responders, health care providers, transit workers and other key personnel can be safely cared for while their parents continue to serve NYC in this time of need. If your child is a New York City resident and you would like to enroll in one of these centers, please complete the REC Enrollment Form online at  
<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5518161/REC-Enrollment-Form>

Taxi and Limousine Commission:

TLC Food Delivery Program : TLC drivers can sign-up to deliver meals to elderly and high-risk people around the City. As of, Sunday, April 26, drivers will receive \$53 per route, on all routes citywide, including \$40 per route in base pay and \$13 per route to cover gas and mileage. TLC drivers can also use non-TLC vehicles.  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/tlc/drivers/tlc-driver-food-delivery.page>

TLC licensees can take advantage of the [Driver Resource Center](#), which provides financial counseling and legal services and other useful free City resources such as health care insurance, mental health resources and more.  
<https://portal.driverresourcecenter.tlc.nyc.gov/>

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs:

Public Charge: In New York City, healthcare is a human right. Use of health services related to COVID-19 will not be considered under the public charge rule and will not

impact your ability to apply for a green card or citizenship. For more information visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/legal-services/public-charge.page>

Resources for Immigrant Communities during COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/city-services/resources-for-immigrant-communities-during-covid-19-pandemic.page>

NYC Commission on Human Rights:

NYC Human Rights Law: Harassment and discrimination based on race, national origin, age, and disability (including having COVID-19 or another serious illness) is illegal. If you have faced harassment or discrimination in housing, at work, or in any public place, contact the Commission by filling out our online form or by calling 311 and asking for "human rights." Please visit: [www.nyc.gov/cchr](http://www.nyc.gov/cchr)

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### **Important Information for Small Businesses**

If you are a small business owner that needs legal assistance, please refer to the resources below:

The Small Business Legal Relief Alliance is providing legal assistance to small businesses and nonprofits struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is eligible?

- (1) Small businesses
- (2) Self-employed
- (3) Nonprofits
- (4) Cooperatives

What issues can SBLRA assist with?

1. Loan & Grant Programs (What programs are right for me and how do I apply?)
2. Tax (What are the tax implications of raising funds for employees?)
3. Commercial Leases (Do I need to pay rent next month? How do I negotiate?)
4. Contracts (What to do if the crisis prevents me or another party from performing?)
5. Employment (What should I consider if I need to let employees go?)
6. Insurance (Does my policy cover loss of income?)
7. Intellectual Property (How do I protect my work and trademarks?)
8. Other General Business Issues Interested?

Contact any of us at the email addresses below:

VOLS: [microenterprise@volsprobono.org](mailto:microenterprise@volsprobono.org)

IMPACCT: [dale\\_charles@impacctbk.org](mailto:dale_charles@impacctbk.org)

Julian Hill: <https://takerootjustice.org/areas/capacity/> and 929-506-0303

Legal Aid Society: [communitydevproject@legal-aid.org](mailto:communitydevproject@legal-aid.org) and 212-426-3000

Legal Services: <https://www.legalservicesnyc.org/what-we-do/covid-resources> and 917-661-4500

Lawyers for Good Government launched a COVID-19 Small Business Remote Legal Clinic - learn more here: <https://www.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/covid-smallbusiness>

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### **Information for Families With Public School Students Who Need Food**

Every family, regardless of need, will receive \$420 for each child enrolled in New York City public schools to offset the cost of lunches that students are eating at home that they would have received for free in school. According to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), children living in households enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), receiving Temporary Assistance benefits or Medicaid will automatically receive the additional assistance through their existing EBT cards.

OTDA is also working with the state Education Department to identify an additional 800,000 children in households that are not receiving Medicaid, SNAP or Temporary Assistance, but are receiving free and reduced-price school meals. These families will be mailed a temporary EBT card along with instructions for activating the card and accessing their assistance.

The food benefit, which is part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, will be issued in June. If you already have an EBT card, you'll receive the funds automatically in early June. If you don't already receive food benefits, you will receive a notice from the state in the mail explaining when and how you'll receive your food benefit, which should come through in late June.

You can find more information on the [State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance](#) website.

If you need more food assistance in the meantime, you can find [free grab-and-go meals](#) at more than 400 sites in the city every weekday. See more here: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/free-meals>.

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### **Resources**

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 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.

Check out our resources list [here](#).

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### **Volunteer if You Can**

If you can volunteer, please email us at [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com). 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.



## Financial Hardship Info for Kips Bay Court and Stuy Town Peter Cooper Village Residents

If you are a resident in a Beam Living managed apartment in our district and you're having trouble paying rent, feel free to reach out to my office at 212-979-9696 or [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com)

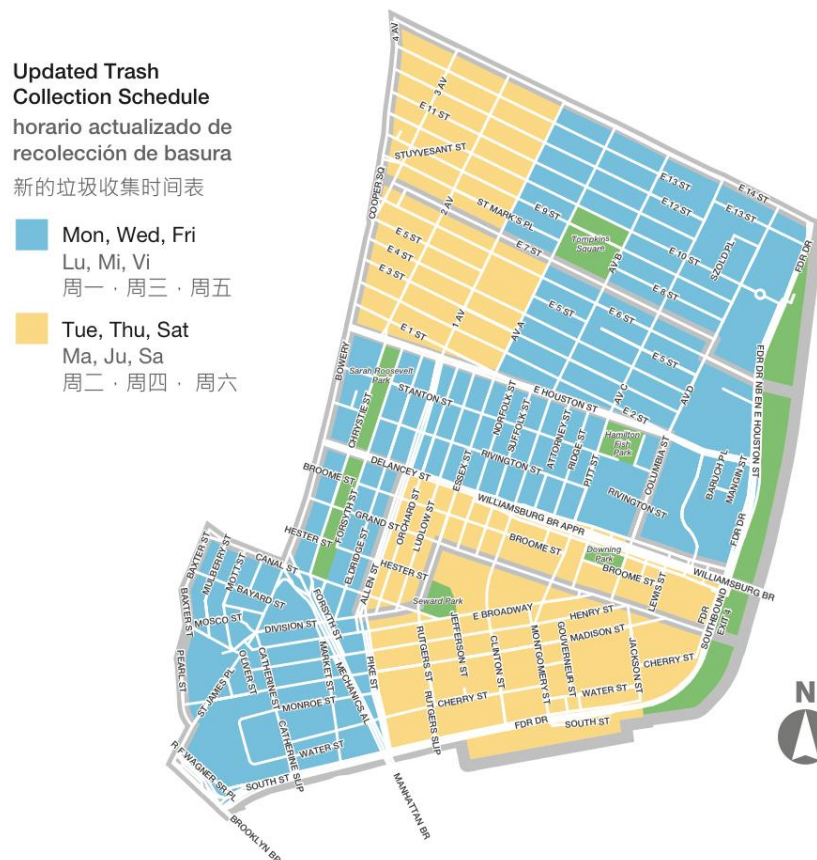
Beam Living has also created a financial hardship program for residents. Details [here](#). If you have concerns about their program, you are welcome to discuss it with my staff.

## Changing Trash Collection Schedule for Community Board 3 Residents

**Find your new trash collection schedule below.**

encontrar su nuevo horario de recolección de basura.

下图可以找到您的垃圾新的收集时间表。



Get notified with the **DSNYInfo App**.



Reciba avisos por la aplicación **DSNYInfo** para smartphone.

使用**DSNYInfo**应用程序获取通知。

[nyc.gov/sanitation](http://nyc.gov/sanitation) | call 311

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) NYCsanitation • NYCzerowaste



sanitation

Starting June 29th, the trash collection schedule is changing for residents of community board 3. See the graphic for the new schedule and visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/collectionSchedule> for more information.

## Assembly Small Business Hearing

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON BANKS  
OFFICE OF STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS  
TASK FORCE ON FOOD, FARM & NUTRITION POLICY

NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARINGS

**SUBJECT:** The federal response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses in New York State.

**PURPOSE:** To continue to discuss the current and future economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, including farms, in regions across the State and whether the federal response is sufficient in relation to the disproportionate impact of this pandemic on the State and local communities, and effective in targeting the businesses most in need.

Upstate West/Hudson Valley West: Friday, June 12, 2020, at 11 a.m.

Upstate East and North/Hudson Valley East: Monday, June 15, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Long Island: Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 10 a.m.

New York City: Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Monday, June 22, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 10 a.m.

For more information, [click here!](#)

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### **Busway Expansions**

#### Busways and Bus Lanes:

The City will implement 20 miles of new busways and bus lanes that will serve nearly 750,000 daily riders. This will enable faster travel, and more frequent buses will help to increase social distance. Five new busways have been planned, using 14th Street as the model, and the 14th Street Busway itself will be made permanent.

??? The City will establish 3.5 miles of new busways with a capacity for 596,000 daily rides, at the following locations:

- June: Main Street, Queens
- July: Jamaica Avenue, Queens and 5th Avenue, Manhattan
- August: Jay Street, Brooklyn
- October: 181st Street, Manhattan

??? The City will establish 16.5 miles of new bus lanes, adding a total of 148,000 daily rides, at the following locations:

- June: East 14th Street, Manhattan and 149th Street, Bronx
- July: Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island
- August: Merrick Boulevard, Queens