

A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



Dear Neighbor:

Since the start of the pandemic my colleagues and I have been fighting for a package of bills to provide relief to New Yorkers as well as working directly with constituents in our communities to deliver food and supplies. Yesterday we were in session passing over 30 bills to take on these issues.

We delivered important protections for workers, tenants and those on the frontlines of this crisis. We also passed legislation directing the Department of Health to study the disparate impact of this crisis on communities of color. I voted against the Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020 ([A10522](#)) because I believe it doesn't go far enough and fails to protect gig workers and other vulnerable New Yorkers.

On another note, social distancing, wearing masks, and handwashing is working. We're seeing downward trends in key areas. We're still losing far too many New Yorkers to this vicious disease. As we try to enjoy the spring weather and the start of summer, let's all be sure to continue the good practices we've adopted since the beginning of this crisis. You may not be in one of the groups that is at increased risk for getting COVID-19, but consider how your behavior affects others who may be.

See you around the district,

Harvey

In This Newsletter:

1. Upcoming Events
 1. Know Your Rights Tenants Town Hall - Thurs, June 4th
 2. PPE Give Away - Friday, June 5th
2. Recognizing LES Heroes
3. Antibody Tests
4. Coronavirus Testing Sites
5. The East Village Launches a Neighborhood-Wide Recovery Plan
6. Important Information for Small Businesses
7. Information for Families With Public School Students Who Need Food
8. Summer Learning 2020
9. Resources
10. Volunteer if You Can
11. Financial Hardship Info for Kips Bay Court and Stuy Town Peter Cooper Village Residents
12. In the News

Upcoming Events

Know Your Rights Tenants Town Hall - Thurs, June 4th

PANDEMIC TENANTS' RIGHTS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Know Your Rights During the Pandemic



Council Member
BEN KALLOS



Congresswoman
CAROLYN MALONEY



Borough President
GALE BREWER



State Senator
LIZ KRUEGER



State Senator
BRIAN KAVANAUGH



State Senator
BRAD HOYLMAN



Assembly Member
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



Assembly Member
HARVEY EPSTEIN



Assembly Member
DAN QUART



Assembly Member
RICHARD M. GOTTFRIED



Assembly Member
ROBERT L. RODRIGUEZ



Council Member
CARLINA RIVERA



Council Member
KEITH POWERS



Council Member
DIANA AYALA

Co-Sponsored By: Community Board 8 and Community Board 6

June 4, 2020 • 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Learn about pandemic eviction protection, tenants' rights, exemptions from rent increases for seniors and disabled, how you can fight rent increases on stabilized apartments, win a rent freeze, and get your questions answered by attorneys.

PRESENTATIONS BY:



**TAKEROOT
JUSTICE**



LES 125 YEARS
LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE



RSVP REQUIRED at 212-860-1950 or visit [BenKallos.com/Events](https://www.benkallos.com/events).

Questions must be submitted with RSVP or by email to Questions@BenKallos.com.

Meeting will be hosted on Zoom and streamed at [Facebook.com/BenKallos/live](https://www.facebook.com/BenKallos/live)

PPE Give Away - Friday, June 5th

Next Friday, June 5th at 2pm we will be distributing PPE on Avenue C and 11th street in front of the C Town. We will be there while supplies last!

Recognizing LES Heroes

May is LES history month. We are working with People's LES to celebrate it. We wanted to acknowledge that and honor some of the community leaders who have made our community great. Every day we acknowledged a new leader. Thank you for everything you have done for our city and community.

Gladys Ortega

La'Nette Murphy

Tareake Ramos

Tati Jorio

Michael Farrin

Susan Stetzer

Anthony Feliciano

Tito Delgado

Chino Garcia

Camille Napoleon

Nelson Valentine

John Blasco

Harriet Putterman

Frances Goldin

Andrea Gordillo

Ayo Harrington

Christine Datz-Romero

Elaine Chan

Dereese Huff

Rosie Mendez

Jeanette Zelhof

Francisco Gonzalez

David Garza

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.

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

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.

The East Village Launches a Neighborhood-Wide Recovery Plan

The East Village has a long history as a resilient neighborhood of upstarts. Keeping with this determination, the East Village Independent Merchants Association jumped at the chance to organize when Tony Powe, founder of WeLocals, a non-profit that works to keep neighborhoods vibrant, presented ideas for the East Village 2020 Recovery Plan. The plan outlines safe and effective ways to accelerate a stronger restart of the local economy and how to help local businesses and residents reconnect and re-engage. More than 100 business owners have participated in developing the plan, together with input from local community organizations -- [East Village Community Coalition](#), [Cooper Square Committee](#) & [FABnyc](#). Merchants have taken the pledge to adhere to safety specifications

of the plan and to create a unified and safe shopping district for all New Yorkers. This accelerated plan will ensure that when the retail phase of the New York City reopening is greenlit, the East Village will be ready, safe, and open for business. To learn about this plan and the shopping services currently available from East Village shops [visit here](#). Any community interested in replicating the East Village Recovery plan can contact WeLocals.

Recovery Plan Goals

The primary goals of the East Village 2020 Economic Recovery Plan merge the needs of residents and merchants to reestablish the East Village as a vibrant place to live and shop.

1. **Safe & Connected:** Establish shared safety standards for all shops and display clear signage, such as [window decals](#) and [floor decals](#), that helps shoppers feel safe and allows them to reconnect with their neighborhood.
2. **Local Shopping Means Strong Local Economy:** Remind residents and shoppers that on average, [48% of purchases](#) at local independent businesses get recirculated back into the local economy, and, in many cases, a local shop is also buying locally made goods, which reinforces more local jobs.
3. **Together Before & Together Now:** Re-establish the strong bond between merchants and residents and the sense of "being in this together" that has been emblematic of life in the East Village for decades.

Merchant Pledge Goes Beyond Safety Standards

EVIMA and WeLocals created an [East Village Merchants Pledge](#) that exceeds the guidelines outlined by [New York State](#). Shoppers will be able to shop with confidence at any business where they see the pledge sign displayed. Beyond health and safety standards, the pledge includes taking actions to instill kindness and patience into their business practices as we all embrace the transition and re-opening. Customers will be encouraged to tacitly take this pledge of kindness and patience too. Charles Branstool, co-chair of EVIMA and owner of Exit9 Gift Emporium shared, "When we open our doors, shoppers should know that we are ready to welcome them -- with impeccable safety standards and a bigger smile than before."

Spirit and Symbol of the Recovery -- The Village Victory Campaign

The Village Victory Campaign is about being - Stronger, Safer, Together! Physical contact may remain restricted, but the campaign celebrates that we can all-flash a Village Victory sign from behind our masks as a friendly sign of solidarity to rebuild the East Village and at some normalcy to our daily lives.

Merchants and volunteers will cover the East Village with [Victory signs](#) and the message to be Stronger, Safer, Together will signal better times. East Village stores will use floor & window decals, stickers, friendly guerilla tactics, and some vintage village graffiti to help share the message and bring the neighborhood back to life.

The Neighborhood App

WeLocals has released [a new app](#) in support of the East Village Recovery Plan and the Village Victory Campaign. The app will include neighborhood-wide listings and a loyalty program and is free to both businesses and users. The app lists local businesses, shows opening times, links to individual websites, and allows businesses to promote daily specials. The app can be downloaded for free by customers on [IOS](#) & [Android](#). "With more than 40 merchants, and growing, on the new Neighborhood app, we are launching strong with shopping information and resources that are relevant to locals and all New Yorkers looking for safe in-person shopping experiences," said Tony Powe, CEO of WeLocals.

Stay Connected with the East Village

In addition to the Neighborhood app, EVIMA will keep the public informed on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). EVIMA will use IGTV to blast updates on merchants, services, and a few online shopping events.

The Fundraiser & Community-Wide Gift Card Listing

[A fundraiser](#) is up and running that will help fund the recovery plan. Charles Branstools said, "The biggest contribution anyone can make is to go out and support local businesses. If you are also in a position to donate a few dollars, as little as \$10 will go a long way to help us implement the recovery plans. Anyone donating \$10 or more will receive \$10 in rewards on the WeLocals app, plus access to \$100 worth of rewards at neighborhood stores."

The [East Village Community-Wide Gift card listing page](#) is a one-stop place to find gift cards to favorite local stores. This is yet another way to invest in the future of the East Village and preserve one of the last true, independent New York City neighborhoods.

Important Information for Small Businesses

Please see below for a roundup of new developments as of May 22, 2020.

First, Governor Cuomo announced the [New York Forward Loan Fund](#), a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE.

The NYFLF targets the state's small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (90% of all businesses), nonprofits, and small landlords that have seen a loss of rental income. The NYFLF is specifically timed to support businesses and organizations as they proceed to reopen and have upfront expenses to comply with guidelines (e.g., inventory, marketing, refitting for new social distancing guidelines) under the New York Forward Plan.

Pre-application for the New York Forward Loan Fund will be open on May 26, 2020 at Noon Eastern Daylight Time. Priority will be given to industries that have been reopened. This is not a first-come, first-served loan program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as regions and industries reopen. Businesses who have already received SBA funding through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) are not eligible.

Our Business Solutions Centers are available to answer questions and help with applications, visit: nyc.gov/financingassistance.

Guidance for Bars and Restaurants

With mostly blue skies and warm weather coming this weekend, the [Mayor's Office of Nightlife](#) created a printable poster to remind patrons to take out, not hang out. Bars and Restaurants can [Download the poster here](#).

Bars and restaurants are allowed to be open for take-out/delivery only.

On-premises licensees can sell alcohol for off-premises consumption. Bars and restaurants should adopt policies that promote social distancing for waiting patrons and cannot exceed 50% of capacity for patrons waiting inside the premises.

While bars and restaurants are allowed to operate take-out windows onto the sidewalk for alcohol, congregating and consuming alcohol on the sidewalk is not permitted.

While patrons are responsible for practicing social distancing while waiting for food and/or alcohol, bars and restaurants should adopt policies that promote social distancing and should also arrange to:

- Manage lines to allow for social distancing
- If there's a take-out window onto the sidewalk, allow for enough space for those passing by to practice social distancing
- Ensure that there is no congregating/gathering outside of the take-out window

When adopting policies related to face coverings and social distancing, bars and restaurants must offer reasonable accommodations to customers with disabilities and should follow the guidance of the New York City Commission on Human Rights for "Public Accommodations Protections," found [here](#).

How to Recognize COVID-19 Scams

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection released guidance on how to recognize and prevent COVID-19 related scams.

Scammers often take advantage of vulnerable people during times of crisis and distress. It is important that businesses are aware of any potential scams in order to protect themselves and their money. [This publication](#) describes common COVID-19-related scams and tips to stay safe.

Has Your Business Been Impacted by Open Streets?

SBS can help. Our Emergency Response Unit will work with businesses 1-on-1 to figure out the best way to get the services they need, including making it easier to access deliveries - call (212) 618-8810.

We can also help businesses learn how to communicate any changes to their customers. View our full list of upcoming digital workshops to help businesses boost their marketing skills [here](#).

[Download and share our outreach flyer here](#) in order to help spread the word to other impacted businesses. You can also find this flyer in multiple other languages at nyc.gov/covid19biz.

Prepare Your Business for Reopening

While [New York City is still on PAUSE until May 28, 2020 at the earliest](#), it's not too early to prepare for our eventual and gradual reopening.

Each business or entity, including those that have been designated as essential under Empire State Development's Essential Business Guidance, must develop a written Safety Plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A business may fill out this template to fulfill the requirement or may develop its own Safety Plan.

This plan does not need to be submitted to a state agency for approval but must be retained on the premises of the business and must be made available to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) or local health or safety authorities in the event of an inspection.

To be clear, New York City HAS NOT entered Phase I yet and businesses are still required to follow the Governor's and Mayor's executive orders.

While we are still on PAUSE, please share [the recently-released reopening toolkit](#) to make sure businesses are prepared.

New York City businesses should visit nyc.gov/covid19biz for additional information.

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

IMPACCT: dale_charles@impacctbk.org

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

Legal Aid Society: 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>

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>.

Summer Learning 2020

The NYC Department of Education has released its summer learning plan. Visit the link to learn more: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer-school-2020>.

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. My staff and I will work to promptly return your call or email.

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

Volunteer if You Can

If you can volunteer, please email us at 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 StuyTown 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

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.

In the News

1. [Assembly speaker fast-tracks rent relief bill](#) - The Real Deal
2. [CUNY Faces Massive Potential Shakeup Due to City and State Budget Cuts](#) - Gotham Gazette
3. [Minority communities in New York say they are forgotten COVID victims](#) - Press Connects