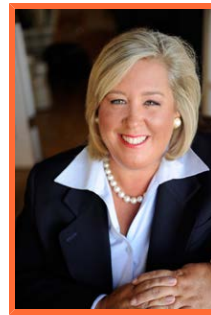


Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

On Tuesday, February 26, we will vote for our next New York City Public Advocate. The Public Advocate is elected to serve as an ombudsperson for all New Yorkers – a government official who champions the public and ensures government is responsive to their needs. [There are 17 candidates on the ballot in this non-partisan special election.](#) Candidates created their own party line and the candidate who receives the most votes wins! Please get out there and vote. Locate your [pollsite](#) here and check your [registration](#) here.

Take advantage of free tax preparation at a [NYC tax site](#) or [file online](#).

This week our office hosted the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) Property Tax Clinic to help homeowners understand their property tax payments and assessments. On Friday, March 15, we will partner with the DOF again for a Rent Freeze Clinic, to help qualifying rent regulated tenants sign up for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) or the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE).

If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,



[Check on our website for other community event postings!](#)

Congratulations to Constituents

Marilyn Mehr Inducted Into The Clara Barton Sisterhood of the Woman's Alliance of the Unitarian Church of All Souls



Donna Bailey of East End Avenue Turns 101



Ms. Bailey and her neighbors at 30 East End Avenue celebrated her 101st Birthday on Thursday, February 21. Assembly Member Seawright awarded her a citation on the occasion of her 101st year, her outstanding citizenship, and career as a nurse, on behalf of the State of New York.

In Our Community

Weill Cornell Medicine's Government Affairs Team Visits Community Office



Director of Government & Community Affairs Dan Pollay and Manager of Government & Community Affairs Alessia Daniele presented the new "[Concerned Person's Helpline](#)." The Helpline is a free service designed to assist individuals concerned about an elder neighbor's, loved one's, etc. potential abuse.

Seawright Hosts Office of the Taxpayer Advocate Property Tax Clinic for Homeowners

Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Ombudsperson David Crotty

If you believe you can show that the Department of Finance is applying the tax laws, regulations or policies unfairly or incorrectly, or have injured or will injure your [Taxpayer Rights](#), the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate is here for you!

[Visit the NYC Department of Finance website](#)



Congratulations Dan Huttenlocher, Founding Dean of Roosevelt Island's Cornell Tech On His New Appointment

Congratulations to Dan Huttenlocher, the founding Dean of Cornell Tech on Roosevelt Island on his appointment as the first dean of the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing. He will assume his new post this summer, after having served Cornell Tech since 2012. We wish him every conceivable success in his new leadership position.

[Sign the Petition to Close Zoning Loophole Allowing for Excessive Mechanical Voids in Residential Construction](#)



CONGRESS MEMBER
CAROLYN MALONEY



COUNCIL MEMBERS
BEN KALLOS &
KEITH POWERS



STATE SENATORS
LIZ KRUEGER &
JOSE SERRANO

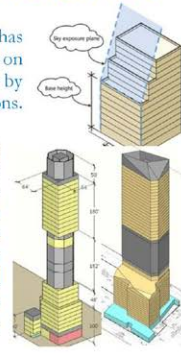


ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT,
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ &
DAN QUART

Residential Tower Mechanical Voids Text Amendment

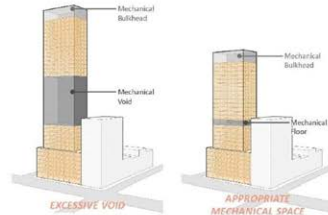
Most of New York City is Already Protected from Mechanical Voids: New York City has 10 Residential Zoning Districts numbered R1 through R10. The height of any new building on land zoned R1 – R8 is limited either by a “sky exposure plane” that may not be pierced or by specific height limits. All Historic Districts and some Special Districts include height protections.

Abuse of Tower Regulations Using Loopholes: Zoning districts R9 and R10 (and their commercial equivalents) permit towers with **no height limit** and are only limited by the zoning floor area available. Advances in construction technology combined with a real estate market incentivizing apartments for billionaires led to buildings like 432 Park, which got 25% of its supertall height by exploiting the **mechanical voids loophole**. Voids are large spaces in a building meant to house mechanicals, but when abused are mostly empty and used to add height to the building because they **currently do not count as zoning floor area**. Rafael Viñoly, who designed 432 Park, also proposed 249 East 62nd, which has a base of 12 stories and **150-foot mechanical void** to raise up 11 stories above. 50 West 66th Street proposed a **161-foot mechanical void** to reach a height of 775 feet.



Proposed Solution to Discourage Mechanical Voids:

- **Discourage Tall Voids:** Voids taller than 25 feet will count as zoning floor area.
- **Discourage Clustering to Pad Building Height:** Voids within 75 feet of each other will count as zoning floor area.
- **Prevent Voids in Mixed-Use Residential Buildings:** Non-residential mechanical space will be subject to the same 25-foot limit if non-residential uses occupy less than 25% of a building.



Background: Following his election in 2014, Council Member Ben Kallos held numerous public meetings on overdevelopment and invested member item funding into community-based non-profits focused on preservation and planning to address the issue. In June 2017, Kallos wrote to the **Department of City Planning** (“DCP”) to close “loopholes” such as mechanical voids. In October 2017, Kallos and **Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts** (“Friends”), met with DCP to share their research and proposal. In January 2018, **Mayor de Blasio committed to closing the loopholes** at a townhall hosted by Kallos in response to a question from Friends. In July 2018, Kallos and Friends joined **Borough President Gale Brewer and LANDMARK WEST! to form a boroughwide coalition** to close the loopholes. On January 25, 2019, DCP wrote to Brewer and Kallos with a proposal to close mechanical voids in residential districts and a promise for a new proposal governing commercial districts in the summer. This is supported by **Congress Member Carolyn Maloney, Assembly Members Rebecca Seawright, Robert Rodriguez, Dan Quart and Senators Liz Krueger and Jose Serrano and Council Members Keith Powers**. The City Planning Commission (CPC) certified the residential application on January 28, 2019, marking the beginning of a public hearings process at Community Boards and Borough Boards, which will conclude on March 8, 2019. CPC may take public testimony at a citywide public hearing on **March 13, 2019**.

Add Your Name in Support at BenKallos.com/voids

244 East 93rd Street • NY, NY 10128 • 212-860-1950 • BKallos@BenKallos.com • BenKallos.com

In Albany

Seawright Joins the Launch of New York State Women's Justice Agenda



Melissa DeRosa, the first woman to hold the post of secretary to the governor sits beside Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul



Actress Julianne Moore joined Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul on Tuesday at Lincoln Center in Manhattan for the event launching the Women's Justice Agenda.



The Women's Justice Agenda includes a package of wide-ranging measures that would end the statute of limitations for rape, expand access for in-vitro fertilization and bolster health services for at-risk pregnancies.

What Makes Up A Budget?

The New York State Budget is \$172.5 Billion. **This year, Seawright supports funding for these important programs and initiatives in the FY20 Budget:**

In order to adequately support working families and prepare our youngest learners, significant investments are needed in pre-k programs. **Seawright supports a 3% statewide increase in Pre-K funding to school districts in which 50% or more of the total student body are eligible for free and reduced lunch.**

As private, not-for-profits, the state's pounds, shelters, humane societies, and Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals do not receive direct state funding, yet they provide essential services to their communities. **Seawright supports greater investments in the Companion Animal Capital Fund to be included in the budget.**

News You Can Use

(Follow the links)

[Public Advocate Election 2019: Meet the Candidates](#)

[New York Says It Will Crack Down on City Workers Abusing Parking Privileges](#)

[Borough Pres Threatens Legal Challenge Against UES NYCHA Project](#)

[28 Below-Market Apartments Offered On Upper East Side](#)

Upcoming Events

Friends & Family 

Waived Adoption Fee Promotion

**February
22nd - 28th**

In appreciation of the amazing work they provide to New York, ACC is proud to offer waived fee adoptions to all NY Law Enforcement and their friends and family.

**Does not include \$8.50 dog licensing fee*

Care Center Locations:
Manhattan: 326 East 110th St.
Brooklyn: 2336 Linden Blvd.
Staten Island: 3139 Veterans Rd. W.



nycacc.org



COMMUNITY BOARD 8
YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND LIBRARIES
COMMITTEE PRESENTS

**TECHNOLOGY IN
THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLEXIBLE
LEARNING OR DISCONNECTION?**

*How Do We Build Technology Tools for Student
Success and Innovation?*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
CHAPIN SCHOOL
100 EAST END AVE, NEW YORK, NY**

Please join us for a robust conversation with a range of guest speakers on using classroom technology and supporting our students in STEM, in and outside the classroom. Parents, students & teachers are all welcome!

NY State Budget Forum

Tell Your Senators What You Think
About The 2019-2020 NYS Budget



The New York State budget for 2019-2020 is being negotiated in Albany right now. The process began with the release of the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal, and will culminate with a final budget passed by April 1st. Join your neighbors to share your opinions about budget priorities.

**Saturday
March 2nd
2pm to 5pm**

**NY Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Ave
Entrance at 103rd Street
2nd Floor, Room 20**

Anyone is welcome to offer oral or written testimony.

If you would like to speak, please indicate it when you RSVP at the link below. Each speaker will have up to **three (3) minutes to speak**. Time limits will be strictly enforced.

Written testimony can be submitted via email ahead of or after the event to BudgetForum2019@gmail.com, with the subject line "Budget Forum Testimony."



Sponsored By

NYS Senate Manhattan Delegation:

Senators Liz Krueger, Brian Benjamin, Brad Hoylman,
Robert Jackson, Brian Kavanagh, and Jose Serrano

RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/BudgetForum2019> or by calling (212) 490-9535.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

TUES. MARCH 5

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
AT 4:00 PM
ATTORNEYS FROM THE LAW
OFFICES OF GRIMBLE &
LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL PROVIDE
ADVICE ON HOUSING-RELATED
MATTERS FOR CONSTITUENTS OF
THE 76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

DISTRICT COMMUNITY OFFICE OF
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREETS)

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

CALL: 212-288-4607

EMAIL:

SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.



Assembly Member
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

*Women's History
Month Celebration*

• THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019 AT 6:00PM •

*Honoring Women of Distinction in the 76th District
Who Are Making A Difference Every Day!*

Memorial Sloan Kettering Auditorium
430 East 67th Street
(Between First and York Avenues)

Nominate a woman who lives or works in the 76th District (Upper East Side, Yorkville & Roosevelt Island) who makes a difference in our communities every day!

For Nomination & RSVP:
Call 212-288-4607
or email SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Event is wheelchair accessible, free and open to the public.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



Department of Finance

Learn about the NYC Rent Freeze program!

Learn about the senior citizen/ disabled rent increase exemption program for renters in New York City!

Fri.

3/15

11 am-2 pm

New York City Department of Finance representatives answer your questions about eligibility requirements and help you to apply for SCRIE/ DRIE programs



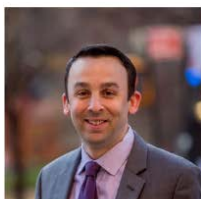
Community Office of Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

SHRED-A-THON

ERIN GO BRAGH 2019 EDITION



Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright



Council Member
Keith Powers



Council Member
Ben Kallos

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10:00AM-2:00PM

82ND STREET GREENMARKET
(82ND ST./ FIRST & YORK AVE.)



Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 212-288-4607
Office of Council Member Keith Powers, 212-818-0580
Office of Council Member Ben Kallos, 212-860-1950

Construction Updates



sanitation

A Message from the New York City Department of Sanitation:

On March 25, the Department of Sanitation is scheduled to open the East 91st Street Marine Transfer Station (MTS) , the fourth of the City's four converted Marine Transfer Stations.

The East 91st Street MTS is one of the long-term waste export facilities built as part of the

City's comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a fair, five-borough plan to sustainably export waste by rail or barge, rather than long-haul truck. In total, the SWMP reduces annual truck travel associated with waste export by more than 60 million miles, including more than 5 million miles in and around New York City. It will also cut greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste transport by more than 34,000 tons annually.

The East 91st Street MTS is a state-of-the-art facility designed to operate sustainably and resiliently. The facility has rapid roll-up doors, a negative air pressure system, advanced ventilation and odor controls, and extensive floor proofing. Waste will leave the facility in sealed containers by barge.