



# News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

## JESSICA S. LAPPIN



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## JANUARY COMMUNITY BULLETIN

### Reviewing the City's Snowstorm Response

Even Mayor Bloomberg agrees that his Administration's response to the blizzard was inadequate. Most New Yorkers think that's a bit of an understatement. Across the city, hundreds of streets remained unplowed days after the blizzard ended. Emergency vehicles couldn't get to people in need and millions were stranded or snowed in. As I write this, there are still blocks where trash has not been collected since before the storm.

This is the greatest city in the world. New Yorkers deserve better than this. In order to get to the bottom of what went happened, the City Council will be holding two oversight hearings next week on the city's blizzard response.

The first hearing is scheduled for **Monday, January 10 at 11 a.m.** and will be held in the Emigrant Savings Bank (the Council's temporary home while City Hall is being renovated) at 49 Chambers Street. The second hearing will focus specifically on the MTA's response to the blizzard and will be held on Friday, January 14 at 10 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of 250 Broadway.

Both hearings are open to the public and everyone is invited and welcome to attend. If you aren't able to attend a hearing, but have a story or issue that you'd like me to raise, please e-mail me at [lappin@council.nyc.gov](mailto:lappin@council.nyc.gov).

### Bed Bugs and How to Stop Them

It seems these days like everyone has a bed bugs horror story to tell. We all know that they are back and spreading. But what can be done?

The Museum of the City of New York and the New York Entomological Society are hosting a panel discussion on Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. to look at the myths and realities of bed bugs in New York. The panel will feature entomologists, exterminators, journalists, and city officials to answer all of your bed bug questions. Tickets to the event are \$6 for museum members and \$12 for non-members. However, the Museum has generously offered to extend the member's rate to my constituents for this event.

If you can't wait until the 18<sup>th</sup>, you can visit the City Council's bed bug resource page online at <http://council.nyc.gov/html/releases/bedbugRESOURCES.shtml>.

## **Volunteers Needed for HOPE 2011**

Every year, the New York City Department of Homeless Services conducts its Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey to estimate the number of individuals living on the streets, in parks and in other public spaces in New York. For one night, volunteers go out throughout the city to count the number of people living unsheltered in our city. That information is then used by DHS outreach teams throughout the year to help people leave the streets for better lives.

This year, the survey will be conducted on the night of January 31. DHS is looking for over 3,000 New Yorkers to volunteer to help count the number of New Yorkers living on city streets. DHS will provide you with training you need to participate. To learn more or register to help that night, please visit <https://a071-hope.nyc.gov/hope/welcome.aspx>.

## **Encouraging New Yorkers to Do Right for Their Dogs**

Having a pet adds so much to your life. It's fun and rewarding - but it's also a big responsibility. One of the most important things to do if you own a dog is to get it licensed and spayed or neutered.

I recently introduced legislation to encourage pet owners to do just that. The bill had a hearing in the Council's Health Committee on December 17.

My bill does two things. First, it encourages pet owners to have their dogs spayed or neutered by raising the licensing fee for unaltered dogs from \$11.50 to \$34. If you've already had your dog fixed, the licensing fee stays at \$8.50. This gives owners an incentive to do right by their animals. Then, the additional fees collected from unaltered dogs will go toward a special animal control fund to help reduce the significant cost to the city of sheltering, finding homes, and sometimes euthanizing unwanted stray dogs.

In short, we're giving people a financial incentive to do the right thing and raise revenue. The hearing last month went very well with both the Bloomberg administration and animal support organizations like the ASPCA testifying in support. I am hopeful that the bill will pass soon.

## **Kindergarten Registration Begins January 10**

Kindergarten enrollment for New York City public schools starts on January 10 and runs through March 4. You must go to your zoned school and provide a birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residence for your child. To learn more information about registering, you can visit the DOE's website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/default.htm>

Please be aware that the Community Education Council passed a new zoning plan for the Upper East Side at their meeting on December 22. The new plan accounts for the opening of two new elementary schools in our neighborhood in the last two years in order to combat the growing overcrowding problems in our schools. A copy of the new map is available at <http://www.cecd2.net/www/cecd2/site/hosting/Upper%20East%20Side%20FINAL%20Proposal%2012%2010%2010.pdf>. The new zones are indicated by the colored sections on the map. If you are unsure of your zone, you can also find out by calling 311.