



# News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

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## MARCH COMMUNITY BULLETIN

### Protecting Women's Health

As you may already know, on March 2 the City Council passed my bill to require truth in advertising for the city's pregnancy services centers. Right now, there are nearly two dozen so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" operating in New York City. While many of these centers pose as medical facilities, they are not. They are anti-choice facilities designed to confuse women and prevent them from exercising their right to choose.

Many of these centers deliberately set up across the street or in the same building as Planned Parenthood or hospital clinics to lure women in. They mislead and manipulate them, telling women falsehoods like that abortion is linked to breast cancer.

The bill I authored will do four things. It will (1) require centers to disclose in advertising and in their offices if there is or is not medical staff present; (2) require centers to disclose if they do or do not offer abortions, emergency contraception, or pre-natal services – or referrals for such services; (3) inform women that they should consult with a licensed medical provider if they are or believe they may be pregnant; and (4) require that any information a woman gives to these centers be treated as strictly confidential.

As the New York Times wrote in its [editorial in support of this bill](#), the measure will "aid women in New York City, and perhaps inspire other cities." Let's hope so.

### Saving our Senior Centers

In his budget, Governor Andrew Cuomo has proposed cutting \$25 million in federal aid that supports our city's senior centers. Losing this money, which comes from a federal Title XX grant, would mean closing 105 senior centers in New York City. In our community, the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Center is on the list for closure. We can't let that happen.

For the seniors they serve, the meals at these centers may be the only hot meal or human contact they have all day. Even during these difficult fiscal times, it would be wrong to turn our back on these vulnerable New Yorkers. I look forward to working with advocates, elected officials, and senior citizens across the city to ensure that our most vulnerable seniors aren't left out in the cold by this budget. And if you haven't already, please call or write the Governor, your State Senator and your Assemblyman to ask them to restore this funding – as they so wonderfully did last year.

## Lappin's Pedestrian Safety Bill Becomes Law

Last month, the City Council passed and the Mayor signed into law my TrafficStat bill.

This bill will require the NYPD to post information on traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities on the web. New Yorkers will be able to search by borough, precinct, and even by intersection to see where there are dangerous corners in our communities. In the short term, we'll know which intersections to avoid. But more importantly, in the long term, we'll be able to make them safer. This information will give New Yorkers the knowledge and power they need to work at a grassroots level to improve public safety.

The bill also requires the DOT to come up with a list of the 20 most dangerous corners in the city – and then fix them. DOT will be required to work with other government agencies and present plans to the Council to do just that.

## Select Bus Service Gets a B-



When Select Bus Service launched on the East Side last October, I was there. After years of waiting, I bought a ticket and boarded the bus. I said at the time that it was a great step forward for this neighborhood.

And I still think that SBS can be a great thing for our community. However, the performance we've seen over the last five months shows that the SBS isn't living up to its promise.

In order to highlight the good and the bad elements of this new service, I issued a Report Card last month. The idea was to make clear what's been working and what hasn't been so far. SBS earned a B-. They've been doing well at things like making the buses run faster – almost 20% – but problems with the ticket machines, long waits for local buses, and general accessibility issues desperately need to be addressed. [Click here to read the full report.](#)