



# News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

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## DECEMBER 2009 COMMUNITY BULLETIN

### **Town Hall on J-51 Decision on December 15** ***What does the Stuytown Court ruling mean for you?***

The New York Court of Appeals ruled last month that the owners of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village had wrongfully deregulated rent stabilized apartments while receiving J51 tax benefits. This was a huge victory in the fight to preserve affordable housing. Now, you can learn what the decision in that case might mean for you. Assemblyman Micah Kellner and I will be hosting a town hall forum on this subject on Tuesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House (331 East 70th Street between First and Second Avenues). Experts on both sides of this issue will be on hand to answer your questions.

### **Sexual Assault on the Subways**

A recent survey found that nearly two-thirds of women have been sexually harassed or assaulted in the subway. After the survey was released, I introduced legislation to combat this crime. My bill will require the NYPD to publish complaints of sexual assault and harassment for each patrol precinct and transit district as part of the Crime Status Report.

The first step to fighting a problem is determining where, when, and how often it's happening. The City Council Transportation Committee conducted a hearing on this topic on November 19. At the hearing, some interesting facts emerged. For instance, 412 people have been arrested for sex offenses in the subway this year. We need this information, and other statistics, to be available to the public and responded to by the NYPD. Our city needs to take this crime seriously.

## **East Side Children's Art Show on December 7**

This year, over 400 talented young artists will have their work hung on the world famous walls of Sotheby's. On Monday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m, I will be hosting them and their families at the Fourth Annual East Side Children's Art Show. Please join us at Sotheby's on York Avenue at 72nd Street to view the wonderful work of these talented young artists, who are between the ages of 3 and 13. We are asking all attendees to bring an item of canned goods to be donated to the Jan Hus food pantry.

## **Holiday Party on December 9**

Celebrate the season with us! You are invited and welcome to join me and Council Member Dan Garodnick at our annual holiday party on Wednesday, December 9 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. This year, the party will be held in the Hunter College faculty dining room on the eighth floor. You can enter the building at the southwest corner of 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. We are asking that all guests bring an item (or items) of canned goods to be donated to the Yorkville Common Pantry after the party.

## **Upper East Side School Rezoning**

Classroom overcrowding has been a problem on the Upper East Side for years. Last spring the problem escalated to a new level when kindergarten children were placed on waiting lists for their own zoned schools. This was the first time that had ever happened in Manhattan.

As you may know, East Side Middle School is moving into a new building this winter, which will create approximately 300 seats of new space in the PS 158 building. The Department of Education has proposed two possible plans for rezoning the neighborhood to use that space and work to alleviate school overcrowding. Ultimately, it is the Community Education Council (CEC) that must approve any zoning changes that occur. The CEC sponsored a hearing on December 2 to solicit community input and will be hosting a second hearing on December 10. You can also e-mail the CEC at [d2zoning@gmail.com](mailto:d2zoning@gmail.com) with your comments and suggestions for improvement. Please let me know your thoughts as well. Your opinions are tremendously helpful as I work with the DOE to find permanent solutions to the overcrowding in our neighborhood schools.

One important thing to note is that the rezoning will not affect children who are already in school or the younger siblings of those children. They will remain a top priority for admissions at the school for which they are currently zoned. Rather, this rezoning would affect children and families who have not yet entered the school system, but will in the coming years.

We are at a crucial point where the actions we take can have a real impact on school class sizes in our community. We need to make sure that we make the best use of this opportunity to plan for what's best for our children's futures.

## **“After the Holidays” Electronic Waste Recycling Events**

Have an old computer or palm pilot you want to get rid of in an environmentally friendly way? The Lower East Side Ecology Center is sponsoring a series of “After the Holidays” electronics recycling events throughout Manhattan. You can recycle working or non-working computers, monitors, cell phones, TVs, iPods, DVD players, printers, modems, etc.

All events will be held from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. rain or shine. The dates are:

**Sunday, January 3rd:** Union Square Park – North Plaza

**Saturday, January 9th:** Ring Garden at Riverside Drive between Seaman and Broadway

**Sunday, January 10th:** Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 E 70th Street between First and Second Avenues

**Saturday, January 16th:** Tekserve, 119 West 23rd Street between 6th & 7th Avenues