

# COUNCIL MEMBER GALE BREWER Release

   @galeabrewer

DISTRICT OFFICE: 563 Columbus Ave., NY, NY 10024 (212) 873-0282  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: 250 Broadway, Suite 1875, NY, NY 10007 (212) 788-6975

---

Contact: Sam Goldsmith  
(929) 502-5640 | [sgoldsmith@council.nyc.gov](mailto:sgoldsmith@council.nyc.gov)

## Brewer Announces Budget Wins

As a member of the Council's Budget Negotiation Team, I helped finalize the City's recently passed on-time \$107 billion Fiscal Year 2024 budget. It was a difficult budget to negotiate, because the Mayor cut essential programs that the Council had to restore; there is less federal money compared to last year; there are a multitude of crises facing the City—and key areas that need additional investments.

I thank Speaker Adrienne Adams, Finance Chair Justin Brannan and the Council Finance Department team that worked night and day to complete the process with constant meetings, sharing of information, and responsiveness to input.

I've broken down the spending by agencies below, but I'm especially proud to have helped to obtain citywide funding to restore:

- COLA/Cost-of-Living-Adjustments for human service non-profit agencies—Baselined a total of \$100 million in FY 24 due to an additional \$40 million, plus an additional \$50 million baselined in FY 25 for a continuing total of \$150 million. (We will continue to try to increase the COLA further).
- Restored \$32.4 million in funds for City University of New York (CUNY), which includes \$9.1 million for Accelerate, Complete, and Engage (ACE); \$5 million for Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP); \$5.8 million for CUNY Reconnect; and \$5.9 million for Academic Advisors
- Cultural organizations—\$40 million
- Libraries—\$36.2 million for their operating budget

Here's a rundown of other significant budget items:

### Sanitation

*Citywide:*

- \$22 million in sanitation funding increase for Litter Basket Collection alongside \$33.7 million through Council initiatives
- \$9.6 million for Sanitation’s highway cleaning program, which includes a focus on cleaning highways, medians, and road shoulders
- \$3 million for CleaNYC program, which cleans streets and sidewalks in targeted corridors

*6th District:*

- Lower East Side Ecology for e-waste programs
- OneBlock, Inc. for Upper West Side cleanups
- Goddard Riverside Green Keepers Initiative

**Parks**

*Citywide:*

The Council secured \$8.7 million in restorations for Parks citywide and will commit approximately \$11.2 million through Council initiatives. I will continue to fight for the “1% for Parks.” Among the restorations included: \$4.1 million for Urban Park Rangers, \$2.6 million for Green Thumb funding, and \$2 million for tree stump removal.

*6th District:*

- Broadway Mall for maintenance of the malls
- City Parks Foundation for plays in parks
- West 87 Street Park and Garden for maintenance
- New York Tree Consortium for planting and stewardship
- Riverside Park Conservancy for park care and improvements
- New Yorkers for Parks supporting the Daffodil Project
- Earth Matter for composting in Riverside Park
- Macaulay Honors College for the City Nature Challenge
- Friends of Hudson River Park for stewardship, public education, and recreation

*Capital allocations for parks:*

- \$62.3 million for the restoration of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument and Plaza in Riverside Park. I made this a priority, and thanks to Mayor Adams for agreeing. This huge milestone comes after years of advocacy from elected officials (including me!), the Riverside Park Conservancy, and preservation groups including the Landmarks Conservancy and Landmark West! who helped me garner thousands of signatures to on petitions to save the monument.
- \$6.89 million for River Run playground reconstruction
- \$2.596 million for Harlem Meer project in Central Park
- \$100,000 for the Matthew P. Sapolin Playground

- \$1.543 million to City Parks Foundation for the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre renovation

## **Housing**

### *Citywide:*

The Council added \$34.2 million citywide for housing and homeless services in addition to \$18.4 million in funding across multiple initiatives. I am particularly pleased that there is a program to reverse the \$32.9 million in cuts to NYCHA's Vacant Unit Readiness Program to expedite the availability of vacant apartments online. There are 40 vacant apartments in Amsterdam Houses/Amsterdam Addition alone. There was also an increase of \$46 million for Right to Counsel and Public Defenders for tenants facing eviction.

The Council also secured a record \$4 billion in capital funding for affordable housing citywide.

### *6th District:*

- Funding for 10 NYCHA tenant associations
- Funding for monthly housing legal clinics for tenants through our Council office and partners
- Lantern Community Services for Fresh Food Box
- Housing Conservation Coordinators for legal services for tenants
- Housing Court Answers for Housing Court assistance
- JustFix Inc. for tenant resources and rights
- Legal Aid Society for civil legal services
- Manhattan Legal Services for housing support
- Met Council on Housing for Housing Mutual Aid Program
- NYS Tenants and Neighbors for helpline
- Pa'Lante Harlem for homeless prevention legal services
- TakeRoot Justice (Community Development Project) housing clinics and tenant rights workshops
- Goddard Riverside Community Center for community housing clinics

### *Capital allocations for 6th District housing:*

- \$1.333 million to West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing renovation at 340 W. 85 St.
- \$50,000 Stryker's Bay Apartments for security cameras

## **Cultural Institutions and Libraries**

### *Citywide:*

The Council fully restored \$40 million in cuts to Cultural Institutions, as well as a restoration of \$36.2 million for libraries.

*6th District:*

- Jazzmobile for performances
- Juilliard School Community Engagement Performance Series
- Bloomingdale School of Music for student training
- Central City Chorus for programming
- Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for youth education
- Art on the Avenue with the Columbus Avenue BID
- Programming for summer and holidays Lincoln Square BID
- Symphony Space for cultural literacy and heritage programming
- Vivian Beaumont/Lincoln Center theater for their Open Stages Education Program
- WP/Women's Project Theater for season programming
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent to support Music Mondays programming
- Film Society of Lincoln Center to support films at Lincoln Center
- Frog & Peach Theatre Co.
- The Center at West Park
- Carnegie Hall
- Shadow Box Theatre
- Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York
- New York Choral Society
- Metropolitan Opera Association
- Chashama Arts

*Capital allocations for cultural institutions:*

- \$5.5 million American Museum of Natural History
- \$15 million New LGBTQ+ Museum at New York Historical Society
- \$2.1 million Metropolitan Museum of Art safety bollards
- \$650,000 Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center
- \$450,000 Aperture Foundation
- \$309,000 Lincoln Center Revson Fountain lighting upgrade
- \$100,000 New York City Ballet sound upgrade
- \$94,000 Symphony Space upgrade

**Public Safety**

*Citywide:*

Under the New York Police Department, the majority of FY'24 budget changes were largely driven by collective bargaining (PBA), which included retroactive payments back to 2017.

- \$44.3 million for public safety measures, including \$36.8 million for enhanced support for supervised release
- \$49 million in various Council initiatives citywide
- \$1.9 million in Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

- \$850,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of gun violence prevention interventions and deliver inclusive community-informed solutions to gun violence
- \$550,000 to Simon Wiesenthal Center to combat hate in schools and elsewhere

*6th District:*

- Police Service Area 6 Community Council, Inc.
- Her Justice economic empowerment program
- Crime Victims Treatment Center
- Right To Be bystander intervention
- Violence Intervention Program
- NYC Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

**Education**

*Citywide:*

The Council secured \$44.7 million for education programs at the Department of Education serving students, teachers, and families, and added \$37.7 million in Council funding across multiple program areas and initiatives.

- \$16 million supports Early Childhood Education for working families: PromiseNYC and efforts to fix 3-K by converting 1,800 school-day/school-year seats into extended day/extended year seats (\$15 million baselined).
- \$5.3 million supports swimming education in neighborhoods without access to public pools by funding 70 aquatic specialists, five recreation supervisors, 30 lifeguards, equipment, pool rentals, and access to DOE pools.
- \$50,000 Studio in a School for visual arts
- \$450,000 for Outward Bound Crew Program, (West End Secondary school is a beneficiary)

*6th District:*

- Parent Education Helpline at Advocates for Children
- BioBus for science education in schools
- Horticultural Society to support gardening and nutrition in schools
- New York Sun Works for hydroponic classrooms
- Catholic Charities Community Services for program at Innovation Diploma Plus at Brandeis HS campus
- New York City Ballet for in school residency
- PS 75 after school program sponsored by the PTA
- YMCA funds for After School Folk Arts Program at PS 191
- Simon Wiesenthal Center to provide digital empowerment workshops
- Wellness in the Schools for Cook for Kids programs
- Young People's Chorus to support in and after school music education
- Middle School 250 funds for field trips

- Middle School 256 funds for enrichment programming
- Middle School 258 funds for 7th grade trip and other enrichment activities
- Middle School 245 funds for artist residency programming
- PS 166 funds for chess residence program
- The Riverside School for Makers funds to support the Mandarin program
- PS 452 funds to support chess programming
- PS 84 funds to support interdisciplinary food production programming
- Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center/Lucy Moses School for Music and Dance - funds to support music program at Special Music School
- Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York to support music education at PS 199
- Research Foundation of the City University of New York to support drama-based interactive educational workshops at MLK Campus

Additional funds for after school programming to: LEAP, The Hort, Children’s Museum of Manhattan, People’s Theatre Project, Midtown Manhattan Group, Salvadori Center, and Studio in a School. Reaching for the Arts, New York Historical Society, Ballet Hispanico, The Thrive Collective, Kids Creative 404, Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation, Educational Video Center, etc.

*Capital allocations for education:*

- Capital requests funded for 18 local schools (Community Action School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art, High School of Arts & Technology, Lafayette Academy, M.S. 243 Center School, Mickey Mantle School, P.S. 084 Lillian Weber School, P.S. 166 Richard Rodgers School, P.S. 191 Riverside School Makers Artists, P.S. 199 Jessie Isador Straus, P.S. 333 Manhattan School for Children, P.S. 334 The Anderson School, P.S. 75 Emily Dickinson School, P.S. 87 William Sherman school, P.S. 9 Sarah Anderson School, Special Music School, The Computer School, West End Secondary School).

**Youth**

*Citywide:*

- \$49 million more for youth and children's services and will add another \$16 million through the Council's initiatives. This includes:
  - \$6.6 million to add 400 slots to year-round youth workforce programs for out of school, out of work youth bringing total capacity to 1,739 slots funded.
  - \$22.5 million to add 5,000 slots to Work, Learn & Grow to provide Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

*6th District:*

- Continuation of the Goddard Riverside and Positive Influence Outreach Program at NYCHA’s Amsterdam Houses/Amsterdam Addition which connects youth with education and employment opportunities.

- “Teens Take the City” at the YMCA (and funds for programming for teens at the West Side Y)
- World of Money for financial education for youth
- Hetrick-Martin Institute to support services for LGBTQ youth
- New Alternatives for Children for tutoring children with disabilities
- New York Junior Tennis League for community tennis program
- Strycker’s Bay Neighborhood Council for after-school programs
- Education Through Music programs
- FamilyKind to support programming and services for children experiencing separation and divorce
- Goddard Riverside Community Center for youth and after school enrichment programs
- Positive Influence for basketball programs at Amsterdam Houses
- Landmark West! for Inside Amsterdam Houses program
- New York African Chorus Ensemble

## **Older Adults**

### *Citywide:*

The Council provided funding to serve older adults with meals, including \$7 million to restore older adult meals, with \$2.5 million for senior center meals and \$4.5 million baselined for home delivered meals. The Upper West Side is fortunate to be home to many older adult centers and the 65+ population is now 25% of the 197,826 people in the district.

### *6th District:*

- JASA for senior services
- Council on the Environment/GrowNYC for Fresh Food program
- New York Foundation for Senior Citizens for home sharing
- Jewish Community Center in Manhattan for bereavement programs
- Lincoln House Outreach for programs
- Medicare Rights Center
- Search & Care supportive services
- Project Open for senior accompanying services
- Health Advocates for Older People
- Selfhelp Community Services
- SPOP mental health programs for vulnerable older adults
- Vocal Ease to support musical programs for seniors at centers
- Doula Program to Accompany and Comfort
- Goddard Riverside Community Center for programming for older adults
- DOROT to provide programming and services to alleviate isolation of vulnerable older adults
- Find Aid for the Aged to support Project FIND older adult classes and activities

## **Access to Benefits and Support: Anti-Poverty**

### *Citywide:*

These programs were restored or enhanced citywide by the Council:

- \$20 million for the Fair Fares program to assist low-income New Yorkers with public transit costs
- \$6.7 million to support Adult Literacy Program
- \$4 million for the Immigrant Family Engagement program
- \$1.9 million for the Low Wage Workers

### *6th District:*

- Asian-American Federation for programming and services

## **Human Services**

### *Citywide:*

The Council successfully negotiated \$73.4 million for human services, including a Worker's Enhancement Fund for human services workers across the City, and another \$73.2 million for multiple Council initiatives that benefit older adults, immigrants, and the food insecure.

- \$3.7 million for Maternal and Child Health Services
- \$25,000 to Emergency Shelter Network of Faith-Based and Community Organizations for Co-Shelters and LGBTQIA+ Transition Age Youth shelters
- \$633,000 Family Legal Care (aka LIFT) for digital justice and legal services

### *6th District:*

- American-Italian Cancer Foundation for breast cancer outreach
- Congregation B'nai Jeshurun for food program
- West Side Campaign Against Hunger/West Side Center for Community Life to support food access
- Homeless Services United to provide training to improve homeless services
- SHARE to provide outreach to those with cancer

## **Community Planning Advocacy**

### *6th District:*

- Historic Districts Council for education regarding historic neighborhoods
- Landmark West! for community-led zoning project
- New York County Defender Services for community engagement
- New York Legal Assistance Group for mobile legal center



- Committee for Environmentally Sound Development for community engagement
- Wild Bird Fund for rehabilitation of wildlife
- New York Peace Institute

### **Government Efficiency and Transparency**

Corruption and unscrupulous vendors and individuals not only impact city finances, but also undermine faith in our government. I advocated for oversight agencies to be enhanced in the Council's budget, and I am pleased that they were funded, including the Department of Investigation with \$1.6 million, the Civilian Complaint Review Board at \$20.8 million, and the Board of Correction at \$3.84 million.

In addition, we passed "Units of Appropriation," (U/A) the term of art for new budget line items, so that the Council gets more information on the items and can begin to exercise budget oversight and accountability, where it previously could not.

The FY 2024 budget also adopted a record 62 "Terms and Conditions," requirements that advance budget transparency. Highlights include:

- Police overtime and NYPD overtime control plan
- Funding across all agencies for migrants
- Payments to early childhood providers
- Arts education in schools
- 11 new U/As including: 1 additional NYPD (6 were obtained last year); 2 additional Dept. of Correction (which brings us to 6 combined with the 4 obtained last year).

One Term and Condition that I was pleased to initiate is with the Health and Hospital Corporation. It reads: *"As a condition of the funds in unit of appropriation 001, the Health and Hospitals Corporation (H&H) shall report on its website a list of H&H pediatric emergency rooms including locations and available services. Such report shall be on the H&H website by August 1, 2024."*