

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



April 2018

As we settle into spring, I have heard from many of you on what's important to focus on, including:

- Advocating for stronger rent laws and reauthorizing rent stabilization by fighting against major capital improvements (MCIs);
- Working to make sure community input is considered on city projects, including the Park Savoy Hotel homeless shelter and East Midtown Greenway;
- Preparing New Yorkers for the L-Train shutdown by supporting additional bus service that serves our community and exploring alternative means of transportation, like bikes and ferries; and
- Protecting the power of community members to have a role in landmarks decision-making, by opposing the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC) proposed rule-change that would shift authority away from Community Boards.



You will be hearing from me frequently as I share updates on legislation, progress on my priorities in office, and more.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Keith

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

East Midtown Greenway

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has proposed a new bridge at East 54th Street as part of its larger esplanade greenway project. Many of you have voiced your concerns and shared feedback on the design plans. In February, I raised these concerns and sent a letter to EDC for answers and changes. As a result, the EDC altered their plans in several ways: they moved the bridge further from the side of the residential adjacent residential buildings; they also lowered it to address privacy concerns from residents of 45 Sutton Place South. The EDC also pledged to minimize the impact on the existing park

and agreed to consult with the New York City Department for the Aging. I will keep you updated as the project progresses.

Park Savoy Homeless Shelter

In January, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) announced the opening of a homeless shelter at the Park Savoy Hotel on West 58th Street. My office co-hosted a town hall with DHS in February to provide more information to the community and to address questions or concerns. In March, my office co-hosted a follow-up meeting the Borough President's office and neighborhood stakeholders to address outstanding questions or issues. My office will continue to monitor and address any issues as they arise. I will be working with the provider, DHS, and fellow elected officials to put together a Community Advisory Board (CAB). If you are interested in serving on the CAB, please e-mail kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

Preserving Landmarks

Last month, the Landmarks Preservation Committee (LPC) proposed regulations to allow for staff to make decisions on landmark applications, which would have the effect of removing Community Boards from providing input on landmark applications. I authored a letter with Council Member Rivera in March that requests the LPC to reconsider proposed rule changes. My office also testified against the changes at the recent hearing on March 27. Members of public can submit testimony online at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/applications/proposed-rules.page>. The deadline is May 8.

L-Train Shutdown

As the city prepares for the shutdown of the L-train in 2019, my office is working to ensure that the plan is met with a wide range of options for residents in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village. According to the Department of Transportation, a new plan will be released next month that will encompass the feedback from community meetings, which my office can share with you. Please let my office know about any anticipated issues ahead of the April 2019 shutdown.

Parking in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village

Many of my neighbors in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village have received tickets from NYPD officers for the first time in years. There has been a longstanding agreement with the city to allow the neighborhood's public safety officers to enforce parking regulations. In a letter, I requested that the agreement and adherence to the well-established agreement continue to be honored.

Fighting for Gun Safety

Student activists at Hunter College High School brought attention to gun control and school safety as part of National Walkout Day on March 14. I was proud to join their effort, and spoke with students eager to learn about activism, effective protests, and civil service. I am inspired to have some of my youngest constituents participate in a national movement.



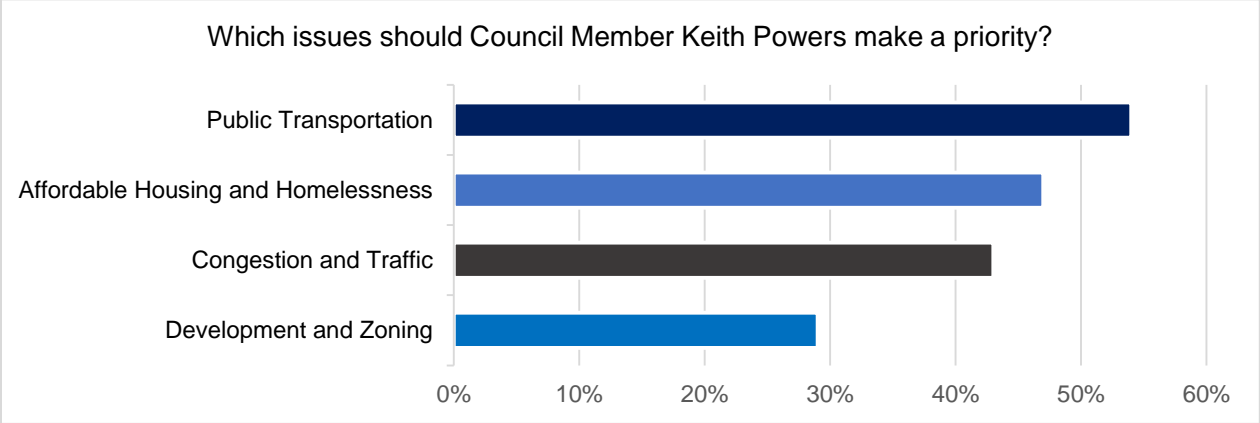
On National Walkout Day, Council Member Powers speaks with students at Hunter College High School.

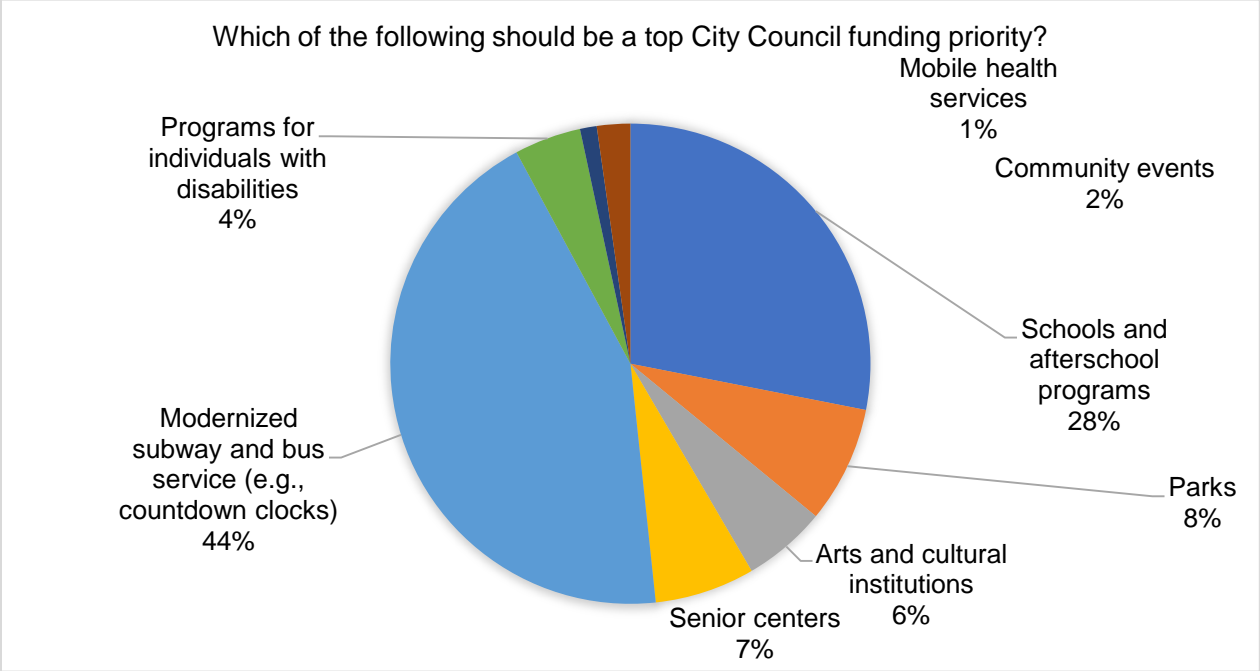
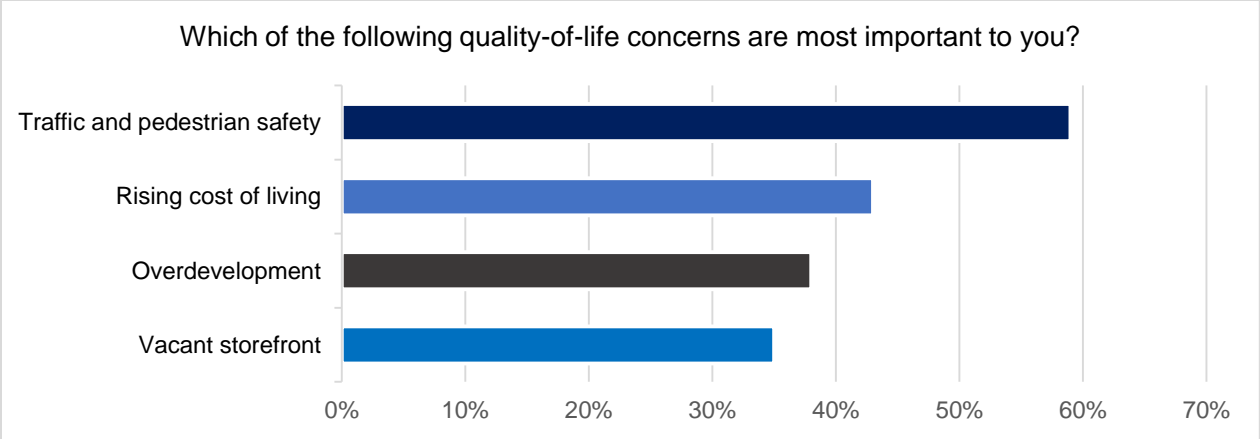


Council Member Powers honors Constituent Sydney Ireland for her work in the community as a Boy Scout.

SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to those who participated in our community survey. Below you will find top-line results. You can continue to share your feedback at: <http://bit.ly/PowersSurvey>. Please stay tuned for a full survey break down by at the end of April.





AT CITY HALL

Rent Guidelines

The Rent Guidelines Board has begun its review season. You can learn more about tenant rights and rent guidelines changes from 2017 during an upcoming meeting:

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 9:30 A.M., 1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
 Public Meeting
 Apt. Owners 9:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.
 Apt. Tenants 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
 Hotel Tenants 3:00 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.



Please call my office at 212-788-7393 if you want to learn more about testifying at a future hearing.

I know the real-life impact of a rent increase on the bottom line for families in New York City, and made that known on the steps of City Hall, advocating for strong housing legislation in March.

Legislative Update

Campaign Finance Reform

Given that New York's campaign finance system is one of the best in the country—and a model for other cities—it is our responsibility as a city to help uphold and strengthen its reputation. The bills I am introducing will change our campaign finance laws to particularly help first-time candidates:

Increase Matchable Contributions: The maximum donation capable of being matched under the public financing program in any city-wide election is \$175 per individual. This bill raises the amount to \$250 to allow matchable contributions to have greater weight.

Pilot Full Matching Funds for Special Elections: Candidates in special elections must raise large amounts of money in short periods of time. A pilot for full matching funds for special elections in the City Council, which could be expanded, could potentially scale up to full public financing of all city elections.

Empower Small Campaigns: Campaigns currently have a \$1,000 limit before the Campaign Finance Board requires that they submit disclosure statements. This bill raises this limit to \$3,000, allowing small candidates to reach a wider body of voters without the burden of complex reporting requirements.

Lower Qualifying Thresholds: A minimum of 75 donations from within one's district, each in the quantity of \$10 or more, is currently needed to receive matching funds. These thresholds ensure that public funds are given to a candidate with local support, and help safeguard public dollars. This bill lowers the amount from \$10 to \$5—to help make it easier for all New Yorkers to participate in elections.

Close the Doing Business Loophole: There is a potential loophole in New York City's campaign finance law—the contribution limits on anyone doing business with the City do not kick in until there is a certified land use application. That means there is a time gap between the time a land use application has begun and the time it is certified. This bill requires "Doing Business" limits to be applied right when a land use application is started with the City.

2020 Census

I introduced a resolution calling on the federal government to pass S.2580—the "Every Person Counts Act"—to ensure that there is no question about citizenship on the 2020 U.S. Census. Undercounting important populations would not only affect our ability to ensure equal representation across our City Council, State, and Congressional districts; it would also drive down the allotment of federal grants that are crucial to all New Yorkers.

Sexual Harassment Bill Package

My bill, Introduction 657-A, amends the New York City Human Rights Law (NYCHRL) to apply provisions related to gender-based discrimination to all employers, regardless of the number of employees. This is part of the City Council's larger package, the "Stop Sexual Harassment in NYC Act," in protecting everyone, but especially women, in the workplace.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 8:00 AM, Stuyvesant Oval

Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village Little League Opening Day Parade, with Council Member Keith Powers

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 12:00 - 1:30 PM, 154 East 86th Street

East 86th Street Association Street Clean Up, with Council Member Keith Powers

Thursday, April 19, 2018, various times (see previous page), 1 Centre Street, Floor 9

Rent Guidelines Board Public Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:00 PM, P.S. 290, 311 East 82nd Street

Earth Day event with Council Member Keith Powers and Council Member Ben Kallos

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village

Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village Flea Market

Wednesdays, April 18 - May 9, 2018, 6:00 PM, 331 East 70th Street

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Financial Empowerment Workshops

Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6:30 PM, 125 East 85th Street

Forum: Homelessness in New York City: What is Being Done and How Can We Help?

Saturday, April 21, 2018, Car-Free Day

Midtown Manhattan and across New York City

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, 82nd Street, St. Stephen Greenmarket

Upper Green Side, Shred-A-Thon

Friday, April 27, 2018, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, NYPL Business Library, 188 Madison Avenue at 34th Street

New York Public Library's Spring Financial Planning Day

Saturday, April 28, 2018, check website for times, Asphalt Green's Upper East Side campus, 1750 York Avenue

Big Swim, Big Kick, for 6-10 year olds

Deadline: **Tuesday, April 17, Tax Day**

Deadline: **Wednesday, May 2, Late Registration for Universal Pre-K**



Together with members of the Irish Caucus, Council Member Powers celebrates St. Patrick's Day.



Council Member Powers addresses constituents at a breakfast to support reading programs at Bellevue Hospital.