

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



May 2018

With a late start to the season, spring is finally in bloom. I hope you are out and about enjoying our great city. Many of you have been weighing in on important topics in our neighborhoods. Your input has led me to:

- Protect our green, open spaces at [waterfront parks](#), from Asser Levy Park to Sutton Place.
- Stand with tenant advocates to call for a rent freeze from the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB).
- Create new sanitation routes and upgrade trash receptacles on the Upper East Side.
- Evaluate new solutions to deal with congestion and traffic in New York City.



You will be hearing from me frequently as I share updates on the community, legislation, and more.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Keith

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Upcoming Rent Guidelines Board Hearings

Each year, the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) votes on the rent increases for rent-regulated apartments in New York City. The RGB recently held a preliminary vote, in which the board proposed a one-year lease increase of .75 percent to 1.75 percent, and a two-year lease increase of 1.75 percent to 3.75 percent. The RGB will now hold hearings throughout the city to determine the final increase. The upcoming public hearings of the RGB are on:

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

Public Meeting

*Location: Landmarks Preservation Commission Conference Room

David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Public Hearing (Public Testimony)

*Location: The Great Hall at Cooper Union
7 East 7th Street at corner of 3rd Ave. (Basement)

Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Public Meeting (Final Vote)

*Location: The Great Hall at Cooper Union
7 East 7th Street at corner of 3rd Ave. (Basement)

If you are interested in testifying, you can sign up on the day-of or by calling (212) 669-7480 ext. 0. Find more details here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentguidelinesboard/meetings/2018-meetings.page>

NYC Rent Freeze Program

- **Did you know?** You have to register for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), also known as the NYC Rent Freeze Program, every year. My office is here to help with this process. On June 18 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, I am hosting a resource fair in the district to help residents sign up for the program. Visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/tools/tools.page> for more.

Monday, June 18, 2018, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Avenue

Park Savoy Homeless Shelter

- While the Council does not have direct jurisdiction over the siting of shelters, I have been working with the community and stakeholders to make any improvements possible to the plan and will continue to work with the community going forward. In February, my office helped set up a town hall on the shelter to make sure the community's concerns were heard with the Department of Homeless Services and the shelter provider. Following that meeting, I held a stakeholder meeting with the Borough President's office and key community groups on the shelter to follow through on specific questions and input from neighbors. I am continuing to meet with neighbors and am reaching out to the Midtown North police precinct to discuss any potential security issues in light of recent reports—and to address how we can make everyone in this area feel safe. My office is also assembling a Community Advisory Board later this spring, in conjunction with the Borough President and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). I will update you on progress made to ensure neighbors' safety and security.

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR)

- As a part of the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, the City will be undergoing storm mitigation planning in the coming months in order to construct a two-mile stretch of floodwalls and levees between East 25th Street and Montgomery Street. A particular part of the project begins at the East 13th Street Con Edison Complex and extends to Asser Levy Park, with a proposed floodwall that would bisect the park under its current design. Based on comments from Community Board 6, I am requesting the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) alter the plan to ensure that the

entire playground, open space, and recreation center are protected at Asser Levy Park. For more information, please visit: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/escr/vision/vision.page>.

Clean Streets on the Upper East Side

- Through the City Council’s “A Greener NYC” initiative, I have allocated funds to improve sanitation on the Upper East Side with new trash routes and 79 upgraded trash receptacles. The locations are as follows:

ROUTE		
STREET/AVENUE	FROM	TO
Lexington Avenue	96th Street	79th Street
Lexington Avenue	96th Street	59th Street
3rd Avenue	79th Street	86th Street
86th Street	3rd Avenue	5th Avenue
2nd Avenue	96th Street	59th Street
2nd Avenue	79th Street	59th Street
3rd Avenue	59th Street	79th Street
Lexington Avenue	79th Street	59th Street
3rd Avenue	59th Street	79th Street

East 54th Street Greenway

- The Economic Development Corporation 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. Earlier this year, I reflected these concerns in a letter to EDC asking for answers to common questions and possible changes to the plan. 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, and lowered the bridge to address privacy concerns from residents of 45 Sutton Place South. The Economic Development Corporation has also pledged to minimize the impact of the bridge to the existing park. I will continue to work with the local residents and the EDC to make sure community input is incorporated into the project.

L-Train Shutdown

- As we get closer to the L-Train shut down in April 2019, I am continuing to push for innovative public transit solutions that work for both residents and commuters. In order to help make transit across town more efficient, I am advocating for a full-time busway on 14th Street. Restricting traffic to buses and other vehicles which require emergency access will allow for more rapid crosstown bus routes. I will keep an open dialogue with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure my neighbors and I in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village have viable alternatives during the shutdown.

Resident Parking Policy

- In April, I co-sponsored legislation with Council Members Levine, Rosenthal, and Ayala, which would require the City Department of Transportation (DOT) to create and implement a residential parking

permit (RPP) system in Manhattan, covering areas north of 60th Street through Inwood. This bill provides an opportunity for neighborhoods in Manhattan to evaluate residential parking permits and come up with an appropriate usage. As the city continues to debate issues like congestion pricing, this would provide surrounding neighborhoods a chance to implement resident parking and test its effectiveness.

IN THE DISTRICT



To countdown to the L-train shutdown, Council Member Powers joins advocates for alternatives.



The East 86th Street Neighborhood Association with Council Member Powers for a street cleanup.



Council Member Powers visiting the 17th Precinct during roll call.



Council Member Powers prunes trees with Carnegie Hill Neighbors on the Upper East Side.



Council Member Powers meets with eighth graders at Temple Emanuel to discuss community involvement.

Council Member Powers joins colleagues to advocate for paid parent leave for the United Federation of Teachers.

AT CITY HALL

City Council Passes Council Member Powers' First Bill on Sexual Harassment

- My first piece of legislation was signed into law by Mayor Bill de Blasio on May 9. The new law 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. Nearly 63 percent of businesses in New York City have 1-4 employees, per Census data. This law now protects those businesses with up to three employees, who had not previously been protected. This is part of the City Council's larger package, the "Stop Sexual Harassment in NYC Act," that would protect everyone, but especially women, in the workplace.

Strengthening Rent Regulation Laws

- I was proud to join my colleagues in the City Council to vote for the continuation of rent stabilization in New York City. I also recently introduced a resolution in the City Council that calls on the State to require the Department of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR) – the state agency that oversees rent regulation – to provide rent control tenants relief from high rent increases. This resolution passed the City Council on May 9. I have called for the ending of Major Capital Improvement (MCI) increases that last in perpetuity, the prohibition of preferential rents, and the elimination of vacancy decontrol during this year's State legislative session. Finally, I co-authored a letter with State Senator Brad Hoylman to HCR to question the consistent approval of MCI rent increases. We asked that HCR reexamine specific MCIs and provide an explanation for the approvals. We are currently awaiting a response.

Campaign Finance and Voter Reform

- Given that New York's campaign finance system is one of the best in the country, it is our responsibility as a city to help uphold and strengthen its reputation, as well as that of our electoral system. I have introduced a number of bills and I recently introduced a set of bills that would reform our campaign finance laws to help first-time, smaller candidates run for office. My package of bills would lower qualifying thresholds for public matching funds, increase matchable contributions, create a pilot for special elections, empower small campaigns, and close a doing business loophole. The package was based on my own experience with the New York City Campaign Finance Board's public matching funds program.
- Additionally, I introduced a resolution calling on the State to improve the format of ballot proposals to minimize confusion. In the current format, ballot proposal questions often appear the flipside of the ballot. In 2017, there was a 9 percent drop in votes cast for the first ballot question as compared to the votes cast for the Mayor line—which can be attributed to a lack of knowledge among voters about the second page of the ballot. I am hopeful this will make the voting process easier for all New Yorkers.

2020 Census

- I recently introduced a resolution calling on the federal government to pass federal legislation (S.2580)—the “Every Person Counts Act”—to remove a question about citizenship on the 2020 U.S. Census. The Federal Census plays a critical role in determining representation in the City Council, State Legislature, and Congress. It also determines the amount of federal funds for programs like special education, low and moderate income housing loans, the state children’s insurance program, and the medical assistance program. By including the question on the Census, there is a threat of undercounting New Yorkers that would have a negative impact on both representation and federal funding to New York City.

Paid Parental Leave

- Last month, I joined my colleagues in the City Council at a rally urging the Mayor to extend paid parental leave to all New York City employees. Currently, the city’s six-week paid parental leave policy covers only managerial employees—leaving out teachers, police officers, and hundreds of thousands of other union workers. I believe that no working parent should ever have to make the choice between caring for their children or furthering their career.

Landmarks Commission Rule Changes

- This spring, 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 in March. I co-authored a letter with Council Member Rivera that request the LPC reconsider proposed rule changes. My office also testified against the changes at the hearing on March 27.

IN THE NEWS

Town and Village, May 3, 2018

[Mayor Announces Expanded Ferry Service](#)

One year after the launch of NYC Ferry, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that ridership along the city’s waterways could grow to as many as 9 million annual passengers by 2023.

MNN, CB8 Speaks, May 2018

[CB8 Speaks: Council Member Keith Powers is the Guest](#)

New York City Council Member Keith Powers sits down with host David Liston. Council Member Powers for District 4 shares his background and his agenda for the next four years of his term.

New York Times, April 24, 2018

[Should New York City Reserve Parking Spots for Residents Only?](#)

One after another, the cars with out-of-state license plates roll off the George Washington Bridge into Pedro Richiez’s neighborhood in northern Manhattan. They circle the blocks. They nab parking spots as soon as they open up.

NY1, April 16, 2018

[City Teen On A Mission To Break Down Boy Scouts Gender Barrier](#)

Stuyvesant Town resident Sydney Ireland knew she wanted to be part of the Boy Scouts of America from a young age.

SAVE THE DATES

Community Board 6 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7:00 PM, 10 Nathan D. Perlman Place

[Department of Transportation \(DOT\) Town Hall on L-Train Shutdown](#)

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 6:30-8:30 PM, Auditorium at the New School at 66 West 12th Street

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Financial Empowerment Workshops

Wednesdays through May 9, 2018, 6:00 PM, 331 East 70th Street

Community Board 5 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, May 10, 2018, 6:00 PM, Xavier High School, 30 West 16th Street

Pay Equity for Women: Getting Your Fair Wage, Hosted by CB8 Women and Families Committee

Thursday, May 10, 2018, 6:30 PM, Rockefeller Research Laboratories, 430 East 67th Street

Community Board 8 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 6:30 PM, Memorial Sloan Kettering – RRL 117, 430 East 67th Street

[Teens Take the MET](#)

Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:00-8:00 PM, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Inaugural Peter Stuyvesant Little League Community League Night

Friday, May 18, 2018, 6:00 PM, Citi Field

Children's Museum of the Arts Kids Fair

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM, 103 Charlton Street

Summer Stage Concerts, May-July [Details here](#)

Council Member Powers: SCRIE Resource Event

Monday, June 18, 2018, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Avenue

New York Public Library Money and Finance Programs: nypl.org/moneymatters

Various dates and time, Midtown Manhattan and across New York City