

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

# KEITH POWERS



*July 2018*

Following the passing of our City's budget, I am ready to continue the important work of improving the lives of residents in my district and across the City.

Lately, I have been focused on the issues that matter to you, including:

- Working to make voting in our district as easy as possible
- Developing alternative transportation options for the L train shutdown, like increasing the Citi Bike stock and calling for more frequent bus service
- Advocating for city-wide environmental issues, including Styrofoam and plastic bans



I also want to thank this community for your donations to children impacted by the Trump administration's immigration policy. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents at the border, and hundreds relocated to New York. With your help, my office has collected books, toys, clothing, and care items to donate to area shelters to support those in need. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

You will be hearing from me frequently as I share updates on the community, legislation, and more. Remember to stay cool and hydrated this summer!

I look forward to seeing you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith".

Keith

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Tenant Resources

We are excited to partner with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to bring HPD educational resources directly into our district. HPD is responsible for developing and maintaining the city's stock of affordable housing, by preserving and protecting the quality and cost of housing. On Wednesday, August 8, my office will have representatives from HPD's Office of Enforcement and Neighborhood Services (OENS) on-site to speak with tenants on filing complaints, open violations, tenant's rights and more.

**Council Member Powers: HPD in District 4**

*Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM*

*211 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1205*

*RSVP to [KPowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:KPowers@council.nyc.gov)*

**INTRODUCING: Mobile Office Hours with Council Member Powers**

Sit down with me and representatives from my office to talk about the issues in the district you care about, and work toward solutions. This is a great opportunity to meet in-person with our constituent services team and get to know me a bit better!

Tuesday, August 7, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Stuyvesant Town Community Center, 449 East 14th Street

RSVP: [kpowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kpowers@council.nyc.gov)

Wednesday, August 15, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Yorkville Library, 222 East 79th Street

RSVP: [kpowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kpowers@council.nyc.gov)

**Poll Site Changes**

The Board of Elections (BOE) has made several poll site changes across our district, affecting thousands of voters. Some of the most egregious changes impact residents in Tudor City and Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village.

- In Tudor City, there are some residents who live as far as East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Tudor City Place who now must vote on East 54<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- In Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, residents in 10 of the buildings near East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue have been told their voting location is now on 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenue C & Avenue B.

Voters should not have to visit poll sites over a half mile away when there are viable alternative options within blocks. I have sent letters both to the Board of Elections and to the affected voters in an effort to provide more conveniently located poll sites. We are advocating for changes ahead of the fall elections. Despite the extra effort it might take, I encourage you to make your voice heard and vote this fall in the September 13 and November 6 elections.

**Neighborhood Policing in the 17th Precinct**

Neighborhood policing is an approach to create communication and build relationships between the community and police officers. The model involves NYPD officers being assigned to designated areas and sectors throughout the precinct in order to help the NYPD fight crime more effectively. On July 19, the 17th Precinct, which spans from 30<sup>th</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup> Street on the East Side, will introduce its Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) program, a key component of the Neighborhood Policing Model.

Once a quarter, the NCOs will host one-on-one Build the Block meetings to discuss community concerns and answer any questions you may have. The 17th Precinct will begin practicing neighborhood policing this month. The 13th Precinct, which encompasses 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Street, is scheduled to rollout the initiative this fall. The neighborhood policing program will be instituted in every NYPD precinct by 2019.

## L-Train Shutdown Update

In June, I attended a City Council Transportation Committee hearing regarding oversight of the L train shutdown plans. Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg and New York City Transit (NYCT) President Andy Byford both testified and presented the latest plans designed to ensure both commuters and residents of the area are able to cope with the shutdown. Scheduled to begin in April 2019 with a planned 15 months of work, the interruption of L train service in Manhattan will be a challenge for all involved.

Below are a selection of new additions from the plans unveiled at the hearing:

- Traffic on 14<sup>th</sup> Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues will be restricted to buses between 5 AM and 10 PM during the shutdown. This will help commuters get across Manhattan and connect to other train lines while the L train is not running. Other vehicular traffic will be allowed to enter via the side streets, but they will have to turn off of 14<sup>th</sup> Street at the next available juncture instead of proceeding east or west.
- Several shuttle buses will be deployed between Manhattan and Brooklyn to help duplicate the L train route. Two of the four planned lines will begin on either end of Williamsburg and terminate on East 15<sup>th</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues.
- There are plans to add 1,250 new Citi Bikes to help meet the growing demand for the system. The increased focus on rebalancing stock to ensure that enough bicycles are spread throughout the city will allow more of my constituents to benefit from the program.



*Council Member Powers questions MTA officials during City Council L train hearing.*

## Supporting Preservation of our City's Landmarks

In June, I supported the landmark designation for 550 Madison Avenue – the former AT&T building that has been heralded as the first postmodern skyscraper. I also wrote a letter to the Mayor calling for an individual with a preservationist background to be appointed as the next chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. In doing so, I joined numerous preservationist advocacy groups, including the Historic Districts Council, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, Municipal Art Society, and FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts. This will ensure that the City's irreplaceable historic and cultural landmarks are not lost or dramatically altered.

## Car-Free Central Park

As of Wednesday, June 27, Central Park is officially car-free. All vehicles have been banned below 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, on the West, Center, East, and Terrace drives. Central Park is now a place to get away from the gridlock of the City where pedestrians, cyclists, and visitors from across the globe can enjoy our urban oasis, carefree. The new policy will not affect the transverse roads at 97<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>, 79<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> streets, which connect the eastern and western sides of Manhattan.



*Council Member Powers' collection of donations for children who have been separated from their parents.*



*Council Member Powers speaks to the 2018 graduating class of P.S. 59.*



*Council Member Powers celebrates more funding for the New York Public Library system.*

## CITY HALL

### **Transparency for Home-Sharing Companies**

I signed on to sponsor legislation that will require home-sharing companies, like Airbnb, to share data with the City. The bill, which unanimously passed the Council on July 18, comes on the heels of numerous incidents where residential housing units (including rent stabilized apartments) were being illegally converted for commercial hotel use. The legislation will now require the companies to share information with the City to allow for better enforcement of illegal behavior. During the Council hearing on the bill, I heard from the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement on the need to have additional tools at their disposal to assist with enforcement. During my time in the City Council, I have heard from many constituents about their concerns with sharing their residential buildings with strangers that do not have a lease or an invested interest in the community. Please contact my office if you have comments on the legislation.



## **Standing Up for Our Environment**

In recent years, New York City has been a leader in protecting our environment and ensuring that consumer items do not cause a long-term issue in our waterways or waste stream. The City Council has played an instrumental role in these efforts by passing landmark legislation that takes aim at the most harmful products, including:

- **Styrofoam:** In light of a recent New York Supreme Court decision, New York City has been given permission to move forward with the effort to ban single-use Styrofoam items, such as food takeout containers. This effort was the result of legislation that initially passed in the City Council in 2013 but was subject to numerous lawsuits. The ban was upheld in June and will go into effect in January 2019.
- **Plastics:** In 2016, the City Council passed landmark legislation to reduce the usage of plastic bags in New York City. I was a strong supporter of this effort and disappointed when the State Legislature blocked this effort in Albany. However, the City is currently reviewing a number of proposals that would limit, reduce, or eliminate the usage of items made of plastic. I am proud to join groups, like the Wildlife Conservation Society, in calling for the elimination of wasteful plastic products. You can check out their campaign to reduce plastic straws at: <https://giveasip.nyc>.

The City still has a long way to go to improve air quality, protect our waterways, promote transportation alternatives, and more. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the City Council to reduce the carbon footprint in New York City and to fight for the elimination of harmful products and practices.

## **IN THE NEWS**

*Town & Village*, July 19, 2018

### **[Outpouring of support for separated immigrant families shown in drive](#)**

Husiak, Rosler and Anderson said they were taking cues from local elected officials on what kind of items to donate, and the mayor's office provided local elected officials with guidelines about what items are most needed, but Council Member Keith Powers said that the push for donations in the first place came from neighborhood residents.

*Women's Wear Daily*, July 19, 2018

### **[NYC Council Members Make Unannounced Visit to H&M Offices on Union Contract Negotiations](#)**

Three New York City Council members hand-delivered a letter to [H&M's](#) New York office, demanding the company return to the negotiating table for the betterment of 1,500 unionized [H&M](#) employees.

*Manhattan Express*, June 28, 2018

### **[A Boost for Moms Running for Office](#)**

Keith Powers and Laurie Cumbo have introduced new legislation regarding child care expenses following previous requests made to the Federal Election Commission. This new legislation would qualify child care expenses as a campaign expense.

*Town & Village*, June 21, 2018

## Opinion: More Powers to Him

Keith Powers knows that in spite of representing one of the most affluent sections of New York City, there are many fellow residents who live near poverty and cannot always make ends meet or benefit from what this great city can offer.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Community Board 5 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, July 12, 2018, 6:00 PM, Xavier High School, 30 West 16th Street

### Broadway in Bryant Park

Thursday July 12 - August 16, 2018, Bryant Park

Various times and programs: <http://bryantpark.org/programs/broadway-in-bryant-park>

### New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL) Free Summer Tennis Program

Monday, July 16, 2018, Wagner Middle School, 220 East 76th Street

### Carnegie Hall + Bryant Park Summer Concert Series

Wednesday, July 18 - Friday, August 10, 2018, Bryant Park

Various dates and time: <http://bryantpark.org/programs/carnegie-hall-citywide>

### Community Board 8 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 18, 2018, 6:30 PM, Nightingale-Bamford School, 20 East 92nd Street

### Shape Up In The Park: Central Park

Tuesday July 24, 2018, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Naumburg Bandshell (in Central Park), Manhattan

### Council Member Powers + New York Presbyterian: Fall Prevention Training

Wednesday, July 25, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

121 East 67th Street, Room 405

RSVP: [kpowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kpowers@council.nyc.gov)

### Alzheimer's Association Early Detection Seminar

Wednesday, August 1, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sirovich Center, 331 E. 12th St. New York

RSVP: [chesters@nyassembly.gov](mailto:chesters@nyassembly.gov)

### National Night Out Against Crime

Saturday, August 4, 2018

17th Precinct: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (E. 47th St. between 1st and 2nd Aves.)

19th Precinct: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Carl Schurz Park (E. 86th St. & East End Ave.)

### Citi and Department of Transportation (DOT) Summer Streets

Saturdays, August 4 – August 18, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

See the route: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/summerstreets/html/route/route.shtml>

### MTA New York City Transit Canarsie Tunnel Project Public Meeting

Monday, August 6, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

2 Broadway, William J. Ronan Board Room, 20th Floor

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**Council Member Powers: Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Resources in District 4**

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**Immigrant Accompaniment Training Session**

Wednesday, August 8, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

East End Temple, 245 East 17th Street

RSVP: <http://itd-lmig01.council.nyc.ny.us/iq/iatraining.eventbrite.com>

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Yorkville Library, 222 East 79th Street

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**Blue Blanc Rouge French Culture Day Camp**

Register: <https://frenchcampny.wixsite.com/bleublancrougeny>

*Camp runs from July 2 – August 17*

New York Public Library Money and Finance Programs: [nypl.org/moneymatters](http://nypl.org/moneymatters)

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

*Community Board 6 will not hold a Full Board meeting this month.*