

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



December 2018

Dear Neighbor,

As we enter a season of giving and reflection, I want to share how wonderful it has been to serve you all over the past 12 months. We are coming into a time of year when we put aside differences in opinion to help those in need, give thanks, and celebrate all the good over the year. This year, I have introduced 27 bills focusing on housing, equal rights, criminal justice, and good government. My office has also served thousands of constituents on issues including housing, construction, quality of life, and more. I have a lot to celebrate as your Council Member, and I want to thank all of you for that.



With the holiday season comes the arrival of many visitors to New York City, especially on Manhattan's East Side and Midtown. While it is typical to complain about the overcrowding from tourists during the holiday, they have an undeniable impact on our city. Last month, I introduced legislation that would require the City to better track the economic benefits of tourism and allow New York to sustain and grow its multi-billion dollar industry. You can read more on the proposal in my op-ed in *Crain's*.

There is another constant of the season: snow. There are sure to be more storms like the one we experienced in November as winter approaches. While an anomaly for the fall, I heard from many of you regarding preparedness and issues stemming from downed trees. The City must be better prepared in response for future storms. Please know that when these weather events occur, my office is a resource to help clear the streets and keep you safe.

I also want to invite you to an upcoming town hall my office is hosting with Mayor de Blasio as a part of *City Hall in Your Borough* on December 19 at 6:30 P.M. at Hunter College, West Building. This will be an opportunity to ask the administration questions about the city and your community, as well as hear planned updates on various projects. I hope to see you there. You can RSVP at ManhattanTownHall@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Finally, my office is holding a toy drive with Room to Grow during the holiday season. Please drop off toys at my office between Monday and Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., through December 19. I am grateful for your support during a time when we come together and help those in need. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events in the neighborhood, and remind you that my office is a resource to help get things done and answer questions.

Happy Holidays!

**Council Member Keith Powers | 212-818-0580 | 212-788-7393 | council.nyc.gov/district-4
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

L Train Shutdown

I have heard from many of my neighbors and constituents in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village about the potentially dangerous conditions caused both by the narrowing of the travel lane on 20th Street for driving, as well as the difficulties created for pedestrians attempting to board buses who now have to cross a two-way bike lane in order to do so. This is a result of the Department of Transportation's redesign of 20th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue C in preparation for increased bicycle and bus traffic during the L train shutdown. The configuration of the two-way protected bike lane through that stretch has presented several problems that I am working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and NYPD to try to resolve. There has also been unclear signage, leading to a series of towing in the area. I will continue to work with DOT to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers are all able to navigate the street safely.



Council Member Powers talks with neighbors at a community event at St. Peter's Senior Center.

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR)

The East Side Coastal Resiliency Project is a multiagency effort to strengthen our waterfront in order to prevent flooding from future storms and natural disasters. As part of the ESCR, the City's Office of Recovery and Resiliency and the Department of Design and Construction will be spearheading the construction of a seawall between 14th Street and 25th Street. This construction will also involve the renovation and redesign of many of the parks in that area, including Asser Levy Playground, Stuyvesant Cove, and Murphy Brothers Playground. You can read more about the [plans here](#) and join me at a public meeting to receive community input on December 11 at Brookdale Campus, 425 East 25th Street.

Trump Tower Bus Stop Returns

I am pleased to share that a bus stop that had been removed in front of Trump Tower will soon be reopened. When President Trump was first elected, the stop was removed due to security concerns. This posed a significant inconvenience for residents and commuters who rely on the bus service. My office was able to restore service to the M1, M2, M3, M4, M5 and Q32 routes in front of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church between 55th and 56th Streets.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Street Vendors

Earlier this fall, residents of the Upper East Side reported an influx of mobile food vendors in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. On any given day, the number of vendors exceeds the allowable number permitted per block, and vendor carts have also been impeding access to ramps designated for those with disabilities. My office hosted a walkthrough of the area with administrators from the Met and the NYPD's Central Park Precinct. We will continue to monitor the situation and ensure the NYPD takes enforcement measures.

The Redesign of St. Vartan Park

This year, the City allotted \$4.9 million to redesign St. Vartan Park at East 35th Street and First Avenue. The redesign will focus on the multipurpose play area of the park and will convert the asphalt field into a synthetic turf field. On November 28, the Parks Department held a scoping session to gather community input on how to improve the park. If you were unable to attend this meeting, I encourage you to reach out to the Parks Department to share your feedback and ideas by calling Outreach Coordinator Ashley Kuenneke at 212-408-0214 or emailing ashley.kuenneke@parks.nyc.gov. I look forward to working together with you on this redesign in the coming months.



Council Member Powers meets with members of the Koreatown community.

Improving Safety at East 79th Street and Madison Avenue

This intersection has been a dangerous area for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike for a number of years. My office has received calls regarding recent incidents and I am working in conjunction with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to enhance the safety of this area. DOT has a number of safety enhancements scheduled in relation to SBS upgrades for the M79, however these will not be implemented until 2022 and do not address all issues. My office will continue to work with DOT on solutions to protect pedestrians and prevent any additional tragedies. We will hopefully return to the community soon with safety upgrades.

Predatory Landlords Bill Package

On November 28, I introduced a bill that would deny any permits for one year to property owners who falsely state the number of occupied units in the building in City filings. This bill is part of a larger package of legislation to close loopholes and address abusive practices by predatory landlords in New York City. Currently, 57 percent of the City's 2.1 million rental units are rent-regulated. Some landlords have been found to exploit loopholes to move these regulated apartments into the free market. My bill, as well as the entire package, will help fight back against these abusive practices.



Council Member Powers at a meeting of the Times Square Alliance.

Creating a Comprehensive Tourism Plan for Our City

On November 28, I introduced a bill with Council Members Paul Vallone and Jimmy Van Bramer that would create an online tourism dashboard to report on tourism statistics throughout the City, allowing us to track information about the impact of tourism on our economy. The dashboard would show metrics on tourism and hospitality industry jobs, trends, and salaries on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, making it easier to identify potential areas of job growth. New York's tourism and hospitality industry currently employs over 290,000 people--more than the finance sector and double the tech sector. It is essential that the City develops a comprehensive plan to both support tourism and manage its effects on our infrastructure.



During a City Planning Commission Meeting, Council Member Powers testifies in favor of Waterside affordable housing deal.

New Bill to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As we learn details of the impact of climate change, now is the time to make urgent changes locally. The City has set an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and powering all municipal government operations with renewable energy sources. I am proud to support legislation that addresses climate change by taking a look at our city's buildings. Buildings are currently responsible for two-thirds of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation would require buildings over 25,000 square feet to be retrofitted to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions starting in the year 2022. I am confident these updates will make meaningful progress for our environment.

Criminal Justice Hearings

As Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, I recently held two hearings on issues of concern in the criminal justice system. The first hearing, jointly held with the Committee on Hospitals and Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction, addressed access and quality of healthcare in correctional facilities. We discussed barriers to access, sick calls, and continuing treatment after release. The second hearing, with the Committee on Justice System, involved the recently passed bail easement laws and problems with making bail payments at City facilities. I look forward to continue working alongside the Department of Correction and Mayor's Office to improve our city's criminal justice system.

IN THE NEWS

December 4, [Agenda 2019: High Hopes for Long-Awaited Reforms](#), *Gotham Gazette*

"I think the Charter Revision Commission will really be the biggest place where we talk about what the functions of government are" said City Council Member Keith Powers, "how do the mayor and the City

Council interact with each other, what agencies should be empowered here, how to do budgeting, things like that.”

November 29, [The City Needs to Do More to Support Our Burgeoning Tourism Industry](#), Crain's
When the holiday season arrives, New York City will be greeted with an influx of visitors. More cabs will be taken, more subway seats filled and more sidewalks crowded. Not to mention a bit more cheer.

November 28, [Trump Tower Bus Stop to Return](#), Our Town

“We have to balance the security needs of the city with the ability of people to get around and use their neighborhood ... the situation has improved since November 2016 and this is another example of it continuing to improve.”

November 20, [NY Can Learn From Other States In Bail Reform Push](#), Law360

New York lawmakers are poised to revamp the state's bail system in 2019, and while the circumstances are ripe for ending the state's cash-based system, eliminating unnecessary incarcerations will require examining where other reform-minded states may have gone wrong, according to a recent panel of experts and activists.

November 19, [City Lawmakers Probe Why Inmates Miss Thousands of Medical Appointments Each Month](#), Daily News

City lawmakers want to know why inmates miss thousands of medical appointments each month. Inmates didn't get to 12,105 scheduled doctor and nurse visits in September, according to a report by the city's Board of Correction. That's 25% of all the appointments set for that month, the latest publicly available.

SAVE THE DATES

Events with Council Member Powers

Town Hall with Mayor de Blasio

My office will host Mayor de Blasio for a town hall in the district. This will be an opportunity to ask the administration questions about the city and your community, as well as hear planned updates on various projects.

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

6:30 P.M., Doors open at 5:00 P.M.

Hunter College, West Building

904 Lexington Avenue, on the corner of 68th Street

Please RSVP by December 18 at 5:00 P.M. via this link: <https://our.cityofnewyork.us/page/s/cd4townhall>
ManhattanTownHall@cityhall.nyc.gov | 212-788-2781

Holiday Toy Drive with Room to Grow

My office is hosting a toy drive for the holiday season. We will be partnering with Room to Grow, which is focused on ensuring babies born into poverty have everything they need to learn, grow, and succeed in life. I am grateful for your support during a time when we come together and help those in need.

Drop-off Site: 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1205

Monday - Friday, 10:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.

Now through December 19

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project Meeting

We want to hear from you! The City is holding a public meeting regarding the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project plans. Give your input about the plans to improve and further protect our waterfront spaces.

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Brookdale Campus, 425 East 25th Street

Fall Prevention with Council Member Keith Powers

Did you know that one in four people aged 65 or older has a fall each year? Senior citizens are especially susceptible to fall-related injuries, which is why our office is hosting a Fall Prevention Training, in partnership with the health professionals of New York-Presbyterian. Our training will include ways to prevent falls, identify hazards, and how to properly get up if a fall occurs.

Thursday, January 24, 2019, 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
House of the Redeemer, 7 E 95th Street
RSVP: kpowers@council.nyc.gov | 212-818-0580

Community Events

Tenant Rights + Advocacy Forum, Co-Sponsored with State Senator Liz Krueger
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
CUNY Graduate School, Proshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue

Sutton Area Community Tree Lighting
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Tree Lighting at Tudor City Greens South Park
Thursday, December 6, 2018, 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
24-, 38 Tudor City Place

Lighting of the World's Largest Menorah
Saturday, December 8, 2018, 8:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Grand Army Plaza, 5th Avenue between West 58th and West 59th Streets

East Side Coastal Resiliency Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Brookdale, 425 East 25th Street

Tree Lighting at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and Cookie Decorating at the Vanderbilt YMCA
Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
East 47th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue
YMCA: 224 East 47th Street

CB 6 Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 7:00 P.M.
NYU School of Dentistry, 433 1st Avenue, Room 220

CB5 Full Board Meeting
Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.
Xavier High School, Second Floor Library
30 West 16th Street

CB8 Full Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 6:30 P.M.
New York Blood Center, Auditorium 310 East 67th Street

Central Park Tour Southern Welcome Tour
Friday, December 14, 2018, 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Meet: Inside the Park at 61st Street and Fifth Avenue

"Free Saturdays" Free Admission to The Jewish Museum
Every Saturday, 11:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.
1109 5th Ave at 92nd Street

Free Friday Evenings at the Morgan Library & Museum

Every Friday, 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
225 Madison Avenue

“First Fridays” Free Admission at The Frick Collection
Friday, December 7, 2018, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
1 East 70th Street

“First Fridays” Free Admission to the Neue Galerie Museum for German and Austrian Art
Friday, December 7, 2018, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
1048 5th Avenue

New York Public Library Money and Finance Programs: nypl.org/moneymatters
Various dates and time, Midtown Manhattan and across New York City

Manhattan VA Hospital Military Mondays Free Legal Clinic
First Monday of Each Month (except holidays) 1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
423 E 23rd Street | 1st Floor Atrium