

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



January 2019

Dear Neighbor:

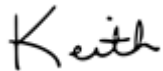
Happy New Year! Since taking office last January, I knew that working for New Yorkers would be the greatest opportunity and the most welcome challenge. I thoroughly enjoyed 2018 and look forward to the years ahead. As I reflect on 2018, I am proud to have worked to make our community better. I was also glad to see so many of you during a district town hall with the Mayor last month. Below are some highlights from the year:

- **Landmark Legislation:** In my first year, I introduced 27 bills and was a sponsor of 92 in the City Council. These bills include the topics of campaign finance reform, tenant protection, and property tax reform. My first bill signed into law extended sexual harassment protections to all employees, regardless of the size of the business. Under previous law, employees of small businesses were not protected under city law against sexual harassment. The Council also passed my legislation allowing candidates in New York City to use campaign funds toward certain childcare expenses. The legislation allows more primary caregivers, especially women, to run for office without worrying about the burden of childcare on their candidacy. This new law follows similar decisions at the federal and state level.
- **Creating and Protecting Affordable Housing:** I have been proud to lead negotiations in the housing deal that will protect 325 units at Waterside Plaza for the next 75 years. The groundbreaking preservation deal ensures that hundreds of tenants will be able to call Waterside home for years to come. We still have work to do but I am hopeful that we will come to a solution that helps all long-term tenants. Additionally, I have introduced legislation that would strengthen tenant protections by increasing penalties for any building owner that falsifies a building permit. Finally, I sponsored a new law that would crack down on short-term rentals that create a disturbance for neighbors and remove long-term housing from the market.
- **Investing in Our City:** This year, the City Council negotiated a number of significant programs that will improve the lives of New Yorkers. One of the most significant achievements in this budget was the funding of Fair Fares. This program will make nearly 800,000 New Yorkers living at or below the federal poverty level eligible for half-priced MetroCards, saving them more than \$700 per year in transportation costs. In addition, 12,000 veterans enrolled in New York City colleges will also be eligible for discount MetroCards. The Mayor and the Council also jointly announced the creation of a Property Tax Reform Commission to review the property tax system in New York City. Other highlights in the budget include more funding for senior affordable housing, sanitation service, and public schools.

- **Improving Quality of Life:** My office has worked on an array of projects to better your everyday lives, whether it is fixing potholes, reinstating bus stops, cleaning city streets, or mitigating the impact of construction. These improvements make life a little easier for you and help me understand what matters most to you. I will continue to work hard to make sure that every neighborhood in my district receives the attention and care that it deserves.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to staying in touch and sharing updates throughout 2019. Please remember my office is a resource for you, and to call or email me at any time.

Regards,



Keith

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Town Hall with Mayor de Blasio

Last month, I hosted Mayor de Blasio in the district for a Town Hall. It was a great opportunity for the community to share their concerns, as well as learn about upcoming projects. During the evening, I heard concerns about affordable housing, overdevelopment, school admissions, L train construction, and much more. In the coming weeks, my office will be following up with the Mayor on these concerns.

If you missed the event, you can watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwj6J5Jh1kM>



Council Member Powers addresses the crowd during a Town Hall with Mayor de Blasio.

L Train Project Update

Last week, the Governor announced an overhaul of the L train shutdown plans. Any plan that reduces the inconvenience for commuters and improves the quality of life for my constituents is a welcome upgrade, but I continue to have questions about the new plans. I have heard from many neighbors

about the disruption caused by construction for the L train shutdown, which I understand brings uncertainty and frustration. The new plan proposes the following:

- Both subway tunnels will be open for full train service during weekdays;
- One tube of the tunnel will be closed for repairs on nights and weekends, dates and times to be determined;
- Construction along 14th Street will vary and likely lessen; details have yet to be provided.

We are still awaiting many details of the new plan, which will become available in the coming weeks. As part of the new plan, I believe the City should continue its commitment to providing alternative transportation measures, including the M14 Select Bus Service. The MTA should also commit to expansion of subway lines to provide much-needed service to impacted residents. As an everyday L train rider, I am hopeful that this will be an improvement and look forward to receiving more information.

Redesign of 20th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue C

The implementation of the changes on 20th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue C continue to be an issue for residents of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village. Last month, there was an enforcement blitz that resulted in the unnecessary ticketing and towing of many parked cars along this stretch. I reached out to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and NYPD to put an end to the towing and fix the unclear signage that had been causing the confusion here. I also asked for the dismissal of the parking tickets and received a letter from the DOT that will allow many of the drivers to successfully appeal their tickets. I plan to meet with City officials again this month to ensure that conditions on 20th Street are as safe as possible for cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians. These changes were made as part of the L train shutdown plans, so I will update neighbors on their continuation under the new plan.



Council Member Powers joins colleagues in government to gain clarity on new plans for the L train project.

Mechanical Voids and Overdevelopment

Mechanical voids are loopholes where developers fit mechanical equipment at the base or in the middle of buildings to boost height and build increasingly tall buildings that circumvent square footage restrictions. In recent years, loopholes like these are part of a trend to capitalize on higher apartment views and thus charge buyers more. In some of the most egregious examples, buildings have up to 20 floors of large empty spaces that allow them to tower over surrounding areas. This has been a growing

concern across the district, particularly on the Upper East Side. In response to our concerns, the Commission on City Planning (CPC) has pledged the City will have a plan in summer 2019 for high-density residential and commercial neighborhoods that address the issue of the mechanical voids. This will help keep buildings at an appropriate height and ensure that development plays by the established rules.

Apply to Your Local Community Board

Do you want to be more involved in our neighborhood? Being a New Yorker means playing an active role in shaping your local community. One way to do this is to get involved with your local community board. Members are appointed by Borough President Brewer and Council Members. Apply today:

<https://manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/manhattan-community-board-2019-application/>



Council Member Powers preparing holiday meals at God's Love We Deliver Soup Kitchen.

CITY HALL

Budget Applications for FY2020

As budget season approaches, nonprofits, community groups, and public schools are able to apply for Expense and Capital Funding. During each year's budget process, Council Members assign expense funds to not-for-profit organizations and agency initiatives to meet needs and fill gaps in City Agency services and local projects. Capital funding includes the construction of public schools, street maintenance, and park improvements.

The deadline to submit the [expense funding application](#) is February 19, 2019.

The deadline to submit the [capital funding application](#) to Council Members is March 26, 2019.

The deadline to submit the [capital funding application](#) to Council Members *and* the Borough President is February 20, 2019.

You can find more on budget criteria here: <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/>

Using the Arts to Reduce Recidivism

In December, I held a hearing with my Committee on Criminal Justice and the Committee on Cultural Affairs to learn more about art programs available to individuals on probation. In an effort to reduce the collateral consequences that arise from incarceration and involvement with the justice system, the Department of Probation has partnered with community-based organizations with the support of Carnegie Hall to provide free art programs, including technical training and professional skills. The Department's Neighborhood Opportunity Networks (NeON) Program has partnered with 38 community arts organizations and held community events reaching over 7,000 people in New York City. The arts have been consistently proven to improve mental health, reduce recidivism, and improve the lives of individuals city-wide. I look forward to working with formerly incarcerated individuals and City agencies to discover more creative ways we can reduce recidivism and increase overall well-being.



Council Member Powers addresses the audience during the East Midtown Partnership's Annual Meeting

City and State Policy Opportunities

As the Senate regained its Democratic majority this fall there are new opportunities to get work done, together. I look forward to working on various initiatives, as well as broader State matters like rent regulation, MTA operations, and congestion pricing, with my colleagues in Albany. This year, the state's rent-stabilization laws are up for renewal. This presents an important opportunity to close loopholes, end Major Capital Improvement (MCI) increases, prohibit preferential rents, and eliminate vacancy decontrol. With streets more crowded and subways breaking down, we are in position to appropriately fund the MTA so we have a modern system. With the many issues that impact the City and State, I am confident that 2019 will be a year of progress on important issues facing the city and state.

IN THE NEWS

January 7, ['Will this be more of the same forever?' New Yorkers react to L train shutdown cancellation](#), *Curbed*

... City Council member Keith Powers, who represents part of Manhattan that would have been affected by the shutdown, called the proposal a "welcome upgrade," but noted the lack of community involvement.

January 3, [L train shutdown: What to know about Cuomo's new plan](#), *amNY*

...City Councilman Keith Powers, who represents parts of the Lower East Side, said the revised rehabilitation plan should keep the alternative transportation options, particularly M14 Select Bus Service and the planned ferry route connecting Williamsburg and Stuyvesant Cove.

December 28, [City Council bill blitz takes aim at lying landlords](#), *Town & Village*

The City Council has introduced a package of 18 bills that take aim at landlords who use shady tactics to empty their buildings on lower-rent paying tenants.

December 16, [Bail Flaws Leave NYC Corrections Facing Lawmaker Scrutiny](#), *Law360*

People held in jail because of fax machine trouble, or kept behind bars almost a full day after bail was posted, or waiting for family members to pay bail as they're ignored by those manning the payment window.

SAVE THE DATES

Events with Council Member Powers

[E-Waste Event with Council Members Keith Powers and Carlina Rivera](#)

Start 2019 off free of electronic waste. Recycle your working and non-working computers, monitors, printers/scanners, keyboards, mice, cables, TVs, VCRs & DVD players, phones, audio/visual equipment, cell phones and PDAs in Kips Bay.

Sunday, January 6, 2019, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Outside Fairway Market, 2nd Ave between East 31st and E 32nd Streets
For more information, visit lesecologycenter.org or call 212-477-4022

[Budget Information Session with Council Members Keith Powers and Carlina Rivera](#)

If you are an organization in the city that qualifies for City money, learn how to apply for funding, deadlines to be aware of, as well as best practices for applications.

Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
14th Street Y, 344 East 14th Street
RSVP at <http://bit.ly/RSVPbudget>

[Senior Fall Prevention with Council Member Keith Powers, in Partnership with Carnegie Hill Neighbors and Carnegie Hill Village](#)

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 my office, along with Carnegie Hill Neighbors and Carnegie Hill Village, is hosting a Senior 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. Space is limited, so you must RSVP to secure your seat.

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

Community Events

CB6 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
NYU School of Dentistry, 433 1st Avenue, Room 220

CB5 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Xavier High School, 30 West 16th Street | 2nd Floor Library

CB8 Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
New York City Blood Center, 310 East 67th Street

Central Park Tour: Heart of the Park
Sunday, January 13, 2019, 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Meet: Samuel F. B. Morse Statue (Enter park at 72nd St. and 5th Ave.)

Community Resource Fair
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Baruch College, 55 Lexington Avenue | Multipurpose Room 1-107

The Official Women's March on NYC hosted by Women's March Alliance
Saturday, January 19, 2019, 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Starts at West End and 75th, enters within district at Columbus Circle, marching east, ending at 43rd and 6th

Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) Count
Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:00 P.M. - 4: 00 A.M., Manhattan
To learn more about HOPE 2019 and to sign up to volunteer, visit nyc.gov/hope or call 311

Town Hall with Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Co-sponsored by Council Member Powers
Thursday, January 31, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
NYU Dental, The Nagle Auditorium, 345 East 24th Street (Schwartz Building), 7th Floor Room 701

New York Society Library Family Fun Day
Saturday, February 2, 2019, 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
The New York Society Library, 53 East 79th Street

New York Public Library Money and Finance Programs: nypl.org/moneymatters
Various dates and times, 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 East 23rd Street | 1st Floor Atrium