

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



March 2019

One of the most important parts of my job as your Council Member is deciding how our city budget is spent. This year, I am enlisting your help to make those decisions through a process called Participatory Budgeting.

From March 30 through April 7, residents of the 4th Council district will have an opportunity to vote on Participatory Budgeting projects. Voters will be able to select their top-five projects, which range from better technology in our libraries and planting more trees, to putting countdown clocks at bus stops, and improving school infrastructure. Voting will take place both [online](#) and in-person, as I will be traveling across the district to collect your votes.

Is there an area in your neighborhood where you would like to see a Participatory Budgeting polling place? Are you interested in volunteering to help my office collect votes during vote week? Please email me at kpowers@council.nyc.gov for input or with any additional questions.

The projects you can vote on include:

- New Tree Planting and Tree Guards Across District 4
- Asser Levy Recreation Center Improvements
- Public Library Technology Upgrades
- New Bathrooms at Wagner Middle School
- Auditorium Upgrades at P.S. 59
- Countdown Clocks at Bus Stops Across District 4
- Floor Repair at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
- Gym Upgrade at Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School
- Roadway Resurfacing Across District 4
- Library Renovation at P.S. 6
- Pedestrian Safety Improvements in the East 60s
- Security Cameras in Turtle Bay
- Technology Upgrades for District 4 Schools

Please remember that my office is a resource for you, and I encourage you to call or email me at any time.

Regards,

Keith

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Update: L Train Construction

The MTA recently informed me that they will be reducing the hours of construction at the L train site on 14th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue B. Instead of ending at 10 or 11 P.M., construction on 14th Street will stop at 7 P.M. each night. I have heard from many of you about how difficult it has been living next to this construction, and have been in dialogue with the MTA for over a year advocating for reduced hours, so this is welcome news. I also received a positive update that the MTA is planning to begin M14 Select Bus Service in June, rather than the fall.

This news follows my co-authored letter to New York City Transit (NYCT) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) expressing concerns with regard to the L train construction project. While progress has been made, questions on various elements related to the project remain. My concerns include the operation and implementation of crosstown M14 bus service, the subway stations at 1st and 3rd Avenue potentially being converted to “exit only” on nights and weekends, and construction on 14th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue B. Following the update on construction hours and bus service, I am hopeful that NYCT and DOT will continue to take outstanding issues and recommendations seriously before the project start date on April 27. MTA and DOT will host an open house for the public on April 8 at the 14th Street Y at 6:00 P.M.



Council Member Powers commemorates 20 years of Seamless in New York City and their new partnership with NYC Kids RISE.

Pedestrian Safety in Murray Hill

Last month, a tragic crash in Murray Hill at the intersection of 37th Street and 3rd Avenue served as a harsh reminder of the work that still needs to be done to ensure the safety of pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists. In light of the accident, I am organizing a walkthrough of the area with the Department of Transportation and the NYPD to discuss improved safety measures. I had previously contacted DOT regarding traffic-calming measures to alleviate speeding within blocks of this accident. I am hopeful that this work will be expedited over the coming months.

Additionally, my office has been addressing excess traffic in neighboring areas, specifically around the Queens Midtown Tunnel. In December, I worked with the NYPD and MTA to put up barricades on 37th Street between 2nd and 1st Avenues to reduce congestion. I have also requested the NYPD improve traffic agent coverage at 37th Street and 2nd Avenue to ensure increased safety. This will be an ongoing conversation, so I encourage you to reach out to my office with feedback.

New School Zone at the River School, P.S. 281

In response to the concerns of the River School PTA, I recently worked with the Department of Transportation to restore a school zone sign on 35th Street, between 1st Avenue and the FDR Drive. DOT has also committed to making the block a slow zone (down to 20 MPH) over the next few months, which will positively impact safety. I want to thank Community Board 6 and area colleagues for their partnership in getting this done.



Council Member Powers joins State Senator Brad Hoylman for the opening of the Museum of the Dog.

New MTA Station Manager on the Upper East Side

The MTA recently announced a new station manager – Pam Noonan – for the 72nd Street Subway Q Station, as well as additional stations on the Lexington Avenue line. The MTA created station managers as a part of the NYC Transit Fast Forward Plan to bring more accountability and better customer service to subway stations across New York City. Station managers personally inspect stations to help ensure that customer service, cleanliness, safety, and all aspects of station environments are held to high standards. Managers represent multiple stations throughout the city, and will work to build community relationships and facilitate open discussions about our transit system.



At K Radio 1660, Council Member Powers talks about work done to help small businesses in Koreatown.

CITY HALL

New Legislation: Making It Cheaper to Rent an Apartment in New York City

Last month, I introduced legislation to address the high cost of renting an apartment in New York City. Upfront move-in fees can result in a tenant having to pay over \$14,000 at one time for a \$3,300 per month apartment in Manhattan. This legislation is part of a 5-bill package I introduced with Council Member Rivera to combat the prohibitive costs associated with renting an apartment, which particularly affect young and lower-income New Yorkers. My legislation would cap both brokers' fees and security deposits at one month's rent. Currently, there are 25 sponsors on the broker fee bill in the City Council, and 26 on the security deposit bill.



On NY1's Inside City Hall, Council Member Powers joins Errol Louis to discuss rental fee legislation.

New Legislation: Parking Placard Abuse

I recently introduced a bill that would create a standard application process for new parking placards as part of a package led by Speaker Corey Johnson to address placard abuse. Today, the City has no central method for tracking the parking placards that are issued by each city agency. My bill would create one central process, managed by the Department of Transportation, which all city agencies would have to go through when issuing placards. It would also mandate the online posting of data on the number of permits requested and issued by every agency. This bill will alleviate concerns about placards being used to illegally take up parking space on the street. The bill is part of a larger package in the City Council to tackle all-encompassing issues of placard abuse that lead to congested streets and placard misuse.



Council Member Powers questions agencies during a Health Committee hearing at City Hall.

Criminal Justice Committee: Improving Programming on Rikers Island

On February 26, I held a hearing in the Criminal Justice Committee on correctional programming made available to incarcerated individuals in City jails. Since 2017, following Mayor de Blasio's recommendation and the passing of Local Law 170 in the City Council, the Department of Correction is required to offer incarcerated individuals 5 hours per day of educational, vocational, and therapeutic programming, which can reduce recidivism. My hearing addressed concerns from programming providers about individuals' access to various resources and activities, as well as barriers to recruitment and outcomes. Following the hearing, the Department of Correction committed to newly providing library books for individuals in punitive segregation, which is a signal of progress in the system.

IN THE NEWS

March 10, [The Question of Congestion Pricing in New York](#), Pix11

We hear from two council members with very different points of view on the issue: Keith Powers represents part of Manhattan and believes congestion pricing would bring much needed funding to the transit system. Eric Ulrich represents parts of Queens, and feels congestion pricing would be a hardship on many New Yorkers.

February 22, [Should Brokers' Fees and Security Deposits be Capped in New York City?](#), NY1
Manhattan City Council Members Carlina Rivera and Keith Powers joined Errol Louis to discuss their new package of bills that would reform the process of renting an apartment by placing caps on brokers' fees and security deposits.

February 12, [New York City Legislation Would Make it Cheaper to Rent an Apartment](#), *Wall Street Journal*

Two New York City Council members will introduce a package of bills on Wednesday that aim to make renting apartments more affordable.

February 11, [Parking Placards, Legal and Not, Anger Many New Yorkers](#), Fox5

Many drivers in New York City find themselves circling and searching for an open parking spot for a half hour or longer. Now city lawmakers want to—hopefully—free up some of those occupied spots with five bills aimed at better enforcing illegal use of government parking placards.

SAVE THE DATES

Events with Council Member Powers

Mobile District Office Hours

Sit down with 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 my office a bit better.

All mobile district office hours will be held from 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Yorkville Library, 222 East 79th Street

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Stuyvesant Town Community Center, 449 East 14th Street

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Municipal Arts Society Land Use Workshop with Council Member Keith Powers

Join us for a workshop covering the basics of land use planning in New York City. Participants will learn about the key players, regulations, and processes that influence development, and how the public can engage with them.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Hunter College West Building, 695 Park Avenue

RSVP to kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

Community Events

CB6 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210

CB5 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

Xavier High School, 30 West 16th St. | 2nd Floor Library

CB8 Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
New York Blood Center Auditorium, 310 East 67th Street

First Friday at the Frick Collection
Friday, March 1, 2019, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street
Free admission

Studio Art Session at The Jewish Museum
Sunday, March 3, 2019, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
The Jewish Museum, 1109 5th Ave & E 92nd Street, Floor 4
Free admission for children 18 and under

New York Open Center Open House
Friday, March 8, 6:00 P.M.
22 East 30th Street
Pre-registration suggested. To register, please visit opencenter.org/openhouse

GrowNYC Seasonal Job Fair
Monday, March 11, 2019, 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Project Farmhouse, 76 East 13th Street
Free admission, please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grownyc-seasonal-job-fair-tickets-55712844618>

Morning at the Museum
Saturday, March 16, 2019 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 2 East 91st Street
Free admission, non- ticketed event; registration required

Bryant Park Winter Poetry with Tupelo Press
Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
Kinokuniya Bookstore, 1073 Avenue of the Americas
Free admission

MTA and DOT L Train Open House
Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
14th Street Y, 344 East 14 Street

March 2019 Special Events at Woodstock Senior Center
March 6, 1:30 P.M. – International Women Celebration
March 12, 11:30 A.M. – Kidney Awareness Workshop
March 16, 12:00 P.M. – St. Patrick's Celebration
March 30, 12:00 P.M. – Mardi Gras Party

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

Did you know you can qualify for free tax prep? AARP and Ariva provide tax services to those in need:
AARP Tax Aide
58th Street Branch Library
127 East 58th Street, 2nd Floor
Open January 30 through April 13
Wednesdays 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.; Saturdays 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Open to all taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older

Ariva
Mexican Consulate
27 East 39th Street
Open January 25 through April 12
Fridays 8:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
Appointment only: call (212) 217-6424
For all filers: Income below \$55,000. Individuals without dependents: \$30,000, Families with dependents: \$55,000