

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



May 2019

Dear Neighbor:

I want to thank you for participating in District 4's inaugural Participatory Budgeting Vote Week. My staff and I collected thousands of votes on community improvement projects from residents in the district while visiting senior and community centers, libraries, and schools. After tallying nearly 3,000 votes, the winning projects are:

- New Districtwide Tree Planting and Tree Guards: \$150,000
- New Bathrooms at Wagner Middle School, M.S. 167: \$200,000
- Districtwide Countdown Clocks at Bus Stops: \$200,000
- Districtwide Technology Upgrades for Libraries: \$250,000
- Technology Upgrades for Schools Across Council District 4: \$120,000

As a next step, my office will work with the appropriate agencies to begin the full scoping of these projects. Timelines and status updates will be provided as details are finalized. This process will begin again in the fall, with a round of idea collection. You can begin to share your ideas for new projects with me at kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

My office is also hosting several events over the coming weeks. I am hosting a Family Fun Day on June 1 at St. Vartan Park. Come and enjoy an afternoon of crafts, games, and face painting with an obstacle course, carnival booths, and more beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday. On Saturday, June 29, I am partnering with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for a free bike helmet fitting and giveaway at the First Avenue Loop, at Playground 9 between 16th and 18th Streets, from 11:00 A.M. through 2:30 P.M. I am glad to be able to provide equipment for safe cycling.

Please remember that my office is a resource for you, and I encourage you to call or email me at any time, at 212-818-0580 and kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

Regards,

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

Keith

JPMorgan Chase Headquarters Approved in Midtown

On May 8, the City Council approved JPMorgan's new headquarters as the first site to utilize the City's East Midtown Rezoning. I was proud to lead negotiations for improvements at the 270 Park Avenue site, which will result in thousands of new construction jobs for New York City and pedestrian improvements in Midtown. JPMorgan has been a conscientious partner in planning its new headquarters, and took input from the City and community in a way that will bring more than \$42 million of improvements to Midtown, as well as created 6,000 union jobs and protect hundreds of others. The East Midtown Rezoning passed the Council in 2017 to revitalize the commercial business district, and I am hopeful others will use this as an example to bring substantial public impact.

Lenox Hill Hospital Renovation

In March, Lenox Hill Hospital announced plans for a large-scale renovation and expansion of its facilities on the Upper East Side. A project of this scale requires a thorough public review process, known as the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). During ULURP, several entities, including the City Planning Commission, Borough President, Community Board 8, and the City Council, will be reviewing the impact of this project, such as environmental effect, traffic, utilities, residential displacement, and local character. The process is expected to begin in fall 2019. I have recently heard from constituents in the area regarding concerns with the plan and will continue to work with the community to ensure feedback is heard.

Update: L Train Project

As of April 27, the L train slowdown is underway. As a result, there have been reports of increased traffic and congestion on 14th Street. The Department of Transportation (DOT) recently announced changes for 14th Street in order to better manage traffic and help New Yorkers travel across Manhattan. The City will pilot new lane configurations to prioritize crosstown bus routes on 14th Street, disallowing through traffic from 3rd Avenue to 9th Avenue, to coincide with the launch of the M14-SBS service in June. The 14th Street corridor has long needed better service and will certainly need more with the disruption to the L train. As an advocate for this solution, I believe this development is a victory for those who spent hours pushing for better public transportation in my district and along 14th Street. With regard to service changes, the L will continue running at the 1st Avenue Station at all times, with a downshift in frequency during nights and weekends. You can reference this guide for more information: <https://new.mta.info/l-project/service-alternatives/1-av>.



Council Member Powers tours the construction site of One Vanderbilt in East Midtown.

Lexington Avenue Bus Lane Enhancement

In April 2019, the Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the Better Buses Action Plan as a means to achieve Mayor de Blasio's goal of improving bus speeds by 25% by 2020. Due to slow bus speeds and high ridership, the bus lane on Lexington Avenue has been identified as a priority project by DOT. I am pleased to share that DOT has introduced a proposal for enhanced bus operations on Lexington Avenue between 60th and 96th Streets, beginning in summer 2019. The proposed changes are to implement an offset bus lane, utilize turn bays at busy intersections, and update curb and meter regulations. This work will improve bus speeds and reliability for my constituents and thousands of daily riders, improve curb access for local businesses, and will have minimal impact on traffic flow.

Public Safety Improvements in Midtown

I have been working with the City to ensure sensitive and high-risk pedestrian areas across the district are addressed. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has recently announced safety improvements for 53rd Street from 3rd Avenue to 7th Avenue that will expand pedestrian space, simplify traffic flow, and shorten pedestrian crossings, all in an effort to enhance safety. Curb extensions will be painted and refreshed on 53rd Street at Third Avenue, Lexington Avenue, Madison Avenue, Fifth Avenue, Sixth Avenue, and Seventh Avenue, and travel lanes will be realigned. These improvements are a result of priorities voiced and funding from the East Midtown Governing Group, of which I am co-chair, which focused on increasing pedestrian safety in Midtown. Implementation will begin in May.



Council Member Powers leads a meeting of the East Midtown Governing Group.

Branding Changes at Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village

As a lifelong resident of Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village, I know it to be a unified and welcoming community. Recently, StuyTown Property Services launched a new brand for Peter Cooper Village, marketing the property as separate from Stuyvesant Town. Residents have raised concerns that this rebranding puts the properties on different paths in the short- and long-term. In response to these concerns, I wrote a letter to Management to provide feedback on the impact that this decision could have on amenities, affordable housing, security and maintenance services, and more. In response, Management has assured me that the rebranding is no indication of bifurcating operations or amenities for the neighborhood. I will continue to monitor any changes in our neighborhood to ensure its integrity is maintained.



Council Member Powers addresses the crowd during a land use event with the Municipal Arts Society.

Land Use Event with the Municipal Arts Society

On April 10, my office hosted a land use event at Hunter College in partnership with the Municipal Arts Society. Nearly 200 people attended to learn about zoning laws and the land use review process that shapes our city. The presentation included information on zoning districts, the key players in city government, and an overview of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). The forum also covered stakeholders, regulations, and processes that influence development, and how the public can engage with them. You can find materials regarding land use here: <https://council.nyc.gov/land-use/>.

Improving St. Vartan Park

Last year, the Mayor committed \$4.9 million to redesign a portion of St. Vartan Park. The project, which will focus on the blacktop area, is currently in the preliminary design stages, and the project team is expected to come before Community Board 6 in the coming months. To share ideas for the redesign, please reach out to Ashley Kuenneke at ashley.kuenneke@parks.nyc.gov. I have heard also from many constituents regarding the state and operation of the park. My office is following up with the appropriate city agencies to ensure any and all concerns with cleanliness and operation are fully addressed, particularly as the summer months approach. In the meantime, come join us for Family Fun Day at St. Vartan Park on Saturday, June 1.

CITY HALL

City Council Passes Landmark Environmental Legislation

Last month, the City Council passed the most comprehensive and ambitious package of climate change legislation in the country. We have 12 years to reverse our actions or face the real impact of climate change. I was proud to support Intro 1523 and related legislation to aggressively address climate change by evaluating our city's building emissions. Through the Climate Mobilization Act, New York City is playing a historic role to cut greenhouse gas emissions and pollution across the five boroughs, as the bill targeted large-scale buildings. This legislation follows a recent Styrofoam ban that took effect on January 1 of this year. I will continue to support and steward common-sense policy as the City undergoes various changes to mitigate climate change and protect our land.



Council Member Powers speaks at a press conference on the plastic bag ban.

Package of Tenant Protection Legislation

On Wednesday, May 8, the City Council passed a package of 17 bills aimed at protecting tenants and preventing landlords from forcing people out of their homes. My tenant protection bill, Introduction 1275, targets bad landlords. If landlords are caught lying about the occupancy of their buildings on construction permit applications, or doing construction work without a permit, they will now be denied permits for a year. This legislation protects tenants from landlord harassment and being forced out by means of construction. I am glad to have the support of the Council and my colleagues in putting tenants first.

Rent Law and Regulation Changes

The Rent Guidelines Board has begun the process of determining the rent increase amount for rent-stabilized apartments. Once again, I am requesting the Rent Guidelines Board to consider a 0% increase on one- or two-year leases. A rent freeze would not only help struggling tenants remain in their apartments, but it would strengthen the rent stabilization system that is constantly under attack. It is imperative that we protect rent stabilized tenants and the system that has allowed so many tenants to make our city what it is today.

You are able to testify on your position at an upcoming Rent Guidelines Board meeting:

Thursday, May 16, 9:30 A.M.

Public Meeting

Landmarks Preservation Commission, Conference Room, David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor

New York City Charter Revision Proposals

Last year, the City began the process of evaluating the City Charter to amend processes, policies, and operations for the city. Last month, the Charter Revision Commission released a [preliminary report of proposals](#), including recommendations for changes to the land use process from the City Council. There are also recommendations for the city budget, public advocate, and Civilian Complaint Review Board. As a next step, New Yorkers can submit testimony and feedback online: <http://www.charter2019.nyc/submit-your-ideas>. If you would like more information on the Charter Commission, email info@charter2019.nyc. Final recommendations will appear on the ballot for a vote in November.

IN THE NEWS

May 8, [JPMorgan's new Midtown East HQ approved by City Council](#), *Curbed*

The City Council approved JP Morgan Chase's plans Wednesday for a soaring 70-story tower to replace the Union Carbide Building in East Midtown.

April 25, [How to get around during the L slowdown](#), *Town & Village*

The lesser L train apocalypse is scheduled to begin this Friday and although service will be maintained in Manhattan under the slowdown unlike in the previous full shutdown plan, riders can still expect longer wait times and service changes during nights and weekends until at least next summer when the project is expected to be completed.

April 24, [BREAKING: City to Keep 14th Street 'Busway' Plan Despite No L-Train Shutdown](#), *Streetsblog*

This just in: the de Blasio administration will move ahead with a bus-only plan for 14th Street.

April 18, '[A New Day in New York](#)': City Council Passes Sweeping Climate Bill, *Common Dreams*

The New York City Council [passed](#) the world's "largest single carbon reduction effort that any city, anywhere, has ever put forward" on Thursday afternoon, marking a major milestone in the fight against the climate crisis.

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.

Yorkville Library, 222 East 79th Street
Thursday, May 16, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Thursday, June 20, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Stuyvesant Town Community Center, 449 East 14th Street
Thursday, May 23, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Thursday, June 27, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

American-Italian Cancer Foundation Breast Cancer Screening Van, sponsored by Council Member Powers

Come in for a no-cost mammogram and clinical breast exam.

Eligibility:

- Woman aged 40 - 79
- Currently living in New York City
- No mammogram in the past 12 months

276 1st Avenue Loop, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village
Friday, May 24, 2:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
For an appointment call: 1-877-628-9090

Family Fun Day at St. Vartan Park, sponsored by Council Member Powers

Join NYC Parks and Council Member Keith Powers in a fun afternoon of crafts, games, inflatables, face painting, an obstacle course, carnival booths, sports, a photo booth, and more.

Saturday, June 1, 12:00 P.M. –3:00 P.M.
St. Vartan Park, East 35th Street and 2nd Avenue

Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Clinics at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, sponsored by Council Member Powers

Wednesday, June 12, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Thursday, October 17, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
331 East 70th Street
For an appointment or information, contact us at DRIE@lenoxhill.org or 212-218-0503, option 0

Free Bike Helmet Fitting with Department of Transportation, sponsored by Council Member Powers

Stay safe when riding around town with a custom-fit, free bike helmet. Certified representatives will be available.

Saturday, June 29, 12:00 P.M. –3:30 P.M.
First Avenue Loop, Playground 9, between 16th and 18th Streets

Community Events

CB6 Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210

CB5 Full Board Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:00 P.M.
Xavier High School, 30 West 16th St. | 2nd Floor Library

CB8 Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
New York Blood Center, Auditorium, 310 East 67th Street

Muslim Volunteers for New York Annual Ramadan Food Drive
May 5-14, Donate via this link: <https://fs27.formsite.com/MV4NY/iu5ca3dwpr/index.html?1555893678855>
Proceeds to benefit the Common Food Pantry

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