

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



October 2019

Dear Neighbor:

Thank you to those of you who joined me and Speaker Johnson at our Town Hall last month to discuss community issues and updates. The Speaker and I were able to address questions from constituents, ranging from development to street safety and quality-of-life issues.

Earlier this month, 14th Street transformed into a thoroughfare dedicated to public transportation. The Transit and Truck Priority lane mandates travel to buses and trucks only along 14th Street, from 3rd Avenue to 9th Avenue. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers are carried across town along this corridor each day. Now, buses can move more swiftly along the route. When the busway first opened, I was able to travel across town in 11 minutes: a huge upgrade from previous travels on the M14, which had consistently been the slowest bus in the city.

The initial success of this corridor indicates that it is possible to reimagine our urban landscape and change the way we travel around the city. I am interested in reimagining other areas in the district that may be a fit for enhanced transportation or dedicated public space, including expanding sidewalks and investing in open plazas, to benefit pedestrians, drivers, cyclists, and public-transit riders alike. If you have noticed an area in the district where transportation can be improved, please reach out to my office with your suggestions.

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 or kpowers@council.nyc.gov.

Regards,

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

Keith



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

14th Street Busway Open

After months of delays, the 14th Street busway, designed to speed up crosstown bus traffic across 14th Street between 3rd Avenue and 9th Avenue, has been implemented. This is a significant step forward for innovative ideas in transportation for the city. Under this plan, the M14 bus will experience much-needed improvements in traffic flow and residents will have more efficient travel options. On its first day of operations, residents noticed the stark difference in bus travel along the corridor. Many thanks to the advocates and my neighbors who have worked in support of this busway pilot program.



Council Member Powers collects ideas for Participatory Budgeting at the 92nd Street Y.

Lenox Hill Hospital Expansion

Lenox Hill Hospital, located on East 76th to East 77th Streets between Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue, has released a proposal to expand and upgrade their facilities. Many of you have expressed concerns about how this development would affect your community. On Thursday, September 19, over 300 neighbors were in attendance for Community Board 8's Zoning and Development Committee, where Lenox Hill Hospital presented their plans for this project. I recognize concerns about the scale of this proposal in its current form, and the impact it would have on the surrounding community. As this discussion moves forward, it is critical that the community is involved. Thank you to all of the neighbors who have attended meetings or reached out to my office.

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project

The East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project is the City's proposal to protect the area from 25th Street to Montgomery Street. The devastation we all experienced in 2012 following Superstorm Sandy is a lingering reminder of the urgent need to protect our waterfront, particularly Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village and nearby neighborhoods. Recently, the Mayor announced welcome updates for the plan, which heeded calls from myself, colleagues, and the community to phase construction and

preserve green space. This is the result of more than a year of discussions between the City Council and the administration. As a result, nearly half of East River Park will remain open throughout the resiliency work. Additionally, the work at the Asser Levy Playground, Stuyvesant Cove, and Murphy Brothers Playground will be staggered to help provide more open space. I will continue to advocate for a plan that preserves the most open space and provides the best flood protection.



Council Member Powers connects with constituents at a Town Hall with Speaker Johnson.

Addressing Noise Concerns in Murray Hill

Several constituents in Murray Hill contacted my office recently with concerns about the frequent noise coming from church bells at the Church of Our Saviour on 38th Street and Park Avenue. While the church bells had previously rang a few times a day, they recently increased in frequency to ring hourly, causing significant disruption to neighbors. Following complaints from neighbors, I have worked with the Archdiocese to find a compromise that enables the church to communicate to parishioners without too much disruption to those who live in the area. The church bells are now set to ring three times a day with some flexibility for Sundays and holidays. I am grateful to the parish for its responsiveness and willingness to work with the neighborhood to find a reasonable solution.

SUBMIT AN IDEA: Participatory Budgeting

With \$1 million to allocate toward community projects, residents in my district can submit ideas on what they want to see in the neighborhood, and ultimately vote on the ones that will most improve the community. You can submit your idea now at ideas.pbnyc.org.



Council Member Powers honors John "Butch" Purcell, a lifelong resident of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village.

CITY HALL

New Legislation Introduced: Reforming Special Elections

Last month, I introduced new legislation to help streamline the special elections process. Intro. 1734 would allow the Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council Members elected by special election to serve the remainder of their predecessor's term. Under current law, those elected by special election are required to go through another round of confusing and costly elections. The legislation was inspired by recent special elections in the City. Streamlining elections lowers unnecessary costs and allows newly elected officials to focus on what matters: getting to work for New Yorkers.

New Legislation Introduced: Mold Notification Reporting

Some of the best policy ideas come from constituent experiences. Earlier this year, a resident of Murray Hill contacted my office to share that dangerous levels of mold were discovered in his child's nursery. Making matters worse, he was not informed for a month after the mold inspection occurred. Currently, a tenant may not receive information about the results of a mold assessment until the landlord has paid for the assessment. In the event that the landlord's payment is delayed, the tenant may not learn of a dangerous mold condition until long after it was discovered. That is why I introduced a bill that would require mold assessment companies to notify landlords within 24 hours if mold remediation is necessary, and then require landlords to notify their tenants within 24 hours.

New Legislation Co-Sponsored: After-Hours Variance Bill

Every day, my office receives calls about nighttime construction and noise. Together with Council Member Rivera, I sponsored legislation to address this by limiting permits for after-hours construction in order to minimize loud construction noise at night. The bill would require after-hours permits to expire after 15 days, and only allow after-hours work on weekdays from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., and on weekends from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Additionally, it would limit the maximum number of days permits can be granted per week to three weekdays and one weekend day. The Department of Environmental Protection would also have to issue a written explanation for its decisions

on issuing an after-hours permit. This would directly benefit neighborhoods across my district. I am glad to support legislation that will improve the quality of life for my constituents.

IN THE NEWS

October 8, [Manhattan Councilman Weighs in on the Debate Over the Plan to Close Rikers](#), NY1

Manhattan Councilman Keith Powers joined Bobby Cuza to talk about the upcoming critical vote in the City Council over the plan to close Rikers Island and replace it with four jails.

October 2, [East River Park To Be Half-Closed Until 2025 For Resiliency Plan](#), Patch

East River Park will remain partially open during a massive reconstruction project meant to protect residents from the impacts of climate change, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday in response to criticism of the city's plans.

October 2, [New York City Council Proposes a Plan for Jails After Rikers](#), Wall Street Journal

New York City lawmakers presented an expanded inmates' bill of rights and other reforms to create better conditions for prisoners ahead of a critical vote to replace the jail complex on Rikers Island.

September 27, [Why Construction Noise Is Keeping You Up at 3 A.M.](#), Times

A building boom in New York City means that more cacophonous construction is being done overnight. A proposal would lower the volume.

September 24, [Bipartisan NYC Council duo wants to reform 'byzantine' special elections](#), Daily News

The city would do away with its "byzantine" and costly system for holding special elections under forthcoming legislation from two councilmen Manhattan Dem Keith Powers and Queens Republican Eric Ulrich.

September 19, [Housing, transit major issues at District 4 town hall](#), Town & Village

Top priority for residents at a City Council District 4 town hall this week was affordable housing and transportation issues, in addition to addressing homelessness.

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

Third Thursday of Every Month

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Special Hours for Thursday, October 17: 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

Stuyvesant Town Community Center, 449 East 14th Street

Last Thursday of Every Month

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Drag Queen Story Hour, sponsored by Council Member Keith Powers

Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real.

Yorkville Library

Friday, October 11, 2019, 11:00 A.M.

Grand Central Library

Monday, November 4, 2019, 4:00 P.M.

96th Street Library

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 4:00 P.M.

Wednesday April 22, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

Epiphany Library

Friday, November 29, 2019, 2:00 P.M.

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

Thursday, October 17, 2019

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

Community Events

CB6 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

NYU School of Dentistry, 433 1st Avenue, Room 220

CB5 Full Board Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

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

CB8 Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

New York Blood Center 310 East 67th Street (First-Second) Auditorium

DOROT: Senior Portrait Day

Sunday, October 6, 2019

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

171 West 85th Street

Flatiron Partnership Expansion Public Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2019

6:30 P.M.

New York Seminar Center, 71 West 23rd Street

<http://www.flatirondistrict.nyc/expansion>

Free Artist Series Concert: Range of Music Spanning the Baroque to the Contemporary

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Turtle Bay Music School, 330 East 38th Street

Details and registration at: <https://www.tbms.org/>

Walk to End Alzheimer's
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Registration at 8AM, Ceremony at 9:30 A.M. and Walk at 10:00 A.M.
South Street Seaport, Pier 17, Fulton and South Street Manhattan, NY 10038
Contact: Kathleen O'Reilly | 646-793-3525 | koreilly@alz.org

Forum on Coops & Condos, Sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger
Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Hunter College West Bldg. Faculty Dining Room
8th Floor, 904 Lexington Avenue
RSVP at tinyurl.com/CoopCondoForum2019 or by calling (212) 490-9535.

Learn about the role of the board, the role of management, your rights as a shareholder or unit owner, strategies to address common issues in coops and condos, and state legislation awaiting the Governor's signature that would allow coop shareholders to obtain reverse mortgages.

Lenox Hill Hospital Blood Drive
Thursday, October 31, 2019, 7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.
Lenox Hill Hospital, 100 East 77th Street
Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/lenox-hill-hospital/lenox-hill-hospital-blood-drive/2178293105593029/>

New York Public Library Money and Finance Programs: nypl.org/moneymatters
Various dates and times, Midtown Manhattan and across New York City
Next Financial Planning Day: Friday, September 20, 2019
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Science, Industry and Business Library, 188 Madison Avenue at 34th Street

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