



Dear Neighbor,

I'm so happy to be home in the district after another busy session in Albany wrapped up in June. We were able to get some important legislation passed, but also failed to get the Senate to act on some critical items. Most notably, were the actions and inactions regarding ethics reform.

Both houses passed a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment to strip lawmakers from government pensions if they are convicted of a felony. This resolution will need to be passed a second time by a new Legislature after January, and then be put before the voters in order for the constitutional amendment to go into effect. This amendment

would strip elected officials of government pensions if convicted of a felony associated with their positions. Both houses also passed bills which would increase transparency in campaign contributions and lobbying. The financial threshold for reporting by organizations that lobby on their own behalf was lowered to \$15,000 and requires those lobbyists to disclose their source of funding to the Joint Commission on Public Ethics. It also prevents candidates, their family, or former staffers from forming independent election spending groups. The bill also strengthens the definition of "coordination" between independent expenditures and candidates and defines specific scenarios as expressly prohibited coordination.

The repeated scandals involving elected officials have eroded the public trust in government and have cast all elected officials in a painfully negative light. Much of these scandals involved the use of their positions to enrich their outside income. While we've moved to limit outside income, it is still a wide open path subject to inappropriate self-dealing, though the majority of Assemblymembers, like myself, have no outside income.

Additional bills which were passed this year by both houses include the extension of Mayoral Control for one year, lead testing of water in school buildings, legalizing fantasy sports leagues, prohibition of online advertising of illegal hotels, and increased funding for breast cancer screening. I am thrilled that a bill which I sponsored, A9454, to allow the City to transfer Christopher Park to the Federal Government, was signed by the Governor. This bill was a critical step towards the dedication of Stonewall National Monument, the first National Monument in honor of the LGBT rights movement which took place in late June.

As is often the case, many important bills passed by the Assembly failed to be voted on by the Senate, including several additional ethics reforms measures such as a closure of the "LLC loophole." This legislation would reform campaign finance laws by subjecting LLCs to the same \$5,000 aggregate contribution limit that currently exist for corporations. It would also require clear identification of LLC owners and attribute contributions to each owner in proportion to ownership interests in order to prevent individuals from flouting contribution limits.

Additional ethics reform bills were passed by the Assembly to increase transparency in government and to limit the influence of special interests. These bills built on previous Assembly Majority reforms which included the creation of a new Assembly Office of Ethics and Compliance, increased disclosure requirements and created stronger anti-bribery laws to hold corrupt public officials accountable. The bills would put restrictions on the amount and type of outside income a legislator can receive. Unfortunately, these bills do not go far enough. Outside income splits a legislator's time and loyalties and leads to inherent conflicts of interest. Constituents in New York deserve full-time legislators with no outside income. Although many bills I sponsored were passed by the Assembly, the Senate failed to take them up. A few are highlighted in the "My Legislation" section of the newsletter.

I hope you have a safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing you around the district.

Sincerely,

Deborah



Honored to have spoken at the dedication of the Stonewall National Monument — the first National Monument in honor of LGBT civil rights.

My Legislation

I am proud that many of my bills pass each year. Here is a highlight of some bills which passed the Assembly, but failed to be voted on by the Senate.

A4958 - Conversion Therapy

For three years in a row, the Assembly passed my legislation to ban conversion therapy. This bill will protect minors from so called "conversion therapists" who engage in dangerous and discredited practices which attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of their patients. These practices have been rejected by all of the major psychological associations including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A8487 - Equal Pay

This legislation would require state contractors to disclose data on employee compensation by gender, race and ethnicity. Under this legislation, any business that seeks to contract with New York State must publicly disclose wage data of their employees so that any wage disparities on the basis of gender, race and ethnicity are clearly visible. It will also create an incentive for contractors who would like to do business with New York State to take action internally to address the unconscious or conscious biases that may result in a wage gap.

A9086 - Battery Park City Authority

This legislation will make certain that the Battery Park City Authority is reflective of the community it serves. Specifically, the bill requires that if a majority of members of the Battery Park City Authority do not reside in the Battery Park City neighborhood, the Governor shall fill any vacancies by appointing a member of the neighborhood to the board until neighborhood residents compose a majority of the board. This bill would ensure that board decisions, such as replacing Park Enforcement Patrol Officers with private security guards, will not be made without community representation.

A4067 - SLA Information Access

In response to problem bars, I introduced a bill that would create a public license website and database which would contain information pertaining to any stipulations the State Liquor Authority imposes on a premise, including but not limited to, information pertaining to the hours during which the licensed premises is allowed to operate, the maximum permitted occupancy of the licensed premises and any special conditions imposed by the authority on the licensed premises. This law would be a welcome source of information for both the community and the police precincts that do not now have access to this information.

Reviewing the St. John's Terminal Rezoning

Once again, Greenwich Village is fighting to preserve the basics that Jane Jacobs outlined in proclaiming the necessity of short, walkable streets, and an organically grown neighborhood community. A project, proposed for 550 Washington Street, commonly referred to as the St. John's site, is currently under a public Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). As proposed, this project would completely redevelop the block along Washington Street and West Street (Route 9A) between Clarkson Street and the new Department of Sanitation building. This mixed-use development would include both market rate rentals and residential condos, affordable housing rental apartments, affordable senior housing, commercial space, possibly a hotel, and retail on both the ground and 2nd floors, as well as an elevated public open space. At its tallest, it is 480 feet and would be comprised of a total of 1.71 million square feet. In short, this is an extremely large project.

I, along with a majority of this community, am flabbergasted by the extreme bulk, height, and overall design of the proposed project. The developers are proposing to essentially create a new neighborhood for 2,500 residents, but cannot guarantee services fundamental to a neighborhood. The ground floor and second floor retail may contain a grocery store or pharmacy, however this is not guaranteed. Additionally, traffic is already an issue in the area, public transportation is limited, local schools are overcrowded and the existing water supply and sewage lines are likely unable to easily accommodate this influx. This "build it and they will come" mindset has been shown to fail in the past with large public plazas attached to tall buildings. We cannot rely on the developer to proactively address all of these issues.

The community is in dire need of affordable housing. And I appreciate that the developer has included an affordable housing component to gain support from the Department of City Planning for the zoning change. However, the actual affordable housing is a mere pittance when considering the entire project which would allow for the air-rights transfer, rezoning from manufacturing to residential and commercial and significant bulk increases. While the developers advertise that 25% of the residential area is devoted to affordable housing that does not account for the overall square footage of the proposal. When looking at the overall project including the commercial space, only 19% of the floor area is used for affordable housing. Conversely, the market rate units make up 56% of the total floor area of the project. In short, 30% of the affordable residential units, including the senior housing, will fit into 19% of the space.

Additionally, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a process by which the Department of City Planning evaluates a

development's impact on its surroundings, did not trigger a mandate for the developer to mitigate for school seats. This means that this project will be built without a school or even a financial contribution toward the creation of a school. It is easy to surmise that a large influx of families in this area and the continued housing developments seen in Hudson Square will warrant a need for more school seats and a new school to serve the students who will be living in this area. Developments can be built far faster than the current system for school construction allows, and our community will soon be in dire need of a school to serve students in the Hudson Square and far West Side communities. This is a gross oversight that needs to be addressed.

When Hudson River Park was created, I was hesitant to support a plan that created a public benefit corporation tasked with the construction and administration of a public park. While I have always understood the value and need for more park space in our community, parks should not be expected to be self-sustaining but rather should receive government funding from both the state and city. When established, Hudson River Park was set up to rely on additional outside funding. As such, some build-out has been delayed, and repairs have been pieced together. Unfortunately, as a result, Pier 40, which is vital to our community, especially youth and sports leagues, has significant financial needs in order to stabilize the pier for continued use. As proposed, this project would facilitate an air rights transfer from Hudson River Park to the St. John's site. The developer would pay \$100 million for these air rights and the funds are legally restricted to repairs of Pier 40 specifically. We all know how critical Pier 40 is to our community, and funding repairs is imperative. However, we still need a better understanding of the cost of all outstanding repairs on Pier 40, and how far money will go to stabilize Pier 40. In the first instance, it must be used to fully remediate the piles upon which the pier rests.

It is clear that the \$100 million payment to Hudson River Park is a bargain, and significantly undervalued when the development as a whole is considered. These developers stand to make a significant profit off of the luxury housing, luxury retail, and subsidy from the City for the affordable housing, in addition to the fundamental zoning change that allowed for the development in the first place. It would be a shame if this project were to be built and after a few years we learn that Pier 40 is in the same dire position it is currently. We are in desperate need of a school, and luxury development has made real estate in our community even more hyper-inflated. We must continue to work over the ensuing months to ensure that the community receives the protections that it deserves should this project move forward.



Celebrating opening day for Greenwich Village Little League with David Gruber, Community Board 2 member, and Tobi Bergman, Community Board 2 Chair.



Enjoyed this year's Pride March with NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Assemblymember Keith Wright.

Blood Donations Needed

Many of our local blood centers are running low and need blood donations. The recent tragic shooting incident in Orlando reminds us that we need to maintain our blood banks with sufficient supply. I urge people to donate blood if they can. Ensuring adequate levels of donated blood is made even more difficult due to discriminatory restrictions on gay and bisexual men who wish to donate blood.

While there were minor changes last year to loosen the lifelong ban, these restrictions are still archaic. I hope that the federal government lifts these bans and enacts a policy based on science, not fear, enabling all healthy people to donate blood.

*To find a center near you to donate blood, visit:
<http://nybloodcenter.org/donate-blood/>*

Striving for a Safer Society

Growing up during the civil rights struggles of the 1960's, it seemed to me that some parts of our country were completely alien to what I understood our principles to be. The blatant attacks on people who were only seeking their right to vote were shocking to me. But the reality is that I grew up in a segregated neighborhood, and attending college changed that only slightly. The struggles I saw on TV were not the ones I lived daily. As I began my work life, and living apart from my family, my experiences changed my view of the world. I became sharply aware of the fact that people of color were followed around small shops in a way I never was. That they were targeted and treated differently than I was in most circumstances. And while we have made changes, these are still small examples of the ways in which the daily lives of people of color are different and unequal.

The more recent circumstances in which people of color die during interactions with police are unfortunately not really new. But with access to technology and social media they become more widely known and, understandably, the anger and frustration in communities of color has exploded. This anger is shared by people who believe injustice must be confronted, or it will never be redressed. And there is equally valid anger and horror at the targeting and murdering of law enforcement officers on the job working to protect our neighborhoods.

The Black Lives Matter movement is the outward reflection of the need to change the way things have been done. In all movements that are organic in nature, some statements by individuals, or even spokespeople, may be outrageous or offensive, but the underlying reality that must be remedied should not be derailed by these comments. And we must work harder as a society to prove that black lives do matter.

The ability of some police departments to do a better job at dealing with tense confrontations, or even minor traffic stops, is so variable that part of the discussion must focus on professional training for police officers everywhere. In some jurisdictions, the Federal Department of Justice has pointed out the use of traffic stops as a major revenue source for local budgets. This type of quota system targets poor people and results in racial profiling in traffic stops, with deadly outcomes in too many cases.

With all the media attention, we know of the times these situations go terribly wrong, but we need an honest top-to-bottom review of

how we approach law enforcement because we all want a safer society. We also need better psychological screening for police and more stringent investigation into the background of police cadets so we understand who we are sending on to our streets. We need to ensure that rookie cops are always partnered with a seasoned officer as inexperience and fear is a major factor in negative outcomes. However, we should remember that crime has been reduced year after year.

Make no mistake, the police have a difficult and often times dangerous job. When we see something we don't want to deal with on our own — we call the police. Most people join the force to be part of a helping profession for all the right reasons and we should celebrate that. In our quest to lower individual taxes, we in New York, and as a country, have regularly and deeply cut the budgets for social service agencies across the board. The dismantling of essential government services leaves the police to fill too many gaps that social services should be addressing. So while we look at ways in which to better train police, we must also focus on laws and policies that make more sense.

With government budget cuts, public and private agencies suffer. As a result, we do not provide adequate mental health services, drug treatment options, housing support both within our shelter systems and outside and overall supports for families and individuals who are struggling financially. Increasing these services will reduce the demands currently placed on law enforcement and make society stronger and safer.

New York is one of two states that have yet to “raise the age” when someone is deemed an adult within our criminal justice system. This is unacceptable. Eliminating solitary confinement, which exacerbates certain mental illnesses, embarking on a greater use of restorative justice in non-violent crimes, and changing our views of drug abuse so that it is reframed as a health concern are imperative to ensuring that we do not fill our jails with people who need health or mental health services. We must also guarantee that we are giving the best chance of a new life for those who do enter our criminal justice system.

While we have made progress since I was a child, it has been slow and painful and claimed too many lives. I am hopeful that we can unite and take the steps towards long term changes to prove that black lives matter.

J-51 and Rent Stabilization

If your building received a J-51 tax break and you are a rent regulated tenant, the landlord is not allowed to terminate your rent regulated lease, even for luxury decontrol. Due to discrepancies within the Division of Homes and Community Renewal, some leases might have improperly eliminated your rent stabilized status and raised your rent. State officials recently notified landlords that their tenants may be entitled to continued rent stabilization

protection, but they have not notified affected tenants. If you live in a building that has received a J-51 abatement since 1996, and lost your rent stabilized status, you may be able to have your rent regulation status reinstated and lower your rent. Please feel free to call my office at 212-674-5153 if you would like help determining whether you are entitled to a lower rent.

My Legislation (cont'd from page 1)

A2933 – Horse Retirement Fund

This bill would make it possible for taxpayers to contribute part of their tax refund to the New York State Horse Retirement Fund. This bill was developed in response to the situation facing many horse owners — what to do when a horse has outlived its working life. I, with a growing number of citizens, feel that these horses should be allowed to live out their lives in peace and not face the brutalization of a slaughter house. There are some organizations which currently rescue horses from the racing community after their brief racing lives. This bill would increase funds available to rescue organizations to feed and care for more horses.

A6221 – Reproductive Health Act

As women are finding their reproductive health options narrowing in numerous states, the New York State Assembly has passed for the third year, the Reproductive Health Act. This legislation brings into alignment State law with existing federal law. In *Roe v. Wade*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the United States Constitution protects a woman's right to have an abortion

prior to fetal viability or when necessary to protect the health or life of the woman. Although current State law does not have all of these protections, this has in fact been the law in New York for over forty years by virtue of federal protections. With constant attacks on reproductive health, this bill is needed to codify the reproductive rights that women in New York have had since *Roe*.

A3448 – Animal Classifications

Currently, the definition of wildlife contained in Environmental Conservation law is far too broad and ambiguous. In the agriculture and markets law, cats and dogs are clearly defined as “companion animals” but the vagueness of the law has resulted in the regrettable treatment of domesticated cats and dogs as “wild-life.” Consequently, these domesticated animals may be trapped and killed inhumanely by nuisance wildlife control operators. This bill would clarify the definitions in the environmental and conservation law in order to protect these domesticated animals from being disposed of as “nuisance wildlife.”

The Basics of ULURP

Our community has seen a number of redevelopment proposals that require a formal “ULURP” or Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. The NYU 2031 Plan, Hudson Square rezoning and now the 550 Washington Street/St. John’s site all require a ULURP and significant community input. While many in the community have become “ULURP experts,” I wanted to take the opportunity to give basic information about this process should you wish to engage with current or future ULURPs.

New York City zoning laws dictate most aspects of development, including how tall buildings can be, what uses are permitted, and how much open space is required. A developer can apply for major changes to these stipulations, but to do so, they must go through a full ULURP. The application states all amendments to the current zoning regulations that the applicant is seeking. The first formal step is for the developer to complete a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The DEIS studies what, if any, impacts — such as on the environment, public transportation, traffic, air, school seats, and so on — the proposed changes would have on the community. The DEIS is used in consultation with the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) to determine which impacts, if any, must be mitigated in order for the project to move forward. The results are filed with the Department of City Planning and once the DEIS is “certified” as complete, the ULURP moves on to public review that generally takes around 7 months and is outlined below.

- **Days 1-60** – the local Community Board (CB) reviews the project and holds hearings in order to submit a final resolution regarding the project. The CB resolution is non-binding.
- **Days 61-90** – the Borough President has a month to review the application. The Borough President is able to deny, approve, or recommend modifications of the project. These recommendations are non-binding.
- **Days 91-130** – the City Planning Commission (CPC) must hold a public hearing regarding the application. The public also has 10 days in order to submit written comments after the hearing. CPC can approve, deny, or modify the project. Actions by CPC are binding.
- **Days 131-195** – the City Council will review the application and may hold a public hearing. They can vote to approve or deny the application by a simple majority.
- **Days 196-200** – the Mayor has 5 days to review the City Council’s decision and can choose to veto the decision. An additional 10 days can be given to the City Council in the event of a veto to override the Mayor’s decision by a 2/3 majority vote.

While I do not have a formal role in this process as an Assembly-member, I do not shy away from voicing my opinion or that of my constituency during the ULURP process. In addition to the monthly reports to the Community Board regarding the project, I will testify before the City Planning Commission, and any other opportunity afforded in the ULURP process.

For any ULURP, I encourage everyone to attend the Community Board meetings, testify before the City Planning Commission and the City Council, and be involved in the process. These actions help shape significant proposals to our neighborhood and community and the ULURP process is just one more public process in which I encourage you to engage.

Deborah Glick's



NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
66TH DISTRICT
NEW YORK CITY

HOW TO REACH US:
Call 212-674-5153 or
email glickd@assembly.state.ny.us



Standing with TWA workers demanding a fair contract with Verizon.



Fighting against the Governor's proposed amendments to liquor license laws which would have gutted local community protections and input.