



August 2014

Dear Neighbor:

In the spirit of Labor Day, I wanted to update you on some recent issues and activities – including standing up for workers at a new store coming to our district and rallying for local control of the minimum wage. You'll also find information below about some upcoming events, including free flu shots at my office on October 2.

As always, contact me if you have any questions or think there are ways I might be helpful.

All best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Applauding U.S. Attorney for Stripping Pensions from Corrupt Pols

On August 29, I issued a statement applauding United States Attorney Preet Bharara for his [victory](#) in compelling a former Council Member to forfeit future pension payments until he repays the funds he was convicted of stealing, and renewing the call for passage of my legislation, [S.4836-B](#), to make pension reduction or forfeiture automatic for all elected officials convicted of felony corruption. Elected officials have an obligation to follow the U.S. Attorney's lead in rooting out corruption and restore the public trust. I'm committed to working with my legislative colleagues and Governor Cuomo towards this end. Please

see my statement [here](#).

Taking on a Notorious Landlord

Since I took office, I've helped tenants living in buildings owned by Croman / 9300 Realty fight the flagrant attempts to force them out of their rent-regulated apartments. As [The Villager](#) recently reported, I have been working with Senator Daniel Squadron, Council Member Rosie Mendez and other local elected officials as well as Cooper Square Committee, Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) and the tenant-led Stop Croman Coalition to address Croman's systemic pattern of tenant harassment and intimidation. We had a major victory last month when Attorney General Eric Schneiderman heeded our call and launched an investigation into Croman. I'll continue to work with my colleagues in Albany to find ways to protect tenants from him and similar unscrupulous landlords.



Continued Fight for a Fair Minimum Wage

On August 28, I joined members of the statewide [Raise Up New York](#) movement on the steps of City Hall to renew the call for municipal control of the minimum wage. The "one size fits all" minimum wage doesn't work in New York State, which has vastly different local economies. In NYC, for example, the cost of living is 83.3% higher than in Buffalo, 90.6% higher than Syracuse and 91.7% higher than Binghamton. Allowing municipalities to enact locally-adjusted minimum wages would help the working poor in high-cost areas of New York.

New York State Must Hold Tour Bus Companies Accountable

Following two serious collisions involving three Twin America LLC double-decker sightseeing buses in our Senate District, I sent a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to request an investigation into whether the bus operator has complied with DOT safety regulations, including the mandatory reporting of collisions. As the [Daily News](#) and [DNAinfo](#) reported, I urged DOT to make public all information about the collision history of bus operators and to expand accident reporting regulations to include incidents resulting in property damage, even if no persons are injured. Please see my letter [here](#).



Help Identify Suspect in West Village "Knockout Game" Attack

In mid-August, a vicious attack occurred on a 72-year-old West Village community resident outside 99 Jane Street, resulting in his hospitalization. Police believe the perpetrator was playing the so-called "knockout game," part of a disturbing phenomenon in recent months. I worked with the local precinct in helping to raise awareness about the assault by [distributing flyers](#) to neighbors. Please click [here](#) to see the wanted poster. According to the NYPD, the suspect is still at large. Anyone with information regarding the suspect or the attacks should call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-8477.

Standing Up for Workers at New Grocery

On July 31, along with Assembly Member Deborah Glick and Council Member Corey Johnson, I sent a letter to Mrs. Green's Natural Market, which is opening a new store on Hudson Street, expressing concern over labor practices. We were troubled by reports that Mrs. Green's had violated federal labor law in response to employees attempting to unionize and urged the company to respect the right of the employees of its new Hudson Street store to organize. Please see our letter [here](#).



Meeting Vets in Hell's Kitchen

On August 27, I toured [Samaritan Village's 43rd Street Veterans Residential Program](#), a 48-bed facility providing rehabilitation for veterans struggling with addiction and other conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. After the tour, I was presented with an honor guard and had the privilege of talking to some of the residents and thanking them for their service.

Apply for Senior/Disability "Rent Freeze" – Wednesday, September 17

As a result of action taken at the state and local level, the household income cap for New York City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase

Exemption (DRIE) programs has been increased to \$50,000. To help senior and disabled constituents determine their eligibility and apply for these critical rent freezes, I'm hosting a SCRIE/DRIE Workshop on Wednesday, September 17 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Hudson Guild – Elliott Center, 441 West 26th Street, 2nd Floor, between 9th and 10th Avenue. Please click [here](#) for more information, including event co-sponsors, eligibility guidelines and what documentation to bring. Contact me at 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov with any questions or to RSVP. This is the fourth of a series of these workshops I've helped bring to our senate district in partnership with government colleagues.

Opposing Proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger

As a result of a [new law](#) enacted this year, New York State has the power to subject proposed telecommunications mergers to rigorous review and require that the parties demonstrate the transaction is in the public interest. On July 31, I was joined by Assembly Member Richard Gottfried in submitting testimony to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) expressing opposition to the currently proposed merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable, which could be bad news for consumers. Please see our testimony [here](#). I'm pleased, also, that Governor Cuomo has [recently ordered a review of the merger](#) by the PSC in light of recent internet outages.



Free Flu Shots – Thursday, October 2 in my Office

On Thursday, October 2, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in my office in Chelsea, [Visiting Nurse Service of New York](#) will be providing free flu shots. Space is limited and appointments are recommended to guarantee your shot. For more information or to make an appointment, call my office at (212) 633-8052 or email hoylman@nysenate.gov with your complete contact information and the time you would like to schedule your shot.



Preserve Free Tuition at Cooper Union

On August 15, I joined the Committee to Preserve Cooper Union in a rally outside the courthouse where arguments were heard in its lawsuit to block the school from ending its long history as one of the nation's few free institutions of higher learning. As I stated in an op-ed I wrote on the topic, charging tuition at Cooper Union — a beacon of educational equality in Manhattan's rapidly changing East Village — jeopardizes the college's reputation and its standing in our community. I further noted that Cooper Union enjoys considerable taxpayer support. Please see my op-ed [here](#).

Co-Sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training – Tuesday, September 16

I'm co-sponsoring Governor Cuomo's Citizen Preparedness Training on Tuesday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m. at Greenwich House Senior Center, Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 25 Carmine Street (corner of Bleecker Street). Through the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, approximately 100,000 New Yorkers will be provided with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Each household that participates will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes a plastic drop cloth, light stick, regular flashlight, first aid kit, and more. All participants must register in advance at www.prepare.ny.gov or by calling Governor Cuomo's Special Assistant for Community Affairs, Erik Bottcher, at 212-681-4605.

People's Climate March – Sunday, September 21

On September 23, world leaders will converge on New York City for the [United Nations Climate Summit 2014](#). I urge you to join me on Sunday, September 21 at the [People's Climate March](#) to greet the delegates and demand they adopt an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution, protect our natural resources and secure environmental justice. The March will step off at 11:30 a.m. just north of Columbus Circle and end on Eleventh Avenue between 34th Street and 38th Streets. For more information and to sign up to attend, click [here](#).

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