



Message from Liz . . .

In recent years, the dream of getting a college degree has come under assault for many young New Yorkers.

Complex applications and testing requirements; public vs. private; rising tuition and other costs; and applying for loans, grants, and scholarships can intimidate even the most knowledgeable of students. Just imagine how scary this must be for a 17-year-old who believes they or their family cannot afford college—who might be the first person in their family to even consider going. Believing that college is not a possibility has caused too many young people to turn their backs on higher education, leaving them under-educated and under-qualified, yet still trying to compete in our high-tech global economy.

Creating the opportunity for upward socio-economic mobility is an achievable goal for government. In fact, we already have programs in place that target those students who may not see a college degree in their future; programs that provide the personal support, and financial and academic tools to not just get into college, but succeed once there. These "opportunity programs" are best known as EOP, HEOP, C-STEP, SEEK, and College Discovery. Some are more than 40 years old; some have helped hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers rise out of poverty; all help students get into college who wouldn't normally because of financial and/or academic hurdles.

All have also cost very little to the State in comparison to the tremendous long-term financial and social benefits recouped annually. For example, the State invests \$25 million in EOP each year—a fraction of the \$135 gained in annual taxes from graduates who, thanks to their degree, remain in New York, end up with higher paying jobs in their field of interest, and pay taxes in a higher bracket.

Despite the clear benefits for everyone involved, these programs have not had the financial or public support they deserve. The vast majority of New Yorkers, particularly those most in need of their services, do not know they exist. Thankfully, Governor Spitzer included funding increases in this year's budget! Under the previous Governor, each year huge cuts were proposed leaving supporters scrambling to stop devastating cuts instead of focusing on program expansion and outreach.

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This summer my office worked with each of these programs and the State Education Department, and developed the very first comprehensive booklet that provides students, parents, and educators access to information that helps low-income young people go to college and accomplish their dreams.

Free copies of *Yes! You Can Go to College: Financial Aid & Academic Support Programs for Low-income New Yorkers* can be obtained by calling Travis Proulx in my office at 212-490-9535, or you can download a PDF file on my website at <http://www.lizkrueger.com>

In government, sometimes we get it wrong, but other times we couldn't get it any more right. Higher education opportunity programs should not just be expanded, but should serve as a reminder, and a model, of how the State can positively affect people's lives, and responsibly invest tax dollars in a way that leads to a better society.

WARNING! THERE'S A WARMING **STOP CLIMATE CHANGE**

JOIN US TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd 2007

Along with Environmental Advocates of New York and St. Bartholomew's Church, I have organized an event highlighting the crisis of global warming, and what the State of New York can do to lead the country in fighting this environmental hazard.

Special Guests:

Kathy Mattea

Grammy winner and 2-time Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year,
presenting Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* slideshow

Commissioner Pete Grannis

of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

& NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli

presenting on what NYS can do to address global warming.

It is free and open to the public. RSVP's are not required. Arrive early to get your seat.

WHERE: St. Bart's Church(Park Avenue at 51st Street in Manhattan)

WHEN: Tuesday, October 23rd 6 PM to 8:30 PM

District Office: 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1300, New York, NY 10017 (212) 490-9535 Fax: (212) 490-2151
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LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE TOWN HALL

Hear From a Panel of Experts

**Who Needs Long Term Care Insurance?
How Does Long Term Care Insurance Fit Into My Retirement Planning?
What Are the Benefits and Options?
What Can I Do If I am Older and Think I May Need Long Term Care Insurance?**

Date: Thursday, November 1

Time: 5:30 PM -7:30 PM

Place: Sutton Place Synagogue
225 East 51st Street b/t 2nd & 3rd Avenues
PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED ADDRESS

Call (212) 490-9535 for further information

Youth Civics Project for High School Juniors & Seniors:

I am currently recruiting **high school juniors and seniors for Democracy 101: The Youth Civics Project**, a civics engagement program hosted by my office. If you know someone who may be interested in signing up for this program, please forward them this email or copy and paste the link below into a new web browser and download the flyer: <http://www.lizkrueger.com/civicsflyer.pdf>

I developed the Youth Civics Project to supplement students' high school civics education and give them first-hand insight to the legislative process. Participating high school juniors and seniors will learn legislative procedure and are provided with an overview of critical issues facing the state. A wide-range of interactive activities, debates and lectures are employed by myself, my staff and other guest lecturers to engage students in the workings of the legislature. The program culminates in a Model State Senate at the City Hall Council Chambers, where students assume the roles of State Senators and debate actual bills of their choosing.

All students who complete the civics curriculum and participate in the Model State Senate receive a Senate Proclamation in recognition of their achievement. Those who complete the program will be eligible to receive letters of recommendation to colleges or other institutions. Finally, many civics alumni have gone on to participate in my office's internship program.

The program will meet six times throughout the school year and I expect all who sign up to attend **each** session. **The tentative schedule of meetings for the 2007-2008 civics project are all on Thursday's from 4:30 - 7pm:** 12/6/07, 1/10/08, 2/7/08, 3/6/08, 4/3/08. The location still to be determined, but will be on the East Side of Manhattan. The Model State Senate in City Hall Council Chambers is tentatively schedule for Sunday, April 6th, 2008.

Participation has grown significantly, so I expect the 55 available spots to fill quickly and encourage any interested student to contact my office as soon as possible. If you have further questions regarding the civics project, please call Patrick McCandless or Jen Krinsky at (212) 490-9535.

Creating One New York for Healthy Locally Produced Foods: From Upstate NY Farms to Hunts Point:

In early September, I joined with some of my fellow Senators and Commissioner Patrick Hooker of New York State's Department of Agriculture on a 2-day tour of farms and agri-businesses in Upstate NY to learn from farmers firsthand how the New York State Senate can help them produce and sell more farm fresh foods and products to us here in NYC. We learned of efforts to modernize family run farms and increase production without damaging the environment or over use of pesticides; of models for agri-tourism (pick your own farms); of the possibilities of expanded bio-diesel from crops, and visited an incubator test-kitchen for NY created food products.

In turn this month, I co-hosted the group here in NYC, starting at the Hunts Point markets in the South Bronx (fitting since the Bronx was once all farmland!) and finishing up at the Union Square Farmers Market. Joining us on this leg of the tour was Congressman Jose Serrano and New York City Food Policy Coordinator Ben Thomases.

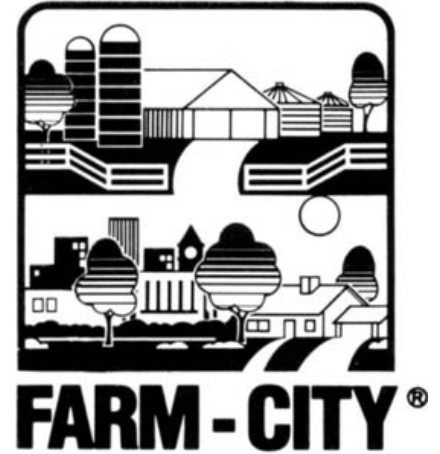
We visited the temporarily sited wholesale NY farmers market where farmers sell directly off their trucks to bodegas, small and medium sized markets, top-end restaurants, and also took tours of the New Fulton Fish Market with its 39 vendors and 400,000 square feet of selling space and the Hunts Point Produce Cooperative, which receives produce on four different "roads", each a third of a mile long, encompassing 125 acres. We ended the day with a tour of the Union Square Greenmarket and a discussion with Chef Peter Hoffman of Savoy who shared with us his passion for using local foods.

It's clear from my trip upstate and tour of the underutilized Hunts Point markets that New York faces real challenges in connecting upstate agriculture with New York City's 8 million residents. I look forward to the 2008 Legislative session when hopefully, regardless of party or whether we come from NYC or rural NY, we can work to develop legislation that will help our state expand our ability to provide nutritious, local foods for residents while supporting our farms. Such legislation would not only serve to help the upstate economy, but would provide New York City with fresher local foods and reduce the negative environmental impact of long-range transport of agricultural products.

Report on 'Cleaning Up NYC's Waste Stream' Forum:

On Tuesday, September 18th, I hosted a forum on innovative proposals to cut down on the tremendous amount of solid waste New York City produces, and how to better manage waste that is produced. Many people do not fully realize how costly, environmentally irresponsible, and unsustainable the City's current model of waste management is. In short, our plan could not be worse. 12,000 ton of waste is shipped out of the City every day on trucks and barges. There is no real plan for where that waste is going, which is often to other states, leaving us with quite a mess if someone decides to stop taking our garbage. As one of the forum's four expert panelists said, "Our trash does not go to solid waste heaven, mostly to Pennsylvania."

Panelists included Brenda Platt of the DC-based Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Dr. Steve Cohen of Columbia University's Earth Institute, Barbara Warren of Sustainable South Bronx, and Benjamin Miller, author of *Fat of the Land: Garbage in New York, the Last Two Hundred Years*. More than 70 people attended the forum at Baruch College, including representatives from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, City



Department of Sanitation, the Council on the Environment of New York, Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board, CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities, and many other advocates, Community Board members, and residents.

A variety of proposals were discussed, including controversial topics like waste-to-energy technology and land-filling, as well as more common-sense approaches, such as significantly expanded recycling and banning products like Styrofoam that take up huge amounts of space in landfills and take hundreds of years to fully biodegrade. For more information, read New York Times coverage of the forum at <http://www.lizkrueger.com/news/news339.html>

East Sixties Neighborhood Association Annual Clothing Drive is October 13th:

The East Sixties Neighborhood Association (ESNA) will be conducting a clothing drive on Saturday, October 13th from 10AM to 1PM at the St. Tropez, 340 East 64th Street, service entrance. Bring your winter clothing for men, women, and children. Outer garments are especially desired. Donated clothing will be distributed to neighborhood organizations that directly aid the city's needy. Due to the size of the drive, ESNA will supply a list of recipients in lieu of receipt. ESNA is also looking for volunteers to help with the drive. For more information, call ESNA at 212-713-5826.

Public Hearing on Increasing Access To Health Care:

New York State's Health & Insurance Departments are holding a series of hearings on developing plans for achieving universal health care coverage in New York State. The hearings are designed to provide the Departments with valuable information in (1) developing a high-quality, cost-effective health-care system, (2) increasing access to health insurance coverage and (3) identifying requirements for an effective, sustainable economic model for universal coverage. The Manhattan hearing will take place on Tuesday, October 30th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street. Individuals planning to attend the hearing and/or testify must pre-register. Registration instructions are available by calling the NYS DOH at (518) 474-5737, or at <http://www.partnership4coverage.ny.gov/hearings/notice.htm>

TENANT SEMINAR on "MCI: Major Capital Improvements and 80/20 Buildings":

Eviction Intervention Services (EIS) is offering a seminar on Major Capital Improvements and 80/20 Buildings on Thursday, October 11th from 6- 8 PM at EIS- 150 East 62nd Street (Between Lex and 3rd). Guest speakers will include Veronica Diaz from DHCR (Division of Housing & Community Renewal) and a representative from HPD (Housing Preservation and Development), as well as a Housing Court Judge. This seminar will be moderated by EIS Legal Director Paul Kushner, Esq. with additional presentations from EIS attorneys.

Topics will include:

MCI: MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY? WHO QUALIFIES TO BE ONE? HOW CAN YOU CHALLENGE THEM?

&

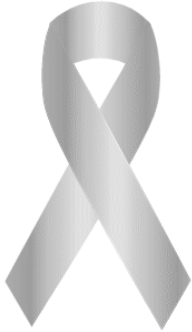
80/20 BUILDINGS - WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT LAWS GOVERN THEM? HOW DO I GET A LIST OF PARTICIPATING BUILDINGS? HOW DO I GET ON THE LIST? WHO MONITORS THE LIST?

This event is free, though EIS does accept tax deductible donations. Refreshments will be generously donated

by Famous Original Ray's Pizza (811 Lexington Avenue) and Avi and David's Bagels (1046 3rd Avenue). For more information, call EIS at (212) 308-2210.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

About 178,480 women in the United States will be found to have invasive breast cancer in 2007. Over 40,000 will die from the disease this year. Every October, we bring attention to this serious health crisis during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is an important opportunity to remind all women of the importance of self-examination, regular visits to the doctor, and depending on age, regular mammograms. The National Cancer Institute recommends that women age 40 and over have a mammogram every one or two years. Younger women at higher risk of breast cancer due to family history or other factors should talk to their physician about whether to have a mammogram before age 40. While breast cancer is much rarer among men, it does happen, so men should also periodically conduct self exams. About 2,000 men in the United States get breast cancer, and 450 die from it each year.



An excellent resource for New Yorkers with mammography or breast cancer questions or concerns is the Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program, which directs callers to community resources and provides telephone support through volunteers, all of whom are breast cancer survivors. The number for the toll-free hotline is 800-877-8077.

Senior Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

385 Third Avenue Apartments is now accepting applications for 48 studio and one bedroom apartments now under construction on the Gramercy neighborhood for moderate income individuals and families. Rents for these units will be \$575 to \$620 per month depending on unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$24,800 to \$34,020, depending on unit and family size. The age eligibility requirement is 62 years of age at the time of application for one person, and for two persons, the applicant must be at least 62 and the co-applicant at least 50 years of age at the time of application. Applications will be selected by lottery with preference given to New York City residents. Applicants residing in Community Board 6 will receive priority for 50% of the units. In addition, visual/hearing impaired applicants will receive priority for 2% of the units, applicants with mobility impairment will receive priority for 5% of the units, and applicants who are New York City municipal employees will receive preference for 5% of the units. You may request an application by regular mail only Third Avenue Apartments, 941 Hoe Avenue, Bronx, New York 10459. Please include a self-addressed envelope with your application request. Applications must be postmarked no later than November 13, 2007 and must be returned by regular mail to the PO Box on the application, so you should request your application as soon as possible in order to ensure you have time to fill it out and return it by the deadline. Only one application per household will be accepted.

DHCR Day for Constituents:

My office will be co-hosting a DHCR Day for constituents on **Monday, November 12th** from **3 to 7 p.m.** @ Eviction Intervention Services (EIS), located at **150 East 162 Street** (between Lexington & 3rd Avenues). There will be representatives from DHCR's Public Information Division available to answer questions about rent regulation issues, tenant rights and other issues that DHCR oversees. Co-sponsors are Assembly Members Jonathan Bing and Micah Kellner, and City Council Members Jessica Lappin and Dan Garodnick.

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CHEMOTHERAPY

Last month I stood with Governor Eliot Spitzer as he wisely announced New York's decision to continue providing chemotherapy treatments to immigrants under Medicaid, despite the shortsighted, cruel decision by the Bush administration to end funding for chemotherapy to both **legal** immigrants who have been in the country less than five years, and to un-documented immigrants, on the grounds that it did not constitute "emergency treatment."

Denying access to chemotherapy is an inhumane policy that ensures that people sick with cancer will suffer needlessly. It also is unlikely that this policy would save the federal government any money, since it would result in sicker patients showing up in emergency rooms, many of whom would require more costly medical treatment than chemotherapy, like surgery. I am extremely pleased that Governor Spitzer is taking a stand on this issue, and declaring that New York State will not abandon our most vulnerable residents simply because of their immigration status.

The Governor has also asked the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) to clarify their 2005 audit instructing New York to no longer claim federal emergency Medicaid funding for chemotherapy for these same communities. While federal law generally prohibits Medicaid coverage for these populations, Congress wisely established an exception for the cost of treating medical emergencies where the patient's health is in serious jeopardy.

NY State Health Commissioner Richard Daines has argued that as a matter of law, the federal government cannot ban emergency Medicaid coverage for all chemotherapy patients, because physicians treating patients are the ones to decide when chemotherapy is required to treat an emergency, based on the facts of each patient's case. Banning coverage for chemotherapy could not be worse public policy. Allowing federal Medicaid administrations, instead of physicians, to make life-and-death decisions has led to extended illnesses and increased medical costs for patients. A physician must remain the primary decision-maker for their patient because their expertise ensures that an individual's long-term treatment strategy is not muddled down in a bureaucracy that lacks humanity.

Failing to treat Cancer as an emergency when it is first identified by a doctor will only result in the cancer progressing, and requiring emergency treatment, such as surgery at a later point. Surgery and chemotherapy are emergency life-saving measures, and it is not appropriate for the government to substitute its judgment for that of the oncologists at the bedside. Decisions about emergency, life-and-death medical care must continue to be based on the expertise of medical professionals. I am pleased that the Governor has recognized this basic reality and is challenging the unwise policy of the Bush administration.

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