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New York State Senate | 28th District



March 2018

Message from Liz...

Yet again, I write to you in the wake of a horrible mass murder at the hands of a man with a gun. Yet, through deep sadness, I am also so proud of the young survivors of this deadly attack who are now raising their voices in support of responsible action to stop the gun violence epidemic that is unique to our country. Perhaps the voices of these brave children who lost their friends and teachers will finally embarrass politicians into passing legislation banning assault-style rifles and bump stocks, and closing loopholes that allow guns to get into the hands of dangerous individuals. In the wake of previous attacks in Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, and so many other places, initial outrage and calls for reform were thwarted by the political power of the National Rifle Association and their allies. I want to be hopeful that the powerful voices of mobilized youth can finally change this equation.

In response to the repeated tragedies caused by gun violence, I along with my Senate Democratic colleagues are pushing to strengthen gun laws in New York State. Last month, we forced votes on four firearm safety bills. Unfortunately, the Senate Republican Majority unanimously opposed each of these common sense measures.

The bills would have implemented effective background checks, established extreme risk protection orders, and banned bump stocks in New York State. The Senate Democrats also advanced legislation to create a Firearm Violence Research Institute, which is more pressing following the Trump Administration's and the Republican Congress' resistance to researching gun violence.

I will not call for "thoughts and prayers" in the wake of gun violence – I will call for legislative action to keep our communities safe. It is extremely disappointing that the Senate Republican Majority continues to take their marching orders from NRA lobbyists and vote against common-sense bills to combat gun violence. The fight is not over, and I will continue to join my voice to the voices of victims of these horrible attacks to push for legislation that will keep New Yorkers safe and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

What's Inside

Message from Liz	1
Policy Spotlight	2
- Plastic Bag Pollution	
Community Spotlight	3
- Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors March 8th and April 5th	
- Employment Fair for Older Adults April 19th	
- DOROT Life Planning Workshop March 7th	
- Forum on the New York Health Act April 10th	
- Apply for the Summer Youth Employment Program	
- Free Tax Preparation Assistance	
- Phone Scams Claiming to Be From Treasury Department or I.R.S.	
- Upcoming Pet Adoption Events	
- Composting Grants	
- Research Study of Depression in Older Adults	
- New York Continuation Healthcare Coverage	
- Surprise and Emergency Services Medical Bills	
- FAIR Health Tool for Evaluating Medical Bills	
- Legal Advocacy Clinics From Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	
- Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan	
- Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule	
- Heat Season Rules	

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Plastic Bag Pollution

Last month I, along with my colleagues Sen. Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Steve Englebright, introduced a bill to tackle the statewide problem of plastic bag pollution. The legislation (S7760/A9953), which aligns with recommendations made by Governor Cuomo's Plastic Bag Task Force, would ban plastic carryout bags and place a ten-cent fee on all other carryout bags, to encourage the use of reusable alternatives. Revenue raised by the fee would go to the State Environmental Protection Fund.

In 2017, after signing legislation to overturn New York City's landmark "Bring Your Own Bag" law, Governor Cuomo announced the creation of a New York State Plastic Bag Task Force, saying "the costly and negative impact of plastic bags on New York's natural resources is a statewide issue that demands a statewide solution." Of the recommendations proposed by the Plastic Bag Task Force, a ban on plastic bags with a fee on other carryout bags has proven most effective throughout the United States and internationally in reducing plastic bag use and encouraging a switch to reusable bags. For example, Los Angeles County, CA, has had such a ban/fee hybrid in place since 2012, which resulted in a 94% reduction in carryout bag consumption. This model has been adopted statewide in California since 2016.

Every year, New Yorkers use more than 20 billion plastic carryout bags, the majority of which are sent to landfills. However, many bags do not make it that far, instead getting stuck in trees, clogging storm drains, getting caught in recycling equipment, and becoming part of the growing islands of plastic pollution poisoning our oceans and our food supply. According to an estimate by the World Economic Forum, "without significant action, there may be more plastic than fish in the ocean, by weight, by 2050."

Fourteen municipalities in New York State have enacted some combination of bans and/or fees for carryout bags, including Suffolk County, Long Beach, Mamaroneck, New Paltz, Hastings-on-Hudson, and New York City (later overturned by the State Legislature). More than 1.6 million New Yorkers live in areas covered by a patchwork of bans and fees. Among other challenges associated with the lack of statewide action, these municipalities are unable to use the funds collected through carryout bag fees for any environmental purpose, since state authority is required to levy taxes.

S7760/A9953 would ban the provision of plastic carryout bags, while placing a minimum 10-cent fee on paper carryout bags and reusable bags. This is the fee level in place in California, and accords with recommendations made by the Plastic Bag Task Force report. The maximum fee for carryout bags is set at 25-cents, giving retailers flexibility to defray the increased cost of non-plastic bags, while addressing concerns that fees could be set considerably higher. In-store plastic bags, such as produce, meat, and bulk food bags are exempt, as well as carryout bags provided by restaurants, prepared-food vendors, and emergency food providers. Customers paying with SNAP or WIC are exempt from the fee. Stores will keep 20% of the fee to defray costs, with the remaining 80% going to the state Environmental Protection Fund, to be made available to localities for pollution reduction, cleanup, and education, and reusable bag distribution, with priority given to low- and fixed-income communities.

We have a responsibility to protect our quality of life, not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren. That means ensuring that our trees and our sidewalks are not littered with plastic bags, that our rivers and streams are not degraded by plastic pollution, and that the food we eat is not poisoned by the residue of our own plastic waste. Because of Albany's failure to act, cities, towns, and counties across our state have been forced to take matters into their own hands. Worse than that, the Legislature and the Governor took the unprecedented step of overturning New York City's own proven, effective solution. At the time the Governor called for a statewide solution - and that's just what this bill provides. It asks New Yorkers to make a small sacrifice so that together we can have a big impact on our shared environment. I know we are up to the task.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Roundtable for Boomers and Seniors Thursday March 8th and April 5th:

The Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors provides an opportunity for constituents to come together to explore life issues that are relevant across the age span. At each session, attendees hear from and engage with professionals who are knowledgeable on topics that are of most concern to the growing population of older adults in New York City. Over the course of five sessions, the Roundtable looks at a specific issue from different perspectives each month. This year's series will focus on engagement.

The third roundtable session will take place Thursday, March 8th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m and the topic will be employment and older adults. Speakers include Ruth Finkelstein, ScD, Executive Director of the Brookdale Center on Aging, Hunter College; Peter Gosselin, journalist, ProPublica; and Amy Scherber, CEO, Amy's Bread.

The fourth session will take place Thursday, April 5th from 8:30 am - 10:30 am, and the topic will be the arts. Speakers include Laurel Humbel, Community and Access Programs at MoMA, and Jamie Shoneman, Art Therapy Manager at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. Movement Speaks will perform at the event, and the Alzheimer's Foundation will offer free memory tests after the event from 10:30 – noon.

Both sessions take place at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street between 1st and 2nd. To RSVP for either session email liz@lizkrueger.com or call (212) 490-9535.

Employment Fair for Older Adults April 19th:

On Thursday, April 19th, from 10 am - 1 pm I am hosting an Employment Fair for Older Adults at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street between 1st and 2nd. Participants include prospective employers and organizations that can help with organizing your job search. To RSVP email liz@lizkrueger.com or call (212) 490-9535.

DOROT Life Planning Workshop March 7th:

DOROT and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) are hosting a Life Planning Guidance for Older Adults workshop entitled "Elder Justice: What Savvy New Yorkers Need to Know + Why Almost Everyone Needs a Last Will & Testament," which will provide older adults education, information, document preparation, and hands-on support about a range of life planning issues free of charge.

The program takes place at DOROT at 171 W 85th Street on Wednesday, March 7th. The morning session from 10am - noon will be a presentation focusing on steps older adults should take to safeguard their rights and independence, especially in light of the myriad scams and schemes preying on this vulnerable population, along with information about Last Wills & Testaments and whether each person needs one. NYLAG attorneys will save time for Q&A.

The afternoon session from 1pm to 5pm will consist of individually scheduled one-on-one appointments with NYLAG attorneys, allowing older adults to consult privately on a range of topics. The attorneys are also available to assist in preparing documents including powers of attorney, statutory gift riders, SSI appointments of representative forms, and HIPAA releases. DOROT's team of social workers will be on-hand to discuss and help prepare advance healthcare planning documents in addition to other support as needed.

Registration is a must! Those who wish to meet privately in the afternoon with an attorney or social worker must register in advance by contacting Wendy Handler (whandler@dorotusa.org or 917-441-3724). Due to space limitations, we also ask all those planning to attend the morning session also register.

Forum on the New York Health Act April 10th:

The Campaign for New York Health and Upper West Side Action are hosting a Forum/Teach in on Tuesday, April 10th on the New York Health Act. Our health care continues to be under attack in Washington. New Yorkers should know that we have an opportunity to make universal health coverage a reality now! The New York Health Act has passed the Assembly and is near a majority in the NY Senate. Grassroots activism can get it through the Senate in 2018 or 2019! The Act will provide single payer health coverage for all the residents of New York State. Learn about this vital topic and what you can do to help get health care for all of us. Speakers include Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, lead sponsor of the New York Health Act, and Katie Robbins, Director of the Campaign for NY Health. The forum will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Goddard Riverside, 593 Columbus Avenue at 88th Street. See the event page at bit.ly/NYHealthUWS to RSVP or www.nyhcampaign.org for information on the bill.

Apply for the Summer Youth Employment Program:

The NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is accepting applications for the summer of 2018. If you or someone you know is a NYC youth between the ages of 14-24 who is looking for valuable work experience and earning money this summer, please complete the SYEP application at <https://application.nycsyep.com>. The application deadline is March 16th.

The Program Offers

- Career Readiness Training: Learn essential workplace readiness skills, business etiquette, financial literacy, and many other skills that will help jumpstart your career.
- Work Experience: Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs at government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, nonprofits, small businesses, law firms, museums, sports enterprises, and retail organizations
- Earn Extra Money: Get paid while gaining skills that will help develop your career. All SYEP participants are paid at NYS minimum wage.

Who is Eligible? Youth between the ages of 14-24 who are residents of one of the five boroughs of New York City and legally allowed to work in New York City.

If you have any questions, please call 1.800.246.4646.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance:

IRS-trained volunteers are available to provide free tax preparation assistance throughout New York City. I encourage you to take advantage of these services, which can save you money and ensure you avoid getting caught in “Refund Anticipation Loan” scams that many for-profit tax preparers engage in.

AARP is sponsoring a number of locations on the East Side, and there are no age or income restrictions to receive this assistance. Here are some sites in the 28th Senate District where you can get free assistance with your taxes:

58th Street Library, 127 East 58th Street
Telephone: 212-759-7358
Site Hours: Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

67th Street Library, 328 East 67th Street
Telephone: 212-734-1717
Site Hours: Friday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Community Church of New York, 40 East 35th Street
Telephone: 212-683-4988
Site Hours: Thursday, 9:30am-1:00pm

Epiphany Library, 228 East 23rd Street
Telephone: 212-679-2645
Site Hours: Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm

Grand Central Library, 135 East 46th Street
Telephone: 212-621-0670
Site Hours: Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street
Telephone: 212-744-5022
Site Hours: Wednesday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL), 188 Madison Ave @ 34th Street
Telephone: 917-275-6975
Site Hours: Monday, Wednesday 1:00pm-6:00pm, Friday, Saturday 1:00pm-5:00pm..

Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93rd Street
Telephone: 212-360-7620
Site Hours: Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Webster Branch Library, 1465 York Avenue
Telephone: 212-288-5049
Site Hours: Monday, 11:00am-3:00pm except 2/19

New York City also offers free tax preparation either in person or online for individuals making \$64,000 or less.

You can file in-person at a NYC Free Tax Prep site. Filing is completely free and includes e-filing and direct deposit of your refund. Some sites have income limits. For most sites, you must have earned \$54,000 or less in 2016 to use In Person service. Some NYC Free Tax Prep sites have special services if you are self-employed, are applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, you are a senior over age 60 with pension or retirement-related question or you need to file or change your return from a previous tax year. At these sites, you will drop off your documents and pick up the completed return later.

You can also complete your tax return online at certain NYC Free Tax Prep sites with help from an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. You must have earned \$64,000 or less in 2016 and have a valid email address to use the Assisted Self-Preparation service.

You can access a map of tax preparation sites at each site and find out which required tax documents you need at nyc.gov/taxprep.

Phone Scams Claiming to Be From Treasury Department or I.R.S.:

Constituents continue to report phone scams, where someone calls repeatedly claiming to be from the Department of the Treasury or the I.R.S. and saying that the call recipient owes money to the U.S. Government. *The call is a scam.* The I.R.S. will **never**:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

If you receive such a call, do not give out any information. Hang up immediately. Contact the Treasury Inspector General to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page at https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml, or call 800-366-4484.

You can also report scams to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1>. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Upcoming Pet Adoption Events:

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is sponsoring several Pet Adoption events around the district in December. Upcoming dates and locations are:

Saturday, March 17, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Biscuits and Bath – Dogs only
1064 First Avenue b/t at 58th Street

Saturday, March 17, Noon – 4:00 p.m., Raymour and Flanigan
133 East 14th Street

Sunday, March 25, Noon – 4:00 p.m. Petco Union Square
860 Broadway at 17th Street

Upcoming events are also listed at <http://nycacc.org/Events.htm>

Composting Grants:

Citizens Committee for New York City, the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB), and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer have partnered to offer grants to start, expand and grow composting programs in all five boroughs of New York City

Grants of up to \$750 are awarded to community groups working on neighborhood composting programs. Groups eligible for funding include community associations, community gardens, friends of park groups, housing development groups, nonprofits, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and private businesses. Grants can be used to purchase materials to start or expand upon a composting program. Applications are available at <http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/composting-grant> and the deadline to apply is March 23rd. For more information, contact Katie at kgrassle@citizensnyc.org or 212-822-9567.

Research Study of Depression in Older Adults:

The Weill Cornell Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry is conducting a therapy research study for depressed individuals 60 years and older. Eligible participants will receive nine weekly sessions with a social worker. These sessions will be free of charge. If you are interested in this research study or have any questions, please call Eve Root, at 914-997-4059.

New York Continuation Healthcare Coverage:

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) allows eligible workers and their families to continue receiving group health benefits for up to 18 months following a change in circumstance such as termination of employment, reduction in hours worked, or other life events. Workers and their families are responsible for paying the full premium. In addition, New York State law allows eligible residents to continue receiving group health benefits for an additional 18 months. Therefore, if an eligible worker is laid off at the end of March 2018, s/he can opt to pay for COBRA coverage through September 2019 under federal law. S/he can then opt to pay for continuation coverage under state law for an additional 18 months, through March 2021.

What New Yorkers may not be aware of is that eligibility for continuation coverage through the state is determined in part on the employer or former employer's type of group health insurance policy: fully insured or self-insured. If the group policy is fully insured, the employer pays monthly premiums to the insurance company, and the insurance company assumes the risk of paying health care costs. If the group policy is self-insured, the employer pays its employees' health care costs with its own funds, but generally hires an insurance company to administer the plan. Since an insurance company typically administers both kinds of plans, employees may not know which type of plan they have. Fully insured group health insurance policies fall under the purview of New York State law, while self-insured policies do not; therefore, your group health insurance policy must be fully insured for you to be eligible for continuation coverage through the state (there are other eligibility requirements as well). How do you determine whether you have a fully insured or self-insured policy? The HR department of your employer/former employer should have this information. If not, you can call the New York State Department of Financial Services consumer hotline at (800) 342-3736 for assistance.

Surprise and Emergency Services Medical Bills:

Have you unexpectedly received a medical bill from an Emergency Room physician who is out-of-network? Or, have you gone to an in-network medical facility and later received a bill for services provided by an out-of-network provider? In March 2015, New York State enacted the “Emergency Medical Services and Surprise Bill” Law in response to these situations. This law provides different types of protection depending on whether your health insurance policy is fully or self-insured (explanation of fully vs. self-insured health insurance plans is provided above under New York Continuation Coverage; please note that individual market policies may also be fully or self-insured – all ACA health insurance plans are fully insured).

Emergency Medical Services and Surprise Bill Law Protections:

Under this law, you may only be billed for applicable co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles related to medical services received in the Emergency Room, even if a physician is out-of-network (this does not apply if you are admitted to the hospital). Additionally, you are protected if you are treated by an out-of-network physician at an in-network facility, and if an in-network provider refers you to an out-of-network provider, for example:

1. You schedule surgery at an in-network hospital with an in-network physician. During surgery, the physician determines that s/he needs the expertise of a specialist. The specialist is out-of-network and sends you a bill.
2. You make an appointment with your primary care physician. Upon arrival, your physician informs you that s/he is unable to see you - another physician will see you instead. It turns out the referred physician is out-of-network. You did not sign a consent form, but you receive a bill.
3. Your in-network physician sends lab work to an out-of-network lab and you receive a bill.

Please visit the following NYS Department of Financial Services web page for more information on how to handle surprise and emergency services bills:
<http://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumer/hrights.htm#surprise>.

If you receive an emergency medical service or surprise bill and are not sure what to do, or need support, please call Community Health Advocates at (888) 614-5400.

FAIR Health Tool for Evaluating Medical Bills:

FAIR Health is an independent nonprofit dedicated to bringing transparency to healthcare costs and health insurance information has established YouCanPlanForThis.org, a free healthcare planning website that will empower New Yorkers around the state to plan and manage their medical and dental expenses.

YouCanPlanForThis.org arms patients with vital information they can use when planning and managing their healthcare costs. By entering their zip codes in the cost lookup users can estimate their medical or dental expenses for particular procedures in their geographic areas. The tool takes into account whether they are insured or uninsured—and if insured, whether they are staying in network or going out of network.

The site also features new educational content, videos, resources and a section devoted to understanding healthcare quality in the context of healthcare decision making.

Legal Advocacy Clinics At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House:

The Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Legal Advocacy Center Offers assistance on a number of different issues. Here is a list of their ongoing programs and clinics:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Clinics: Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. First come, first served. Bring proof of identity, income information, utility bill, proof of housing costs, information on any dependents and if you are 60 or over or on SSI/SSD, information on medical costs. For more information, call [212-218-0431](tel:212-218-0431).
- SCRIE Clinics: Walk-in Clinic. The next clinic will take place Thursday, April 12 from 9:30 a.m to 1:00 p.m at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street. You must arrive before Noon to ensure you can be seen. If you are 62 years or older, live in a rent regulated apartment and have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less you may be eligible for the Rent Freeze Program. Find out if you are eligible and get assistance applying or recertifying for SCRIE.
- Tenants Rights Advice Clinic: Walk-in clinic. The next Clinic will take place May 10 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street, First come-first Served. Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.
- End-of-Life Planning/Advance Directives: volunteer attorneys may be able to assist you with one-on-one counseling and individualized drafting of Advance Directives including Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and simple, low-asset Wills. If you are interested in being screened for a possible appointment, call the intake hotline at [212-218-0503 ext 4](tel:212-218-0503).
- Health Care Access/Medicare/Medicaid: call [212-218-0503 ext 3](tel:212-218-0503). Find out about Medicare Savings Programs, Medicaid home care, Medicare Part D, Medicaid Spend-down, EPIC and if you are eligible for Medicaid.
- Health Insurance Enrollment: call [212-218-0432](tel:212-218-0432). Assistance with finding and enrolling in an affordable health insurance plan.

Affordable Housing Opportunities in Manhattan:

515 West 36th Street Apartments is now accepting applications for 63 affordable studio, 1- 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 515 West 36th Street in the Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$613 to \$2,733 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$22,903 and \$124,020 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 4 residents for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nycлотtery/AdvertisementPdf/440.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: Affordable Housing Dept. 515, 1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 3, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Randolph Houses North is now accepting applications for 106 affordable studio, 1- 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 265 West 114th Street in the Central Harlem neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$675 to \$1289 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$25,475 and \$66,420 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 10 residents for 50% of units, NYCHA-affiliated applicants for 25% of the units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of

units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/441.pdf>

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: Randolph Houses North
c/o The Wavecrest Management Team, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 6, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

606 West 57th Street Apartments is now accepting applications for 258 affordable studio, 1- 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 606 West 57th Street in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$613 to \$2,902 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$22,903 and \$132,840 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 4 residents for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/444.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 606 West 57th Street Apartments, PO BOX 1543, New York, NY 10159

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 10, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

118 Fulton Street is now accepting applications for 97 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 118 Fulton Street in the Financial District neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$788 to \$1,025 depending on unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$28,903 and \$57,240 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 1 residents for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/443.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: Affordable Housing Dept. 118,
1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018 or by email at info118FultonSt@gmail.com.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 10, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

524 East 14th Street is now accepting applications for 50 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 524 East 14th Street in the East Village neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$1,114 to 2,733 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$40,080 and \$124,020 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units and visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

<https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/446.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 524 E. 14 St. c/o Breaking Ground, PO Box 3620937, New York, NY 10129.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 11, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

60 Fulton is now accepting applications for 30 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 60 Fulton Street in the Financial District neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$613 to \$2,733 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$22,903 and \$124,020 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 1 residents for 50% of units, mobility-impaired persons for 5% of units, visual- and/or hearing-impaired persons for 2% of units, and City of New York municipal employees for 5% of units. A full description of the building and application process is available at

<https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/449.pdf>.

Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 60 Fulton, c/o Housing Partnership Development Corporation, 242 West 36th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by April 23, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Metrocard Bus and Van Schedule:

The MTA offers MetroCard-related services throughout New York City through mobile buses and vans. Buses provide a full range of services, including applying for or refilling a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buying or refilling a regular MetroCard, or getting answers to a MetroCard-related question. Vans sell Unlimited Ride MetroCards and Pay-Per-Ride MetroCards, and they refill MetroCards and Reduced-Fare MetroCards. Buses and vans will be in my district on the following dates and locations:

- March 13, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- March 13, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
- March 13, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus

March 15, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
March 15, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
March 15, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
March 21, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
March 21, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
March 21, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
March 27, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
March 27, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
March 27, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus
April 4, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus
April 4, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus
April 4, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus
April 5, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van
April 5, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
April 5, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van
April 6, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van
April 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van
April 6, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street and 1 Avenue – Van

The full mobile MetroCard schedule is available at <http://mta.info/metrocard/mms.htm>. Please note that MetroCard buses and vans do not take credit cards.

Heat Season Rules:

The City Housing Maintenance Code and State Multiple Dwelling Law require building owners to provide heat and hot water to all tenants. Building owners are required to provide hot water 365 days a year at a constant minimum temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Between October 1st and May 31st, a period designated as “Heat Season,” building owners are also required to provide tenants with heat under the following conditions:

- Between the hours of 6AM and 10PM if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Between the hours of 10PM and 6AM the inside temperature is required to be at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Note that there is no longer any outside temperature requirement for night hours

Tenants who are cold in their apartments should first attempt to notify the building owner, managing agent or superintendent. If heat is not restored, the tenant should call the City’s Citizen Service Center at 311. For the hearing-impaired, the TTY number is (212) 504-4115. The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.