

# Liz Krueger

New York State Senate | 28th District



June 2018

## Message from Liz...

On June 4th, I participated in a panel hosted by the newspaper The ALT on sexual harassment legislation, past, present, and future. Susan Arbetter of WCNY radio moderated the event where I was joined by employment attorney Sarah Burger, political strategist and columnist Alexis Grenell, and Leah Hebert, one of the victims who was harassed by Vito Lopez, a former Assemblymember who resigned after his conduct became public. The discussion was extremely useful for me as a legislator trying to figure out the best way to stop such behaviors by people in power, whether in the public or private sector.

There was a lot of information – more than I can summarize here, but I wanted to share a few points that I took away from the discussion:

- The new measures specific to sexual harassment laws that were implemented as part of the state budget were not adequate – Sarah Berger described them as “meh” – better than nothing but missing some key points including clear penalties for not following policies, and a lack of an appropriately independent investigative body for resolving allegations.
- One reason for this was that actual victims were not included in the discussion. They had lived through the process of bringing forward allegations and have a clear sense of what needs to be in place to make it possible for a serious investigation to take place. Instead of taking that knowledge into account, the political need to get something done quickly overrode much interest in developing the best possible sexual harassment policy.
- We in the legislature should not accept the existing law as the final word on the subject. Instead we should hold hearings that give a chance for victims and others with knowledge of how past policies have and have not worked to share their experiences and recommendations.
- Even the best policy can only function if it is followed. Many of the speakers highlighted that on paper the Assembly has a much better policy than the Senate, but women and men were still victimized by multiple Assemblymembers and staff. In many cases the Assembly leadership at the time seemed much more interested in “protecting the institution” than ensuring that complaints were appropriately investigated and that perpetrators faced consequences. And despite knowing how weak the Senate policy is, when I asked (the next day) when the Senate would be expanding it’s own policies in light of the state law changes, I was told no changes would be necessary (wrong!)
- The focus on fixing our sexual harassment laws should not be seen as independent from the broader issues of addressing other forms of harassment. Whether a person is harassed in the

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workplace because of their sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or other reason, they need recourse, and there need to be policies and training that protect people.

- As I stated at the event, this is not a partisan issue. I think we all know at this point that perpetrators come from across the political spectrum, and we must ensure that politics do not interfere with achieving justice for victims.

I think what pleased me most about the event, and gives me hope that New York can eventually get this right, is that it was clear at the event that the women who have been harassed in New York are going to make sure their stories are heard. I hope to continue to learn from them about how we can get to a point where we can say truthfully that New York has the best policy on addressing harassment in the country. It was clear from the wisdom shared at this forum that we aren't there yet.

If you would like to see a video of the panel, it is available here: <http://thealt.com/2018/06/07/11722/>

## **POLICY SPOTLIGHT**

### *Bus Lane and Red Light Cameras*

Last month I introduced a bill designed to address congestion and improve bus service while also enhancing public safety. The legislation (S8597/A10882) removes caps on automated enforcement cameras for bus lanes and traffic lights in the city of New York and makes these programs permanent. The legislation also creates a graduated schedule of fines for repeat offenders and directs revenue from fines to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Assemblymember Harvey Epstein carries the Assembly version of the bill.

New York State needs ensure that New York City has reliable public transportation and that the City has the necessary tools to improve traffic safety and reduce congestion. This legislation removes restrictions on existing traffic-enforcement programs camera programs that serve to limit their effectiveness while also generating desperately needed revenue for the MTA.

S8597/A10882 would allow the city of New York to expand the use of bus lane and red-light camera enforcement programs as it sees fit and frees New York City police resources to be directed toward more serious crime. It also raises the maximum fine from a red-light camera from \$50 to \$100 and institutes a graduated fine schedule for repeat offenders of both bus lanes and red lights to provide as an added deterrent for these offenses. Finally, this law directs the funds raised by the fines from these cameras to the general transportation account of the New York City transportation assistance fund established in the 2018-19 budget to provide additional revenue to the MTA.

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and the MTA have both released plans for improving bus service that include expanded use of bus lanes and bus lane enforcement cameras along more bus routes in the city. However, state law currently limits the use of bus lane enforcement cameras to just 16 bus routes in the city. NYC DOT has installed additional bus lanes beyond the designated 16, but lacks the ability to enforce them with cameras, limiting their effectiveness as drivers often violate them with impunity.

State law also authorizes the city of New York to install "traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring devices," also known as "red-light cameras," but limits their use to one hundred and fifty intersections in the city. Red light cameras are a critical element of the city's "Vision Zero" initiative to

reduce traffic fatalities via street redesign, lower speed limits, promotion of safe driving, and increased traffic law enforcement.

Another critical part of Vision Zero, the city's school-zone speed camera program, is set to expire this year unless the legislature and Governor act to renew the program. Senators Krueger and Dilan and Assemblymember Epstein all cosponsor S 6046-C / A7798-C (Peralta / Glick) which would expand this critical program and make it permanent.

## **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

### **SLA Commissioner Bradley at CB 8 Street Life Committee June 12th:**

On Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 6:30PM the Community Board 8 Street Life Committee is hosting A Conversation with State Liquor Authority Chairman Vincent G. Bradley. Local businesses and the public can ask questions of the SLA Chairman. Learn how to obtain a liquor license; what will prevent one from being granted and what may cause one to be revoked. The meeting will take place at Hunter College – West Building Room 615, entrance at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. CB8 meetings are open to the public. Anyone with an interest in this matter is encouraged to attend.

### **Community Forum on Overdevelopment June 14:**

Borough President Gale Brewer, City Councilmember Ben Kallos, and I are co-hosting a community forum on overdevelopment on June 14th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70 Street. Speakers from Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, CIVITAS, Community Board 8, the Municipal Arts Society, and the East River Fifties Alliance will discuss ongoing efforts to close zoning loopholes and propose changes to the zoning governing the Upper East Side. RSVP to Councilmember Kallos's office by calling at 212-860-1950 or online at <https://benkallos.com/event/overdevelopment-forum-0>.

### **Performing Arts Resource Fair June 15:**

The Science, Industry and Business Library is hosting a Performing Arts Resource Fair on Saturday, June 16th from 10:15 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at 188 Madison Avenue @ 34th Street. Learn about free services from NY metro area performing arts organizations and their resources to help you either start a business or to get career advice. While this is not a career fair, career coaches will be available to provide job search advice and resume assistance.. Registration is required at: <https://on.nypl.org/BIZART>

The schedule for the event is as follows:

10:15 a.m - 11:30 a.m. – Welcome / Kickoff Presentations

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Visit Exhibitors' Tables

12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. – Networking

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. – LinkedIn Presentation Rm 018

1:45 p.m. - 2 p.m. – Networking

2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. SIBL's Career Coaching Cafe - It's like "speed dating" a career coach. Topics include resumes, interviews, networking, etc.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. LinkedIn Photo Shoot, Room 018

This event is targeted at people in the performing arts & entertainment fields whether you are planning to start a new business, currently own your business or looking for looking for career

coaching or transitioning advice including Choreographers, Musicians, Singers, Composers, Lyricists, Pianists, Theatre, Actors, Entertainers, Comedians, Filmmakers, Producers, Casting Agents, Stage Managers, Writers, Photographers, and Videographers and many more.

### **Fire Department Open Houses on June 16:**

The Fire Department invites New Yorkers to visit their FDNY Open Houses on June 16. Firefighters, Paramedics and EMTs will be educating the public about fire and life safety, conducting demonstrations, sharing the Department's storied history, and offering tours of FDNY apparatus (engines, ladders and ambulances).

Thanks to generous support from the FDNY Foundation, members will be distributing free smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, fire safety coloring books, fire helmets for children and educational material promoting fire and life safety tips. This event is open to any member of the public.

Here are locations and times for Firehouses in Senate District 28:

Engine 22/Ladder 33, 159 East 85th Street, 1:00 P.M – 3:00 P.M.

Engine 44, 221 East 75th Street, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Engine 39/Ladder 16, 157 East 67th Street, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 PM.

Engine 8/Ladder 2, 165 East 51st Street, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Engine 21, 238 East 40th Street, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Engine 16/Ladder 7, 234 East 29th Street, 1:00 P.M – 3:00 P.M.

Ladder 3, 108 East 13 Street, 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 PM.

Locations and hours for other locations can be found on this map:

<https://fdny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=134c94eabe8d44b7ac62c309f9a763e2>

### **Summer Meals Program for Children Begins June 27th:**

The Department of Education's Summer Meals Program will begin on June 27, 2018 - the day after the school year end. Summer Meals are available to all children 18 years old and under at hundreds of public schools, community pool centers, and other locations around the city; no registration, documentation, or ID is required to receive a free breakfast or lunch.

This program will be offered weekdays from Wednesday, June 27, to Friday, August 31(except July 4th and August 21st). Although the hours may vary by location, breakfast is typically served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., and lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. All DOE summer feeding sites will have posters outside indicating the hours specific to that building.

In my Senate district, breakfast and lunch will be available seven days a week at the John Jay Pool at 77th Street and Cherokee Place (East of York Avenue). Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m.to10 a.m. and lunch from noon to 1pm.

For additional information on feeding locations, please visit:

<http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org/resources/Summer2018.pdf>.

This list will be updated every Friday until the start of the Summer Meals Program, when the updates will be daily and the site search will be active.

### **Report on Community Board 8 Forum on Vaping:**

On May 17th, I joined Congresswoman Maloney, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Assembly Members Rebecca Seawright and Dan Quart, and Council Members Ben Kallos and Keith Powers in co-sponsoring Community Board 8's Vaping Forum. There was an excellent panel of speakers who made informative presentations on vaping devices, the risks of vaping/smoking e-cigarettes, and teen vaping behavior today. This is a critical community issue, as the number of adolescents who vape in New York City is increasing, and vaping may lead to smoking cigarettes. Following are some of the key facts that presenters made during the forum.

In New York City, the minimum age to smoke cigarettes and e-cigarettes is 21; however, there are bodegas, smoke shops, and newsstands that will sell e-cigarettes to adolescents. In some cases, young adults will purchase e-cigarettes in bulk then sell or give them to younger people. Teens are able to smoke certain e-cigarettes undetected in their bedroom, in public, in the classroom, and in school bathrooms due to there being no smoke nor odor. Juul vaping pens, a type of e-cigarette, look deceptively like a flash drive, and therefore, do not raise suspicion.

Teenagers are vaping in public and private Middle and High Schools in New York City. Although cigarette smoking is considered unappealing by more and more young people, vaping is perceived by an increasing number of adolescents as cool.

There are over 100 e-cigarette products, many that are packaged and marketed in a way that appeals to youth. The cost of a Juul starter kit is \$55 for the device and 4 pods of flavored vaping liquid. A replacement set of 4 pods costs \$15. Each pod contains an amount of nicotine equivalent to a pack of cigarettes.

There is limited knowledge about all of the contents and associated risks of smoking e-cigarettes, as they are unregulated. It is known that Juul's pods contain the following ingredients: glycerol, propylene glycol, nicotine, benzoic acid, and food-grade flavoring. Potential dangers of vaping include overdosing on nicotine, experiencing palpitations if one puffs and inhales for an extended period of time, increased receptivity to addiction to other drugs (due to nicotine binding to receptors in the brain), and increased likelihood of cigarette smoking.

What can we do about this critical issue? Federal, New York State, and New York City governments are taking action to regulate the e-cigarette industry and stores that sell e-cigarette products. These actions seek to reduce the amount of nicotine, require pre-market approval, regulate packaging, and require retail licenses to sell e-cigarettes, as well as capping the number of e-cigarette retailers. Educational initiatives are also taking place in schools. Community members can call 311 to report stores in New York City that are observed selling vaping products to people under the age of 21. For more information about vaping, the New Yorker published an informative article online at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/05/14/the-promise-of-vaping-and-the-rise-of-juul>. You can also contact my office if you have questions.

### **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:

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

Saturday, June 30, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Biscuits and Bath – Dogs only  
1064 First Avenue b/t at 58th Street

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

**Assistance with Rent Freeze Program Applications on June 15th:**

Mobilization for Justice will provide assistance to seniors and people with disabilities in completing applications for the SCRIE and DRIE rent freeze programs. Appointments can be scheduled at Mobilization for Justice, 100 Williams Street, 6th Floor, Friday, June 15, 10am-noon

To RSVP and for more information call: John Bart (212) 417-3766.

**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, June 14 from 10:00 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, now at 2 locations.
  - July 5 from 10am to 1pm at 331 East 70th Street. First come-first served, arrive by Noon.
  - June 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the East Harlem Health Action Center, 158 East 115th Street. First come, first served, arrive by 4 p.m.

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:**

**2183 3rd Avenue** is now accepting applications for 28 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 2183 3rd Avenue in the East Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$856 to \$1,114 depending on unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$29,349 and \$62,580 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 11 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/508.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](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 2183 3rd Avenue, c/o Metropolitan Realty Exemptions, 118 Middleton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206..

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 20, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

**751 East 6th Street Apartments** is now accepting applications for 28 affordable studio, 1- 2- and 3-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 751 East 6th Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$596 to \$2,519 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$22,320 and \$135,590 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 3 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/481.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](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 751 E 6th Street Apartments, Triborough Finance New, PO Box 2007, New York, NY 10035.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 26, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

**222 East 44th Street** is now accepting applications for 50 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 222 East 44th Street in the Midtown East 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 \$135,590 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 6 residents for 50% of units, 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/485.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](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 222 E. 44th Street c/o Breaking Ground, PO Box 3620937, New York, NY 10129.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by July 2, 2018. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

**435 WEST 31 APARTMENTS PHASE II** is now accepting applications for 103 affordable studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments newly constructed at 222 East 44th Street in the Midtown East

neighborhood in Manhattan. Rents for these apartments range from \$613 to \$2,519 depending on income and unit size. To be eligible, applicants must have incomes between \$22,903 and \$125,160 depending on unit and family size. Asset limits also apply. Preference will be given to Community Board 4 residents for 50% of units, 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/489.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](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) and select "Apply for Housing." To request an application by mail, mail a self-addressed envelope to: 435 W 31 Phase II c/o Breaking Ground, PO Box 3620937, New York, NY 10129

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by July 3, 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:

June 12, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 12, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 12, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 20, 11 am - 1 pm, 79 Street & York Avenue – Bus  
June 20, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 72 Street & York Avenue – Bus  
June 20, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 21, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van  
June 21, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van  
June 21, 9 - 10:30 am, 79 Street & 3 Avenue – Bus  
June 26, 9 - 10:30 am, 92 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 26, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm., 86 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
June 26, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 68 Street & Lexington Avenue – Bus  
July 5, 7 – 9 am, 91 Street and York Avenue - Van  
July 5, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 47 Street & 2 Avenue – Van  
July 5, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, 28 Street & 2 Avenue – Van  
July 6, 9 - 10 am, 57 Street and 1 Avenue – Van  
July 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am, 57 Street and 3 Avenue – Van  
July 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.

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District Office: 211 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1201 | New York, NY 10017 | (212) 490-9535 | Fax: (212) 499-2558  
Albany Office: Legislative Office Building, Room 808 | Albany, NY 12247 | (518) 455-2297 | Fax: (518) 426-6874  
Email: [liz@lizkrueger.com](mailto:liz@lizkrueger.com) | On the Web: <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger>