

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Helen Rosenthal

Council Member, 6th District



563 Columbus Avenue @ 87th St. (212) 873-0282 Helen@HelenRosenthal.com

Dear Neighbors,

It was a pleasure to welcome nearly two hundred people into our District Office for my **Open House** on Sunday in the span of three hours (whew!). Most people wanted to stop by and say "hello," have some ice-cold lemonade, and chat. It was great to see friends and have a chance to catch up. Over 50 people had specific concerns about our neighborhood, from strengthening rent regulations, to bike and pedestrian safety, to getting rid of the empty plastic newspaper boxes on the sidewalk.



All of us are still waiting on **Albany** to vote on strengthened rent regulations and a reformed 421a development tax program. Please call Governor Cuomo today at (518) 474-8390 or email him [here](#), and let him know that 2.5 million New York City tenants need an end to vacancy decontrol. If you are a rent-regulated tenant, here are some key facts about the short-term expiration of the state rent laws:

- Every tenant's existing lease will remain in effect, including for rent-stabilized apartments.
- The small number of New Yorkers who are in rent controlled apartments are

not at risk; NYC already passed renewal laws.

- By law, any tenant whose lease expires in the coming days should already have received a renewal lease. This lease will still be in effect once the tenant signs it, even if the rent laws expire tonight.
- If your landlord attempts to contradict any of the above information, or if they harass or threaten you in any way, **call 311** for assistance, where a team of housing experts are available to help you. You can also reach out to the **special tenants' hotline** set up by Public Advocate Letitia James, (212) 669-7250, or Anna Gago in my office at (212) 873-0282 x. 204

This has happened before: Albany allowed the rent laws to expire in 1997 and 2011. In each case the laws were reinstated in a matter of day and were made retroactive to the date of the expiration.

I was proud to sign on to a [letter](#) calling for more funds to build more **new public school seats** in New York City. We are not keeping up with public school demand.



Recently I met with officers from the NYPD to discuss **crossing guards** near Upper West Side schools. Our District was not the only one short on school crossing guards. There was a ten percent vacancy rate during this past school year citywide. Over the past few months, the number of vacancies decreased because their salaries were boosted to \$11.50/ hour. However, their hours are still not full time, their benefits are

minimal, and they don't work when school is not in session. We spoke about the various steps that the NYPD are taking to improve recruitment and retention. The NYPD Office of Patrol assured me that not only would the corner of 77th and Columbus get a crossing guard for the next school year, there will be an additional two crossing guards allocated to the 20th precinct for the school year starting in September.

In 2014 over 25,000 New York City residences were illegally used as hotel rooms -- which is over 25,000 fewer homes for New Yorkers to live in. Last week Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and I introduced a package of legislation to **combat illegal hotels**: [Int. 826-2015](#) will increase fines from a minimum of \$1,000 to a minimum of \$10,000, and [Int. 823-2015](#) will track illegal hotel violations issued through various City



agencies. No longer with paying violations be the "cost of doing business" for landlords who illegally rent apartments for hotel use. These bills will be a great tool in preserving housing in our City. Learn more from coverage in [CBS 2 News](#) and the [New York Daily News](#).

Recently I joined Dana Lerner, her family, and the 4th grade class of The Calhoun School to unveil **Cooper Stock Way**, the secondary street name for 97th Street and West End Avenue to commemorate Cooper Stock. The Calhoun School did an amazing job creating a morning of educational street safety workshops for their students with the NYPD and Transportation Alternatives, and Cooper's classmates marched from their school with homemade signs and "Cooper's Troopers" t-shirts. I am grateful to the press for covering this important day for our community and spreading its message about the epidemic of reckless driving. You can learn more from coverage by [NY1](#), the [New York Post](#), the [New York Daily News](#), [CBS 2 News](#), [Pix 11 News](#), [DNA Info](#), and [Gothamist](#).



Last October the two-ton plastic kayak dock was stolen from the Manhattan Community Boathouse, the volunteer-run organization that offers free kayaking on the Hudson each summer. In my negotiations with the developer TF Cornerstone last Spring, I secured \$100,000 to improve the local public park, and they were gracious enough to give some of that money to the Manhattan Community Boathouse to **buy a new dock**. On Memorial Day I was proud to attend the Boathouse's Ribbon

Cutting to kick off their summer season! Learn more from a story in the [West Side Spirit](#).



Our office is preparing for the second round of Participatory Budgeting on the Upper West Side. **Join the District Committee** in July to help coordinate the process in our district! As a committee member, you will be working with local groups and individuals to engage residents and oversee the process. The Committee will meet once a month between July 2015 and May 2016 on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30pm - 8pm (location to rotate). Email district6pb@gmail.com or call Daniella Eras at (212) 873-0282 ext. 206 for more information.

Last year I allocated funds to the Harmony Program, which **teaches trumpeting to students at P.S. 166**. Click [here](#) to hear a song from their Spring Recital!

Parents from P.S. 87 are hosting a **fundraiser for school supplies** to support students and teachers in CEC7 in the Bronx. These projects have a long way to go, and they could use your help. Learn more [here](#).

We're in the final home stretch of **budget season**. Stay tuned for the official budget announcement and my analysis of how the Upper West Side fared in this year's negotiations.



Warmly,

Helen.



Copyright © 2015 Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website, helenrosenthal.com; you attended a meeting hosted by Council Member Rosenthal or someone on her staff; or you used the services offered by the Council Member's district office. If you would rather not receive this newsletter, let us know by clicking the "Unsubscribe" link below.

Our mailing address is:

563 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024

(212) 873-0282

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)