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Helen Rosenthal

Council Member, 6th District



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Dear Neighbors,

It's hard to know where to start, so I'm going to work backwards.

Traffic Safety. This past week DOT presented their [plan to improve pedestrian safety](#). The community [responded favorably](#), and DOT promises to begin construction in March. This expedited turnaround is, in part, due to our office working closely with Councilman Mark Levine (District 7) and NYS Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell in response to the tragedies. As a quick response to the death of nine-year-old Cooper Stock at West 97th and West End Avenue, I urged DOT to post a large "Yield to Pedestrian" sign and increase the amount of time a pedestrian has to cross at West End Avenue--both ideas have been implemented already. Lastly, speaking with the NYPD 24th precinct on a regular basis gave me insight into how seriously and thoughtfully our local precinct responded. They've worked hard to educate motorists and pedestrians alike. In January they issued over 300 tickets for moving violations to cars at that corner (and fewer than 30 jaywalking tickets). The truth is though, three pedestrian deaths is three too many... my heart aches for the families.

City Council Committee Assignments. I'm honored that our new Speaker entrusted me to be Chair of the Contracts Committee. Given my experience in the NYC budget office, I plan to tackle contract cost overruns and cost efficiency, ensuring that our social service providers are paid in a timely fashion (without fraud) and ensuring that our women- and minority-owned businesses are afforded bidding opportunities. I also sit on the Finance Committee which has a powerful role in overseeing the City's \$70 billion budget; the Housing and Buildings Committee, where I will do everything possible to improve the lives of rent regulated tenants; the Community Development Committee to ensure that economically disadvantaged neighborhoods are served well; and Oversight and Investigations, which has broad power to root out fraud and abuse.

Inauguration. It seems like forever ago, but I want to thank those of you who braved the ice to join the celebration. It was an honor to share the stage with my role models former City Councilwoman Ronnie Eldridge, MBP Gale Brewer, and NYS Senator Liz Krueger. Special thanks goes John Jay College for hosting, the Food and Finance High School for the delicacies, and the NYC Labor Chorus and LaGuardia HS Acapella group for making the event memorable. And, of course, none of this could've happened without the hard work of my campaign staff: Ahmed Tigani (Campaign Manager), Jason Harding (Field Director), and Daniella Eras (All around super-star). I am grateful that all three agreed to join my city council staff along with Marisa Maack (my Chief of Staff), Anna Gago, and Stephanie Buhle. To date, Jason, Ahmed, and Anna have served over 150 of our neighbors!

District Office. Which makes me think that folks know they can still come to 563 Columbus (between 87-88th streets) and know that they will get the attention they need. We're working every day to help with landlord harassment, housing court, calling NYCHA for heat and hot water, SCRIE and DRIE applications, water main breaks, loose manhole covers, etc.

Councilmember Discretionary Funding. Stay tuned to my website: HelenRosenthal.com to learn more about the process for applying to the City for expense and capital funding for both non-profit and public organizations.

HelenRosenthal.com. We'll use our new website (should launch by next week) to keep everyone up to date about events in our neighborhood and the City; neighborhood alerts; legislation and policy; the City's budget; discretionary funding opportunities; and more. We will also send out regular emails listing upcoming events.

Again, many thanks for giving me the privilege of serving you. As I said at the inauguration, there's much to accomplish and we have a great team in city government to address pressing issues. Still, please keep my feet to the fire.

Warmly,



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