



Helen Rosenthal

Council Member, 6th District



June Update

Dear Neighbors,

Cooper's Law

This past January was a tough one for the Upper West Side, as we lost three members of our community to traffic accidents. I met Dana Lerner two days after her son, Cooper Stock, was killed by a taxi that failed to yield as Cooper crossed the street with his father. **Last week, my first bill was passed in City Council.** Known as "**Cooper's Law**," my bill stipulates that if a taxi or livery driver kills or critically injures someone, his Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) license will be immediately suspended, and if a police investigation finds the driver guilty of killing or critically injuring that person because of a traffic violation (i.e., speeding, running a red light, or failure to yield), his TLC license will be revoked. You can learn more about the law in recent articles in The New York Times ("*Council Passes Bills Aiding de Blasio's Quest to End Traffic Deaths*" by Matt Flegenheimer, May 29) and New York Magazine ("*Are the City's New Pedestrian-Safety Measures Strong Enough?*" by Justin Davidson, May 29). In addition, Community Board 7 approved renaming the northwest corner of 97th and West End Avenue after Cooper, and I will let you know as soon as we have a set date for the street naming ceremony.

Participatory Budgeting

YOU can choose how the city spends over one million dollars! Over the next two weeks my office will host introductory sessions for **participatory budgeting**. This democratic process gives you the chance to brainstorm how to improve the community, develop proposals, and vote on the projects you like best. **The projects with the most votes will get funded!** Come learn about it and get involved: our first info session is Thursday, June 12, 6pm-8pm, at the West Side YMCA (5 West 63rd St), and our second info session is Tuesday, June 17, 6pm-8pm, at Goddard Riverside (593 Columbus Avenue at 88th St). Learn more in my op-ed in the West Side Spirit, watch the video on my website, and read about what was funded this past year on the official PB NYC site.

Open House

My office will have its **first Open House on Saturday, June 21st from noon-5pm!** We're going to be a venue for the citywide live music event **Make Music New York**, so we'll have **live music (salsa and jazz) from noon-4pm**. Stop by and say hello, enjoy some light refreshments, and meet my staff! My office is at 563 Columbus Avenue between 87th and 88th Streets.

Affordable Housing

As you know, middle class Upper West Siders are finding it increasingly difficult to find and keep affordable housing. It's unclear how the Mayor's affordable housing plan will help with new homes. However, I'm working closely with the City's Housing and Preservation Department (HPD) to preserve the affordable homes we have (Mitchell-Lama and rent regulated) with new financing streams and stronger tenant protections. In the meantime, new affordable housing for middle-income families feels out of reach. That's why **I focused on negotiating for additional middle-income family-sized homes** in the new TF Cornerstone building that will go up in two years on West 57th street and 11th Avenue, which was recently mentioned in the New York Times piece ("*Middle Class Lament: Rent*" by Constance Rosenblum, May 30). If you're looking for affordable housing before then, look into NYC Housing Connect and the Affordable Housing Resource Center.

New York City Budget

The public can make comments about the New York City budget on Friday, June 6th starting at 3:30 at City Hall. Everyone gets 3 minutes to speak. Call Nicole Anderson in Finance at **(212) 788-9153** to pre-register and reserve a time.

Hope you are having a chance to enjoy the warm weather. Looking forward to seeing you on June 21st!

Meet My Staff

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Stop By My Office

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Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-6pm | Open Friday, 10am-4pm

Stay in the know and sign up for my newsletter at helenrosenthal.com!