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Helen Rosenthal

Council Member, 6th District



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Dear Neighbors,

There are so many ways to ensure that YOUR opinion is heard in our community. YOU can vote to decide how to spend \$1 million thru Participatory Budgeting. YOU can register and vote in the upcoming Presidential Primary. You can get YOUR question about city government answered at my annual Town Hall. I want to hear YOUR voice!

The City Council is **nearing a vote on two important zoning changes to create more affordable housing for families and seniors**. Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA) would change the zoning requirements to encourage the construction of affordable and senior affordable housing, and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) would require new residential construction in certain neighborhoods to include some affordable housing. I want to thank the many of you that have reached out to my office with your concerns. Your comments and suggestions have been front and center in my conversations with Council colleagues and the Mayor's office. There is misinformation out there on the possible effects of this Affordable Housing plan, but I want to assure you that I will not vote for a plan that displaces current residents or significantly changes the character of our neighborhood. A number of the changes to the proposed text directly address our concerns, including protecting against the potentially dangerous and disruptive construction of sliver buildings, eliminating proposed height increases for market-rate buildings, and including options for deeper levels of affordability. I will send out a Statement with details of the final text amendment language as soon as they are ironed out and presented to the Land Use Zoning Subcommittee for a vote. Stay tuned to [the Council's website](#) for the final language of the amendments as it's available.

DISTRICT



Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Fariña, Board of Elections Executive Director Mike Ryan, Campaign Finance Board Director of Voter Assistance Onida Coward Mayers, Helen, New York Immigration Coalition Executive Director Steven Choi, Council Members Barry Grodenchik and Inez Barron, and advocates kicked off Student Voter Registration Day 2016 on the steps of City Hall (March 15, 2016).

This Friday is **Student Voter Registration Day (SVRD)**: a big, exciting day where high school seniors in over 60 New York City schools will learn about their right to vote and how local government shapes the issues they face in their daily lives. Students who are eligible to vote can fill out voter registration forms on the spot, and students who aren't eligible to vote will learn about other ways to get involved, like voting in Participatory Budgeting and becoming an advocate on the issues that matter to them. Last year our office spearheaded a pilot SVRD that brought civic education to over 3,000 students and yielded over 2,000 newly registered voters. This year SVRD is a citywide effort that will reach over 20,000 high school seniors. If you aren't registered to vote yet and you want to vote in this year's Presidential Primary, be sure to [register to vote before March 25th](#). You can register to vote online if you have a DMV ID, you can print out an application, or you can pick one up from any government office, including my district office on 87th and Columbus. You can learn more about Student Voter Registration Day 2016 [here](#).

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Voting Week is around the corner! Everyone who lives in my district (ages 14 and up) or attends high school in the district can vote in PB, regardless of citizenship status. You can vote in PB even if you're not registered to vote. Get ready by learning about the projects on the [ballot](#) and seeing [where to vote](#).

Save the date: my **third annual Town Hall** will be Monday, April 18 at 6pm. This is a great chance for you to ask questions to representatives from many city agencies, including Education, Transportation, Buildings, Sanitation, and the MTA. I'll also announce the winning projects of PB! [RSVP for faster check-in and to submit a question](#). The most popular questions will be sent to the agencies in advance so they can come with answers, but if your question isn't selected, you can still ask it during the open mic part of the night.

If you are a woman over forty and have not had a mammogram in the past year, you can get a **FREE MAMMOGRAM** sponsored by my office. A mobile care clinic will come to our neighborhood on 88th Street and Columbus Avenue on April 1st from 10am-5pm, please RSVP as soon as possible to get an appointment. Call (212) 873-0282 x.200 or email Helen@HelenRosenthal.com. [See the flyer.](#)

The **lottery for affordable apartments** in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village is open through March 31st. You can see the income requirements on [this flyer](#), and you can apply for the lottery [here](#).

CITY HALL



The Mayor signs Helen's two bills for people with disabilities into law (March 14, 2016). From left to right: Katherine Bouton, President of the New York City Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America; Ruth Bernstein, member of the Hearing Loss Association of America; Monica Bartley, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY); Helen; Lester Marks, Lighthouse Guild; Jerry Bergman, member of the Hearing Loss Association of America; Mayor Bill de Blasio; Council Member Jumaane D. Williams; Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Commissioner Victor Calise; Council office intern Edward Friedman; Lori Podvesker, INCLUDEnyc; and Edith Prentiss, Disabled In Action of Metro NY.

On Monday Mayor Bill de Blasio signed two of my bills into law that will **make it easier for people with disabilities to access City services and civic life**. Local Law 27 of 2016 will [require every City agency to have a Disability Service](#)

[Facilitator](#) on staff to ensure that the agency complies with the ADA for NYC residents, and be a contact for residents with disabilities. Local Law 28 of 2016 will require that all advertisements, posters, invitations, and other publicity materials for events open to the public hosted by city agencies [contain accessibility information, a contact, and a deadline to request accessible accommodations](#). Both laws will take effect on June 12, 2016, and you can watch the bill signing ceremony [here](#).



Helen and Council Members Liz Crowley, Darlene Mealy, and Laurie Cumbo (February 24, 2016).

A few weeks ago I was honored to be voted **Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus** along with Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo. The [Women's Caucus](#) is responsible for a number of budget and policy initiatives. Of particular importance is our concern that only 14 of the 51 Council Members are women, and 5 of them will be term-limited out of office in 2017. We also hope to sponsor and pass legislation to support equal pay and benefits for jobs traditionally held by women.

This month I was [honored to be named](#) to the **Council's Education Committee**. Our district is home to some of the most active public school parents in the city, and I am proud to represent them and be able to bring their issues to the committee. In our district, parents are concerned with issues of overcrowding, zoning, testing, physical education, admissions processes, and more. I am excited to have a front row seat and a vote on issues related to educating our children. Being a member of the Education Committee as well as Chair of the Contract Committee also offers a unique vantage point on which to shine a light on DOE contracts. Last year I helped bring attention to the questionable DOE \$1.1 billion IT contract that was eventually rescinded and reissued at \$472 million. I will focus on the necessary accountability and transparency for those contracts.

With Spring comes **deliberations on the City's budget**. As with all Council hearings, they can be watched live or afterwards through the Council's website, just navigate to the page of the hearing you want to watch [here](#). Hearings are also televised, and you can see [here](#) where to find the NYC Gov channel through your cable provider.

See you in the neighborhood!

Helen.



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