
Council Member Helen Rosenthal's
Town Hall 2018



April 26, 2018

6pm-9pm

**Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
334 Amsterdam Avenue**

**YOU ASK,
THE AGENCIES ANSWER!**



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Agencies in Attendance

Community Board 7 (CB7)	212-362-4008
(Roberta Semer, Board Chair)	
Con Edison	800-752-6633
(Kimberly Williams, Director of Manhattan Public Affairs)	
Department of Buildings (DOB)	212-566-5000
(Byron Munoz, Intergovernmental & Community Affairs, Manhattan)	
Department of Education (DOE)	212-374-4118
(Ilene Altschul, District Superintendent)	
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	718-595-7000
(Humberto Galarza, Borough Coordinator)	
Department of Finance (DOF)	Call 311
(Stina Trainor & Sheela Feinberg, Constituent Liaisons)	
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)	Call 311
(Pauline Ferrante, External Affairs & Caroline Bragdon, Dir, Pest Control)	
Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)	212-408-0201
(William Castro, Borough Commissioner)	
Department of Transportation (DOT)	212-839-6210
(Luis Sanchez, Borough Commissioner)	
Department of Sanitation (DSNY)	Call 311
(Nick Circharo, Community Liaison)	
Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)	212-863-5030
(Lacey Tauber, Development & Planning Director)	
Human Resources Administration (HRA)	718-557-1399
(Kenneth Charles, Borough Coordinator)	
Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	Call 511
(Cate Contino and Luke DePalma, Government & Community Relations)	
NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA)	718-707-7771
(Brian Honan, Director of Intergovernmental Relations)	
NYPD, 20th Precinct	212-580-6411
(Captain Timothy J. Malin)	
NYPD, 24th Precinct	212-678-1811
(Captain Seth A. Lynch)	

Special Thanks

- *Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan*
 - *Eve Landau, Director, Joseph Stern Center for Social Responsibility*
 - *Matt Temkin, Audio Engineer & Digital Media Specialist*
 - *the entire JCC staff*

- *The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities*

- *Lauren Schechter, TotalCaption*

- *Council Member Rosenthal District & City Hall Offices*
Volunteers & Interns
 - *Amelia Roth-Dishy*
 - *Lucy Merriam*
 - *Luis Cisneros*
 - *Amina Shikupilwa*
 - *Emma Cloyd*
 - *Paul Goebel*
 - *Matt Abuelo*
 - *Lucila Broide*
 - *Robin Jacobson*
 - *Cheryl Kligler*
 - *Christina Habian*
 - *Marco Tewlow*
 - *Joelle Tirado*
 - *Alexandra Tapia*
 - *James Chapman*

Special thank you to Amelia for her work in putting together this booklet.

- ***Volunteers & Delegates, Participatory Budgeting 2018***

- ***Nathaniel Epstein***
- ***Vivian Manvathela***
- ***Julian Giordano***
- ***Luis Cisneros***

Delegates:

- ***Madeleine Dale***
- ***Vernice Tillery***
- ***Carolyn Stem***
- ***Andrew Topal***
- ***Ira Gershenhorn***
- ***Cosimo Montagu***
- ***Jonathan Codorniu***
- ***Lillie Boudreaux***
- ***Rosalia Minyety***
- ***Barbara Chen***
- ***Joan Conlon***
- ***Cindy Cardinal***
- ***Michael Frederic***
- ***Sara Dillon***
- ***Amy Rogers***
- ***Ellen Valkone***
- ***George Weisgerber***
- ***Susan Narow***
- ***David Kornacker***
- ***Joel Shirasu-Hiza***
- ***Debby Saito***
- ***Sharon Mieri-Fox***
- ***Cheryl Sussman***
- ***Martha Cameron***
- ***Lucila Broide***
- ***Elena Levine***
- ***Kenneth Ritvo***
- ***CVH: Shannon Barber***



Contact Us

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212-873-0282

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Anna Gago, Director of Housing
Vivian Rivera, Social Work Services
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Town Hall Questions & Answers: Note for Readers

The questions that follow were submitted by constituents on-line over the last two months. Some of the questions have been consolidated, or edited for brevity and/or clarity.

After every response you will see its author, whether it was an agency or Council Member Rosenthal's office. In some cases there are two responses provided for one question, and we indicate the authors of both responses. We have made every effort to provide succinct yet helpful responses. The information provided here is not definitive; it is intended to give residents the best possible sense of the current reality on the ground, with guidance on how to obtain more assistance.

If you are seeking information about a neighborhood-related matter not mentioned in this booklet, you might want to look at the detailed responses our office provided to the almost 200 questions that were submitted for our 2017 Town Hall. You can find those questions and answers on Council Member Rosenthal's website under <http://helenrosenthal.com/town-hall-2/>.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

A Brief Message from Helen

Thank you so much for joining us this evening at our fifth annual Town Hall! This booklet aims to answer any questions you have asked of our office that were not covered in the program tonight. Our office contact information is listed for your convenience as well.

This Town Hall is equipped with Communication Access Real-Time Translation, or CART. Promoting accessibility for all New Yorkers has been at the forefront of my efforts as your City Council representative, and I am proud to make this Town Hall accessible to people with hearing loss in our community.

Thank you again for spending your Thursday evening with us.

Warmly,



TRANSPORTATION

STREET CONDITIONS & STREET SAFETY

Q: What can be done about potholes and uneven roads on Columbus, between about 94th and 88th streets, and the loud noise of trucks rattling over?

A: DOT will inspect and make the necessary short-term repairs as well as evaluate the street for future resurfacing. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal's office will follow up with DOT on this issue. We will confirm they've made the inspection and that appropriate action has been taken.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Why has the DOT not completed the job of painting white lines on the road all along West End Avenue, specifically on 70th, 71st and 72nd Streets?

A: DOT is unable to install roadway markings during the colder winter months. Our spring markings season has now begun and we are installing markings throughout Manhattan.
(Dept of Transportation)

Q: Would DOT be willing to install a safety Pedestrian Island in the middle of West End Avenue and W. 70th Street similar to the one on West End Ave and W. 66th Street? W. 70th and West End Ave has become so dangerous to cross for pedestrians, and many accidents have been witnessed -- cars make turns and don't stop when traffic lights are green and pedestrians are crossing!

A: This request is under evaluation. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal has repeatedly made this request to the DOT. We will follow up with them and continue to advocate for this pedestrian safety island.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: What can be done about the condition of UWS intersections which flood after rainfall? They are worse after the latest repaving. At 71st and Broadway (SW corner), the water is so deep you cannot cross. This has occurred at almost every intersection, Broadway and Columbus, 60-72 streets.

A: DOT will inspect the intersection of West 71st Street and Broadway and coordinate with DEP on appropriate action. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal's office will follow up with DOT about how to address the fact that repaving seems to have worsened ponding in some areas. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Why are trucks and buses allowed to travel on West End Avenue when posted signs state "Passenger Cars Only"?

A: In general, trucks and buses must follow the city's truck route network until they reach local roads that are needed to reach their destinations. Therefore, trucks, commercial vehicles, and buses with a legitimate destination on or near West End Avenue may use the street. Please contact NYPD to discuss enforcement. *(Dept of Transportation)*

Q: What can be done about the dangerous intersection of 96th Street and Broadway? When will a red light camera be installed?

Unfortunately, state law limits the number of intersections where DOT may install red light cameras. Please contact your state elected officials to ask that the cap be removed or increased. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal has held several meetings with both NYPD Traffic Enforcement and the DOT regarding this intersection. She continues to advocate for improved safety measures and believes more should be done. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Why isn't there a transportation officer assigned to Columbus Ave at West 86th Street to help the eastbound flow each morning? The backup extends all the way to Amsterdam Avenue.

A: Traffic officer assignments are made by the NYPD based on traffic data and safety/incident complaints. Officers are assigned using these metrics. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Is it possible to install a Stop sign at the southwest corner of West 70th Street and Freedom Place? (It is a dangerous turn, with a blindspot, for cars driving up Freedom Place and taking a left onto West 70th Street, and a dangerous crossing for pedestrians looking to cross from the northern side of West 70th to the southern side. There is a crosswalk painted on W. 70th Street, but with no Stop sign.)

A: This street is currently under private ownership. DOT will contact the property owner to share this request. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal commits to holding a meeting with Community Board 7 and the DOT to follow up on the question of private ownership of streets, in particular how this impacts street safety and street policy decisions. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: How can the City increase the safety and efficiency of the southbound West Side Highway exit at 79th Street? Can the City-----

- Remove the stop sign, making the exit ramp 2 lanes with a YIELD sign instead?
- Stop eastbound buses from sitting and blocking the right lane once in the circle?
- Repave this circle?
- Remove the "BUMP" signs on the southbound WSH just before the 96th Street exit?

A: DOT is currently in final design for a capital project to reconstruct the Rotunda and has already presented our plans to Community Board 7, which has written a letter to ask several questions and make suggestions. We plan to return to the CB to continue to discuss this project later this fall. *(Dept of Transportation)*

PARKING

Q: There is no parking on city streets anymore for people with NYC disability permits. Why has the City removed all the parking spots and replaced them with “no standing any time” spots?

A: New Yorkers with a valid disability parking permit may park at meters without paying or at other areas that are otherwise restricted, including No Parking or Truck Loading zones. No Standing Anytime zones generally serve a specific safety purpose, such as clearing corners to increase visibility. We are happy to evaluate any specific locations to see if regulations can be refined. *(Dept of Transportation)*

Q: Would the City consider installing a metered/resident parking system in which residents do not pay a fee? Boston that has installed an incredibly easy mobile platform.

A: DOT has concerns about the effectiveness and trade-offs involved with a residential parking permit system. Please note that such a system would also require state legislation. *(Dept of Transportation)*

CM Rosenthal is a co-prime sponsor of legislation introduced on 4/25/18 to institute a residential parking permit system in New York City.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

SUBWAYS & BUSES

Q: Why are there only two seats at recently installed bus stops, as opposed to the usual 3 -- when 4 are really needed! NYS MTA chooses the bus stops in NYC; but NYC DOT installs the bus stop shelters.

A: There are two models of bus shelters: a “regular” model with a bench than can accommodate three people and a “short” model with a bench featuring two seats. Siting

requirements, including proximity to adjacent street furniture or underground utilities, often determines which shelter can be placed. *(Dept of Transportation)*

Q: Why hasn't the bus shelter at 65th and Broadway been reinstalled? It was displaced by construction at Alice Tully Hall.

A: The previous location was removed in 2006 and we could not install a shelter replacement because of several constraints, including a fire hydrant, sewer, and three access plates. *(Dept of Transportation)*

Q: When will there be bus countdown clocks?

A: New bus countdown clocks will be launched this spring on LINKnyc Kiosks. All Kiosks within 0.3 miles of a bus route will have countdown clocks for those bus routes.

The bus countdown clocks that were funded by CM Rosenthal, via Participatory Budgeting, will be installed by the end of summer 2018 at bus stops along the M104 route on Broadway. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

72ND STREET SUBWAY CLOSURE

Council Member Rosenthal's office has spoken with the MTA on this topic and the following responses come from those conversations.

Q: What will MTA do to monitor vibrations on Cong. Shearith Israel, a landmark building?

A: MTA will be speaking directly with any groups or buildings that have specific concerns. They are meeting with Cong. Shearith Israel this week. Please let us know if you have a building-wide concern and we will connect you with the MTA on this issue.

Q: Will there be noise mitigation, especially during Sabbath and holiday services?

A: Most work will be underground so noise is not anticipated as a major problem. There will be some street-level set-up noise that will occur, but generally most of the work will be out of earshot.

Q: What dust or debris should we expect?

A: There will be some street set-up, but the majority of the work will be underground and dust and debris is not anticipated.

Q: Is there any chance of limiting work to nights and weekends?

A: The MTA has an extensive repair and renovation project at this site (and others on the B/C line) and they want to get it done swiftly to be able to open the stations up as soon as possible.

Q: Why will it take the MTA 6 months to renovate the 86th St B, C subway station?

A: The MTA has stated that the renovation of the B/C subway stations involves extensive repair work for water damage and infrastructure wear and tear. According to a 2/13/18 presentation by the MTA, the 72nd and 86th Street B/C stations will close on May 7th and June 4th respectively. The Cathedral Parkway/110th Street B/C station, which closed for renovations in April, will reopen in September, 2018. The 86th and 72nd Street stations will re-open in October.

The core elements of the project are station upgrades such as waterproofing and floor topping; rehabilitation of station entrances; illuminated handrails and countdown clocks; improved mezzanines; improved platforms; and improved amenities such as Wi-Fi, Help Points, and LED lighting.

The MTA has said that this station shutdown program allows them to complete essential work swiftly and all at once, as opposed to a more prolonged approach taking many years.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Can the police presence at the W. 103rd St. subway station be increased?

A: If you witness an incident of concern at this station, please call 311 or 911 depending on the situation. You can also follow up with CM Rosenthal's office. You may also want to consider attending a 24th Precinct Community Council meeting. They are held monthly, and are a great venue for residents. The Captain of the 24th Precinct, along with Community Affairs and Neighborhood Coordinating officers, are always in attendance.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Is it possible to have bicycle racks behind buses and on subways?

A: The MTA did not provide an answer to this question.

Q: What should be done about the fact that the MTA is paying half of the emergency repair fund, and the Mayor doesn't want to pay the other half but the City Council speaker does want to pay?

A: We believe you are referring to the Subway Action Plan. Since this question was submitted, Mayor de Blasio has agreed that the City will pay for the second half of the Subway Action Plan. The City's half has been put in a "lockbox," as part of the recent State budget agreement. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Why doesn't the MTA offer a reduced fare MetroCard to veterans?

A: The City Council and Mayor DeBlasio are negotiating around the "Fair Fares" budget proposal, which would reduce MTA fares for low-income and other New Yorkers. Including veterans as part of the proposal is one of the discussion points.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Can the MTA restore the M5 bus route all the way to South Ferry?

A: The MTA decided to break the M5's route in two in order to better manage its schedule and regularity. The M5 has the longest route in the city, and there were related scheduling issues. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

SMALL BUSINESSES

Q: Local businesses provide vibrancy and safety to neighborhoods. Commercial rents are rising, local stores are closing more frequently, and the storefront sits empty for months and years before a new commercial tenant moves in. What is the City doing to support Small Businesses? Is it true that commercial landlords get tax breaks for keeping stores empty and are waiting for big-box type stores to fill empty spaces?

A: CM Rosenthal's office believes that disincentives should be created to stop the practice of keeping storefronts empty for longer than a certain period of time. As it stands, if a landlord keeps a storefront vacant, the net operating losses from zero revenues and ongoing maintenance costs are effectively reduced by the tax code.

However, it is unlikely that this is a major contributing factor in vacant storefronts, as landlords would be sacrificing income by keeping the storefront empty in order to get a marginal tax break. Instead, landlords have been holding out for tenants that are willing to pay extremely high rents, limiting the ability of local small businesses to rent space in our neighborhoods.

There are a number of public policy steps we can take to help locally owned business remain on the Upper West Side and thrive. Read more about them in CM Rosenthal's Small Business Health Report. Our report examines soaring rents and other issues faced by small businesses in our community, as well as the impact of empty storefronts.

<http://helenrosenthal.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Small-Business-Report-5.pdf>
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: The closure of West Side Market on Broadway and 77th street was a blow to the community. We are losing affordable grocery stores and end up having to walk blocks to go grocery shopping. What is being doing to create local, affordable grocery store options for our community?

A: CM Rosenthal has been a major supporter of Speaker Johnson's legislation which would give supermarkets relief from the Commercial Rent Tax (CRT).

The Commercial Rent Tax has been an added burden for small businesses struggling to survive in the heart of Manhattan, below 96th Street. After a long fight, the City Council passed legislation in November 2017, excluding businesses paying less than \$500,000 in annual rent from the CRT. This will provide full tax relief, or a reduction, to an estimated 3,000 small businesses in Manhattan. Our hope is that the legislation giving CRT relief to supermarkets will also pass. **(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)**

NEIGHBORHOOD

NOISE POLLUTION

Q: What are the rules on when emergency vehicles can use their sirens, and is there a limit on how loud they can be?

A: The use of sirens on emergency vehicles is governed by state law. Authorized emergency vehicles are permitted to use both sirens and flashing lights in the course of operation, and there is no legislative limit on the volume of these sirens.

However, CM Rosenthal supported a recent initiative at Mount Sinai hospital to adopt a new, European-style, lower-pitch siren sound for use on their emergency vehicles. This new siren tone improves the quality of life for Upper West Side residents while still maintaining public safety. CM Rosenthal supports expanding this type of siren to other emergency care providers throughout the city. *(Office of Council Member Rosenthal)*

RODENT CONTROL

Q: Last fall the UWS received additional funding to tackle the large increase of rodents. What is the status of the efforts to reduce/eliminate rodents from our neighborhood?

A: CM Rosenthal's office is working closely with the Departments of Sanitation and Health to attack our rat problem from several angles. She allocated \$78,000 for more secure Big Belly Bins to be installed in playgrounds and other areas in Riverside Park -- Big Belly Bins are now in all the Riverside Park playgrounds. Her office has also funded Big Bellies in other parts of the Upper West Side, such as Verdi Square.

Last fall, the Mayor announced a \$750,000 investment dedicated to tackling rat "hot spots" on the Upper West Side. The City's strategy centers around the removal of available food sources and habitats for rats. The interagency effort targeted rat activity in 12 playgrounds, parks and schools by implementing better waste containers, increased baiting, more pest control staff, and increased enforcement of food disposal violations.

CM Rosenthal's office also conducts periodic neighborhood walk-throughs with the Department of Health to identify problematic areas. And her office co-sponsors special trainings with the DOHMH to educate building owners, managers and supers on how to make their buildings rat-proof.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: There is a huge rat infestation by the NYCHA development on 94th street between Broadway and Amsterdam. What is being done to address this problem?

A: This is NYCHA property and they are responsible for addressing the situation. The Department of Health has spoken to their colleagues at NYCHA about this matter, and dry ice has been provided to NYCHA for placement in rat burrows.

Our office has been following up weekly with NYCHA regarding this, and we will keep a close eye on NYCHA's work to address the rat problems at this building and other locations in our district. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

SIDEWALKS

Q: Why is scaffolding allowed to stay up for years and years? What can be done to make sure scaffolding doesn't stay up indefinitely?

A: Sidewalk bridges are erected to protect pedestrians from unsafe building façades, and they are not supposed to come down until any necessary repairs are made. However, Council Member Rosenthal and other Members are deeply concerned about the length of time these bridges often remain in place.

The Council Members are engaged in ongoing discussions with the Department of Buildings about how to cap the amount of time that sidewalk bridges remain in place. CM Rosenthal is also a co-sponsor of Council Member Kallos' legislation, which would put a time limit on sidewalk bridges outside of New York City buildings.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Sidewalk sheds and scaffold equipment is required by Building Code, Chapter 33, to protect the public from possible construction debris or from an unsafe condition. The removal of required sidewalk sheds and/or scaffolding, may occur after the receipt and review of an engineer's report, advising that it is safe to remove said safety equipment. Properties equipped with sidewalk sheds and/or scaffolding, with missing lights, defects and/or where the sidewalk or scaffold permits has expired, may be reported to 311. Once the complainant has obtained a 311 issued Service Request Number (SRN) (complaint number), the complaint number may be e-mailed to the local community board and/or council member's office, for follow-up with DOB. To locate sidewalk sheds, visit: Sidewalk Shed Report. <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/html/sidewalk-shed-map.html>
(Department of Buildings)

Q: What can be done about the sidewalk on 91st Street between Central Park West and Columbus? It has been damaged and uneven for years, causing many accidents.

A: City law requires property owners to maintain and repair the sidewalks adjacent to their properties. DOT has previously inspected this block and issued Notices of Violation to all properties with existing defects. *(Dept of Transportation)*

SCHOOLS

Q: What is the DOE doing to make sure that our schools achieve diversity for students as well as parent leaders?

A: CM Rosenthal is anxious to see what steps new Chancellor Richard A. Carranza will take regarding diversity. This is at the top of her agenda to discuss with him in an upcoming meeting.

The District 3 rezoning was one small step. There is an enormous amount of work that needs to be done to achieve real diversity, and CM Rosenthal continues to advocate strongly for the desegregation of our district schools and those across our city.

There also needs to be more aggressive recruitment for the local Community Education Council (CEC) -- the Department of Education and the community need to encourage as wide a range of parents as possible to participate in local education issues. ***(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)***

Q: When is the deadline to apply for pre-K? What are other important deadlines in the schools application process that I should know?

A: If you have a child born in 2014 and missed the Pre-K for All Main Round application, you can still fill out a late application and must submit it by May 2nd.

Learn more here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>

Please check the Department of Education (<http://schools.nyc.gov/>) and District 3 Community Education Council (<https://www.cec3.org/>) websites for other deadlines which change every year.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: What is the current status of the District 3 rezoning?

A: The 2016 rezoning has had significant positive effects already and has gone smoothly. The PS 199 waitlist has significantly decreased, and both PS 191 and PS 452 have increased their enrollment, as a direct result of the rezoning.

PS 87 and PS 9 currently have waitlists but the percentage of siblings at both schools is extremely high this particular year and it is believed that this is not a long term problem.

We do not have waitlists at any other schools unless there were late applications, and those are in the single digits. Once Gifted & Talented offers go out to students, it appears that these waitlists will all clear, as they have in the past when there were similar numbers.

No schools have added kindergarten classrooms in response to enrollment numbers. The rezoning has allowed more Universal Pre-K classes to come on-line -- PS 84, PS 191 and PS 452 have all added classes.

CM Rosenthal continues to keep a very close eye on this process, and is in close communication with all the schools affected by the rezoning and the Dept of Education.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Q: How can I follow up on an online request to the Dept. of Parks & Recreation on April 2, 2016, for a tree planting on our street? I received an update on Nov. 17, 2016 that the department will "visit the location to investigate the condition." No action since then.

A: It can take up to two years for a tree planting request to be completed. You can check the Parks Department website to see the status of tree requests in District 6 by going to <https://www.nycgovparks.org/>, and clicking on "Trees." Or, contact CM Rosenthal's office directly.

Please note that the City is prioritizing neighborhoods that do not have many trees, and this may add to the wait-time for neighborhoods like ours which already have a significant number. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: What is the status of the Styrofoam Recycle Bill (Intro 1480-2017)?

A: The ban on polystyrene remains caught up in legal issues. In 2013, the City Council passed a law authorizing the Department of Sanitation to determine whether it were economically viable and environmentally feasible to recycle expanded polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam) in New York City. DSNY determined that it was not and began to take steps to ban its use.

However, this determination was challenged on legal grounds, and DSNY was forced to go back and redo its evaluation. In the meantime, some members of the City Council began to push Intro. 1480, which would have overridden DSNY's judgement and required the City to accept expanded polystyrene for recycling, while others (including CM Rosenthal) supported Intro. 1569, which would have affirmed DSNY's judgement and banned expanded polystyrene. Finally, in May of 2017, DSNY completed its second evaluation and again determined that expanded polystyrene could not be recycled. This ban, which was set to take effect in November of 2017, is again currently held up by legal challenges.

Council Member Rosenthal is in favor of banning expanded polystyrene. She is a co-sponsor of Intro. 135-2018, the latest version of a bill that would cleanly ban expanded polystyrene. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: What is being done to mitigate the traffic issues around the Museum of Natural History?

A: Once construction of the museum's new Gilder Center begins, a construction committee made up of community members and elected officials, including CM Rosenthal, will be working to address issues such as traffic congestion. There was a similar community

committee which reviewed the initial plans for the Center.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

DOT continues to work with Council Member Rosenthal, the Museum, and local stakeholders on traffic concerns in this area. *(Dept of Transportation)*

Q: There is a variety of huge exhaust/air equipment from two restaurants on the low roof of the building where I live; the units are very close to residential windows. The NYC DEP has fined these establishments in the past for noise violations. What can be done to enforce NYC or NYS Building Codes that specify placement of such equipment -- and what are those codes that apply to how close windows can be to such units? How can I request an inspection?

A: To schedule an inspection with the DEP regarding noise from nearby machines, please call 311 and you can also follow up with our office. The DEP will inspect the site and, upon request, will also measure the noise level in your home from these machines.

The noise created by such machinery cannot exceed a certain decibel level. If the noise exceeds what is permitted by the City, and the business does not mitigate said noise within a specific time frame, it faces major fines. If the situation does not improve, please call 311 and our office again. The fines will continue to mount until the noise is addressed.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Ventilation and/or exhaust equipment must be located at 10 feet away from residential windows. Observed violations of this rule should be reported to 311, for follow-up with the local community board and/or council member's office, and for an inspection by DOB.

(Department of Buildings)

Q. DEP performed sewer lining work on West 84th street between Riverside Drive and WEA. We are concerned about toxins being released into the air and any long-term health effects. The work also released a foul odor. What was done to address these concerns? Why wasn't there better communication with residents?

A. The in-situ sewer lining process has been in use around the world for decades. In New York City, this process has been in use about 30 years, and DEP estimates that 300 to 450 miles of sewers have been lined by the City with this process during that time.

DEP lined approximately 16 miles of sewers in 2017 and received only a few complaints during that time.

The process vastly reduces the cost to water ratepayers to repair or replace aging sewers, and greatly reduces the inconvenience of temporarily closing streets and eliminating parking. The liner is a felt tube, which is impregnated with styrene resin. Heated water or steam is pumped through the felt liner, pressing it against the sewer to take the proper shape and causing the resin to harden. The resin usually takes no more than 12 hours to

set. While the resin is setting, volatile organic chemicals or VOCs are given off by the resin. These VOCs can then enter building sewer service lines, which are usually no bigger than 4 inches in diameter.

If a building owner's sewer trap is working properly, which is a requirement under the NYC Plumbing Code, there is usually very little of no odor from the resin. If the trap is not working properly, occupants of the buildings may experience strong odors from the resin, but the exposure to the chemical is within safe limits. Both DEP and DOHMH staff have responded to complaints about the resin odor and have never found that a level of VOCs given off by the resin alone that exceeded maximum safe levels.

DEP's contractor Entech provided notifications about this work before it began. In response to complaints from Upper West Side residents, DEP is working to update and improve the procedures followed and material used to ensure that residents are fully aware of this work before it is done, as well as for the potential for temporary exposure to strong odors from the resin if the trap in their home is old or failing.

(Department of Environmental Protection)

PARKS

Q: What are the rules for use of dog-leashes in our parks?

A: Some park areas allow dogs to be off leash from the time the park opens until 9:00 a.m., and from 9:00 p.m. until the park closes. The off-leash policy in certain parks may be subject to changes in consideration of resident or transient wildlife.

- In Central Park, dogs must be on-leash between 9:00AM - 9:00PM.
- In Riverside Park, dogs must be on-leash between 9:00AM - 9:00PM, except in the four dog runs. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Riverside Park requires lots of maintenance. What can be done to improve upkeep and complete necessary repairs?

A: Over the last four years, Council Member Rosenthal has allocated \$3,390,000 for capital improvements in Riverside Park. To learn more about the projects funded by CM Rosenthal, visit helenrosenthal.com/fy-18-funding.

It is important to stress that Riverside Park has seen tremendous improvements over the last twenty years, and has relied to a great extent on the Riverside Park Conservancy and volunteer labor to do so. Volunteers assist with cleaning, planting and infrastructure work. To learn more about the Conservancy and the projects it works on, visit riversideparknyc.org. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Why is the Skateboard Park in Riverside Park at 109th street locked? When will it be reopened?

A: The Skate Park is currently closed for the season. It is scheduled to reopen May 5 through September 30. Due to resource constraints, the Park will have limited hours. An attendant must be present when it is open.

The existing park is being reconstructed, and will include new elements for skaters of all ages/experience levels. The design will include fencing for safety and security, benches and picnic tables, and surrounding landscape improvements.
(Department of Parks & Recreation / Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Forestry has removed many trees in the past year between the Hudson River Greenway and the Hudson River. Will those trees be replaced? Is there a plan to plant trees along the Hudson River where there currently are none?

A: Dead or dying trees were removed from the area along Cherry Walk between 96th and 125th Streets in the past year. Many, if not most of them, should be replaced starting next year when a new planting contract is in place. We must keep in mind that this is a very tough growing micro-climate, with runoff from the highway combined with salt and wind

coming from the river side affecting the trees. We will assess potential sites for new trees after DOT completes the installation of lighting along Cherry Walk, which is well underway, and after we repave this section of the greenway, which we plan to do starting next year.

(Department of Parks & Recreation)

Q: When will the hardscape of Riverside Park between 95th and 91st streets, including the very dangerous entrance to the park at 91st Street, be renovated?

A: The reconstruction of the sidewalk between W. 91st – 95th Streets, which was funded by Council Member Rosenthal, has been completed. The interior path from W. 91st to 95th Streets, including the entrance area at 91st Street, is also scheduled for reconstruction, thanks to another allocation by the Council Member. This work should begin shortly. This is a multi-site contract that includes the greenway between W. 72nd - 83rd Streets and the sidewalk on Riverside Drive at W. 122nd -125th Streets. We will be meeting with the contractor to determine where work will begin. *(Department of Parks & Recreation)*

Q: When will the City pave the sidewalk in Riverside Park between 79th and 83rd Streets? It has holes that collect water and create muddy conditions. Also -- are they going to do something about the standing water in that part of the park after it rains? It's a potential mosquito breeding area.

A: The sidewalk at that location is in good condition. There is a problem with puddling on the interior path between 79th - 83rd Streets, which we sweep out whenever it rains.

(Department of Parks & Recreation)

SANITATION

Q: How can we enforce people picking up after their dogs?

A: Constituents can assist in the enforcement of individuals cleaning up their dogs' waste by calling 311 and providing the representative with the location, time and days when the "Poopertrator" is in violation of the law. DSNY will then send Canine Enforcement to monitor the area and issue summons to violators. (***Department of Sanitation***)

CM Rosenthal has been advocating that the departments of Transportation and Sanitation reinstate signage on our streets to educate people on the need to clean up after their dogs. (***Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal***)

Q: Can/should we reduce alternate side parking to once a week per side?

A: Our office hears complaints about street cleanliness frequently, and would not want to reduce the DSNY's street cleaning schedule. However, CM Rosenthal does support legislation that would allow drivers to park on both sides of the street on street cleaning days as soon as the sweeper has passed through their block.

Please note that according to DSNY's Strategic Plan Update, the agency has outfitted many of their sweeping and collection vehicles with new engines, reducing noise and emissions. In addition, older vehicles are being phased-out and replaced with greener, more efficient, and more effective street sweeping and collection vehicles. The DSNY says that streetside cleanliness ratings across the city are at record highs, and service has improved. Please call 311 or contact our district office at (212) 873-0282 if a street isn't being cleaned.

(***Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal***)

Q: How can the Department of Sanitation encourage retailers to stop providing customers with single-use plastic bags?

A: In 2016, the City Council passed a bill authorizing a five cent fee on plastic bags in New York City. However, in February of 2017 the New York State legislature passed legislation that barred the City Council bill from taking effect, so there is currently no penalty on using plastic carryout bags from stores.

It is important to note that the carryout bag fee would not have applied to customers making purchases using the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, also known as "food stamps") and the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC). These persons would also have been given a reusable bag free of charge.

In February 2018, State Senators Liz Krueger and Brad Hoylman, and Assembly Member Steve Englebright, introduced a bill to tackle the statewide problem of plastic bag pollution.

The legislation (S7760/A9953), which aligns with recommendations made by Governor Cuomo's Plastic Bag Task Force, would ban plastic carryout bags and place a ten-cent fee on all other carryout bags, to encourage the use of reusable alternatives. Revenue raised by the fee would go to the State Environmental Protection Fund.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Who is responsible for cleaning sidewalk in front of a school? And, who's responsible for clearing curb cuts for people in wheelchairs or with walkers/strollers when it snows?

A: Every school is responsible for keeping their sidewalk clean.

Residential buildings, businesses and property owners are responsible for keeping adjoining property – along with the first eighteen inches from the curb into the street -- clean. They are also responsible for clearing curb cuts of snow. *(Department of Sanitation)*

Q: Can we get the large covered green curbside garbage cans in our district to replace the old and overflowing mesh wire cans?

A: Council Member Rosenthal has allocated funding for new garbage cans for District 6, especially along Amsterdam Avenue, and they should be in place soon.

Also, please note that DSNY has been working with retail stores, community organizations and businesses, via their "adopt-a-basket" initiative, to get more baskets out on the streets. DSNY is also in the process of replacing baskets throughout the city with "efficient and durable designs." If a waste basket is missing or is no longer working properly, please contact 311 or our district office at (212) 873-0282.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Why is there so much litter on Broadway sidewalks especially in front of Victoria's Secret, for example - are businesses no longer complying with sweeping regulations?

A: CM Rosenthal has allocated funding for supplemental sanitation services in an effort to clean-up dirty street corners in our district — including the area around 85th and Broadway near Victoria's Secret.

Businesses are responsible for making sure that the entire sidewalk in front of and next to their establishment is kept clean and passable. This is true regardless of where property lines fall, and applies whether a business rents or owns their storefront. Please call 311 if you see a business that is not keeping its section of the sidewalk clear of litter.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

BIKES/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Q: Is the NYPD enforcing laws related to e-bikes and motorized bicycles? How is the NYPD enforcing the rules of the road when it comes to cyclists? Pedestrian safety is as important as cyclist safety.

A: Yes, both the 20th and 24th Precincts have stepped up enforcement on bicycles which violate traffic rules; and e-bikes, which are illegal and cannot be ridden on New York City streets.

For example, to date this year, the 24th Precinct has issued 386 bike-related summons and seized 30 e-bikes. Both precincts have very clearly heard the concerns of constituents, and CM Rosenthal, about pedestrian safety issues with bikes generally, and e-bikes in particular.

As a city, we need to come up with other solutions to pedestrian/bike safety problems, in addition to issuing summons and seizing bikes. The whole question of how we share our streets needs to be more thought-through. A real conversation is required about how to approach cycling as a form of transportation which will only continue to grow in New York. ***(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)***

Q: Can the City remind restaurants and food stores that delivery bikes require headlights? Also-- that riding on sidewalks, speeding through red lights, going the wrong way on bike lanes, is against safety regulations?

A: DOT has a robust education and inspections programs to ensure business owners and delivery cyclists are both familiar and in compliance with the City's commercial bicyclist laws. To date, we have held six forums within Community Board 7, at which we reminded cyclists of the rules of the road and distributed free equipment, including vests, lights, and bells. ***(CM Rosenthal's office has co-sponsored some of these forums, including one in December, 2017.)***

Please dial 311 to report businesses with delivery cyclists who are not complying with the law. Please note that certain infractions, including riding through red lights or on the sidewalk, must be enforced by NYPD. ***(Dept of Transportation)***

Q: How are traffic regulations for bicycle riders enforced? Cyclists violate traffic lights and cross when pedestrians have the green light, going very fast in all directions and very close to pedestrians. They should obey traffic rules and regulations the same as cars and pedestrians, paying fines or going to jail if they don't respect traffic rules.

A: While enforcement against illegal cyclist behavior falls to NYPD, DOT is ramping up efforts to educate cyclists about the rules of the road. We also have programs to provide cyclists with free safety equipment, including helmets, bells, and lights.

Council Member Rosenthal is a great supporter of our efforts, and we are excited to partner with her once again to for our next Helmet Fitting and Giveaway event on Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. outside her district office. ***(Dept of Transportation)***

HOUSING

Q: What is being done concerning the exorbitant increases annually for rent controlled tenants?

A: Similar to rent stabilization, rent control limits the rent an owner may charge for an apartment and restricts the right of any owner to evict tenants. Tenants are also entitled to receive essential services. In New York City, rent control operates under the Maximum Base Rent (MBR) system. A maximum base rent is established for each apartment and adjusted every two years to reflect changes in operating costs.

Owners, who certify that they are providing essential services and have removed violations, are entitled to raise rents up to 7.5 percent each year until they reach the MBR. Rent regulation laws are determined by the State, but the City monitors them and calls for strengthening rent laws when they are up for renewal in Albany. This administration is committed to developing a strong rent reform platform, and is currently in the process of soliciting feedback from stakeholders. ***(Department of Housing Preservation & Development)***

In December 2017, the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal approved a 7.5% increase to the Maximum Base Rent (MBR) for rent controlled apartments in New York City. This substantial increase will be carried out over a two-year period (2018-2020).

This increase does NOT apply to rent-stabilized leases, nor does it apply to SCRIE and DRIE recipients. **If you are a senior citizen or a person with a disability, our office can help you apply for a rent-freeze through the SCRIE and DRIE programs.** Please call (212) 873-0282, x206 with questions about the MBR increase and/or how to apply for SCRIE/DRIE.

Prior to their decision, Helen testified to DHCR calling for a rent freeze for rent-controlled apartments. MBR is a critical issue for seniors and other Upper West Siders living on fixed incomes. The median annual income of a rent-controlled tenant is less than \$22,000. Almost 40,000 vulnerable New Yorkers live in rent-controlled apartments.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Can HPD come out with a statement that rent stabilized residents of buildings under the 421a program will/should be offered a lease under rent stabilized guidelines after the 20-year term of the program ends?

A: 421-a is a State program, and under the terms of this program, the units become decontrolled upon vacancy after the end of the benefit period. As part of our commitment to affordable housing preservation, HPD will proactively engage with any owner that is

interested in entering into a regulatory agreement to further extend affordability at their property. (*Department of Housing Preservation & Development*)

Q: I am trying to learn more about how Section 8 and other affordable housing programs actually work.

A: Please contact Vivian Rivera, Constituent Services Liaison, who is in CM Rosenthal's District Office every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, at (212) 873-0282 x. 202, about your specific circumstances.

Also, please note that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) offers several affordable housing programs throughout New York City. Learn more about all the programs here: <http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/service/1021/affordable-housing>; or by calling 311.

HPD's "NYC Housing Connect" program enables New Yorkers to apply for affordable units in private developments. Some "Mitchell-Lama" and "NYC Housing Development Corporation" developments are also accepting applications. There are other programs as well, including ones for seniors and persons with disabilities.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: How can we improve and increase housing at the rental and purchase prices that exist already within the community?

A: HPD is committed to providing housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. In fact, almost half of the City's housing production last year went to the lowest income groups. Our most recent update to the City's housing plan, Housing New York 2.0, sets a new goal of building and preserving 300,000 homes by 2026. This plan focuses on creating Extremely-Low and Very Low-Income (ELI and VLI) units by increasing this target to 25% of the overall housing plan, a 5% increase from the original target (now 75,000 units in the next 7 years). HPD also issued new term sheets in May 2017, and now incorporates units for the very lowest income households into virtually every new construction project.

This commitment is backed by financing opportunities. The Executive Budget now includes an additional \$1.9B in Capital funds that will be allocated over the remaining seven years of the Housing New York plan to achieve deeper affordability.

Over the past four years, the City has also made significant investments to preserve the quality and affordability of the existing affordable housing stock. At the same time, renters benefited from limited increases in their rent-stabilized rents. As tenants saw more relief on their rents overall, we also advanced a targeted agenda to protect tenants:

- Introduced Universal Access to Legal Representation in 2017 with the City Council for all low-income tenants facing eviction proceedings in Housing Court.

- Launched a Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force in 2015 with the Attorney General and State Tenant Protection Unit to investigate potential harassment and bring enforcement actions— including civil and criminal charges— against landlords who harass tenants.
 - Expanded the SCRIE and DRIE programs in 2014 to freeze the rent for more of our seniors and people with disabilities living in rent-regulated apartments.
- (Department of Housing Preservation & Development)***

Helen is fighting to ensure that low and/or fixed-income members of our community (and New Yorkers in general) can remain in their homes and not become homeless. To do this, New York City's affordable housing stock must be protected and expanded.

A key way to protect affordable housing is to stop tenant harassment, in which landlords use various illegal practices to force residents out of their often rent stabilized homes. This has been a huge problem in District 6. In response, Helen helped to draft a bill package — now law — called “Stand for Tenant Safety,” which makes it much harder for landlords to use illegal or unscrupulous construction to harass tenants. Read more about all the new anti-harassment laws passed by the City Council here:
<http://helenrosenthal.com/preventing-tenant-harassment/>

Helen also wrote a new law that creates an Office of the Tenant Advocate within the Dept. of Buildings, so that tenants' interests are represented strongly when the department reviews construction/rehab projects in existing buildings.

Lastly, Helen has spoken out strongly on the need to freeze or reduce rents in rent stabilized apartments. She has found success with the Rent Guidelines Board approving a rent freeze for two straight years and, in 2017 approving a slight increase that was well below what landlords had requested. ***(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)***

BUILDINGS

Q: How can I ensure construction on my street is within the authorized hours M-F 7:00am-6:00?

A: Construction is permitted by the Department of Buildings from Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 6 PM. A special permit is required for construction outside of these hours.

If you have a question about construction outside of permitted hours -- please contact our office. CM Rosenthal has fought off-hours construction and has had some success. She is calling on the Dept of Buildings to make the requirements for off-hours construction much more rigorous, and has co-sponsored legislation to that effect. Construction before 7am and after 6pm is simply not appropriate for residential neighborhoods.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: What is Helen doing about the super-tall building plan on 50 West 66th Street?

A: In late 2017, developer Extell released renderings showing that they intend to build a 775-foot, ultra-luxury tower at 50 West 66th Street. These new renderings came to light a year after foundation excavation permits were issued for a 25-story (250-foot) building on the site. The building's new height is over three times what the developer reported to CM Rosenthal's office, community members, and the City's Department of Buildings (DOB), in Spring 2016.

CM Rosenthal has repeatedly called on Extell to be honest about its plans for West 66th Street and any neighboring sites, and to work in a transparent and productive fashion with its neighbors.

As soon as developer Extell submits their new plans to the DOB, CM Rosenthal's office will file a challenge in response. Our understanding from DOB is that any height addition to the building -- beyond the 25 stories for which Extell received permits -- will open up a zoning challenge period. Our office will also call a community meeting to explain the challenge and outline next steps.

The DOB should not allow Extell to make an end-run around its review process. It should force Extell to return to square one, and seek approval for plans that accurately depict what they intend to build. In the meantime, Extell should halt its work until the community and the City have sufficient time to better understand why they believe a 775 foot tall building qualifies for "as-of-right" zoning.

Extell has not provided enough information to determine the legality of this project. But based on the information we do have, City Council land use staff believe that the zoning code simply does not permit a project of this height at this location.

As we saw with 200 Amsterdam, we are entering a new phase of development in our community, where extremely tall buildings are no longer confined to the edges of the Upper West Side, or even to major avenues. The built environment of Midtown streets like West 57th is creeping into the heart of the Upper West Side. This is unacceptable.

It is important to add that Extell's project completely fails to meet this administration's goal of addressing our affordable housing crisis through responsible development. Despite the building's overwhelming physical presence and the impact it will have on our community, there are no apparent community benefits. Extell has not included any affordable apartments within the building, only a commitment of affordable units in some future development. The building's 127 luxury condos will not be affordable to middle income Upper West Siders.

CM Rosenthal's office will evaluate this project, and others in the future, as to how they physically impact our community, and whether they make any contribution to our shortage of affordable housing. We will fight projects that do not benefit our community in those terms. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Will the City consider re-evaluating as-of-right construction?

A: Frankly, eliminating the practice of as-of-right construction and requiring every project, even those that comply with the existing zoning, to go through some discretionary review process is not currently on the table. This would be a decision beyond the purview of the Dept of Buildings.

On the other hand, CM Rosenthal's office is keeping a close eye on projects that abuse the as-of-right policy. This includes the 200 Amsterdam and 50 West 66th Street proposals, where developers have tried to create loopholes in the Zoning Resolution. As-of-right requires following the zoning rules, and in instances where we don't believe developers have done so, we have forcefully pushed back against them.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: How and when does the DOB plan to address the issue of excessive void space in very tall apartment buildings? City Planning Commission Chair Marisa Lago recently spoke about the fact that some developers evade the intent of the Zoning Resolution through these void spaces, which do not count when calculating permissible building height. They seem to have no function other than to enhance apartment views.

A: Construction applications must abide by NYC Zoning Regulation. The Department of City Planning can be approached about this question. *(Department of Buildings)*

The Mayor and the Department of City Planning have said that they plan to address the issue of excessive mechanical void space, and our office expects to see policy change in this calendar year. Closing this loophole is a top priority for us and for the neighborhood.
(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Is DOB considering action regarding other similar tactics by developers, such as huge floor to floor heights? I am concerned about the environmental and general community impact of very tall buildings with inter-building voids, mechanicals, and exaggerated floor to floor heights, creating hundreds of vertical feet of unused space.

A: As noted above, the Department of City Planning has committed to addressing the excessive use of mechanical void space, but we have not seen the same commitment relative to imposing caps on floor to ceiling heights. CM Rosenthal will continue to advocate strongly on this question. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: What is being done to address the creative interpretation of zoning laws developers are using to build "too-tall" buildings?

A: There are some loopholes that developers have found that must be closed. For instance, the Mayor has committed to action to limit the use of void space to skirt zoning rules and create taller buildings. CM Rosenthal's office is pushing for as aggressive an approach as possible—we completely agree that it is out of hand.

We are pushing back against developers' attempts to invent loopholes as well. In the case of 200 Amsterdam, for example, we are arguing forcefully before the Board of Standards and Appeals that the proposal's gerrymandered zoning lot must be prohibited. This sort of challenge—currently under consideration at the Board of Standards and Appeals—is important not just for this block but for the entire city.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: The SuperTalls and Mega Towers are starting to dominate our skyline, threatening our right to air and light and thus our quality of life. The Special Lincoln Square District was created to protect this area and to create a buffer from Midtown. Can a "text amendment" be made to the Lincoln Square Special District Resolution that will put a height cap not to exceed what is contextual?

A: The intent of the Lincoln Square Special District was clear, and our office will strongly oppose efforts by developers to invent new loopholes in the zoning. We believe there are protections in the text as written, and are pushing for a citywide response to prevent the abuse of mechanical void space and floor-to-floor heights to address outstanding concerns. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Can the City Council pass legislation to eliminate the use of "Air Rights"?

A: A fundamental restructuring of the process for air rights would require rewriting the Zoning Resolution.

CM Rosenthal has introduced legislation which will require that local community boards and council members be notified in real-time when developers seek development rights transfers and/or zoning lot changes.

CM Rosenthal's push against the use of gerrymandering zoning lots in the case of 200 Amsterdam is a significant effort to restrict the impact of such mergers. If successful, it will make development transfers much more predictable and constrain efforts to abuse the system. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Are NYC businesses, stores, residences, etc. required to indicate the building number on the outside of their building?

A: The Topographical Services office of each Borough President's office handles the assignment of house numbers via the surveying division of that office. *(Department of Buildings)*

Q: Could we have stricter regulations for scaffold construction, so fewer trees are damaged and killed? Maybe a Parks employee could be present each time a scaffold goes up or down?

A: Sidewalk sheds and scaffold systems require the submission of plans, showing existing infrastructure, including trees. Please report damage or abuse to city trees by calling 311 and e-mail obtained complaint numbers to the local community board and/or council member office, for follow-up with the Parks Department. *(Department of Buildings)*

Parks does not regulate the construction of scaffolds, but we are trying to deal with this situation. We are in preliminary discussions with the Departments of Buildings and Transportation about linking our websites so that applicants will have no excuse for not following Parks guidelines for tree protection. This will put more muscle behind violations that we encounter. We do not have the resources to oversee every installation or removal of the numerous scaffolds throughout the city.

We encourage people to report any damage to trees from scaffolding or sidewalk sheds via the NYC Tree Map, the Parks website or 311. We currently receive a fair number of 311 complaints from concerned members of the public, and approximately 60% of those inspections result in Tree Damage Reports that are referred for legal action. *(Department of Parks & Recreation)*

Q: Are cranes required to be fully retracted when not in use?

A: Safety requirements for cranes and derricks depend on the type of equipment intended for use and on the type of work proposed (see <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/safety/cranes-derricks.page>). *(Department of Buildings)*

HOMELESSNESS

Q: What's being done to find permanent housing for homeless New Yorkers?

A: HPD works proactively with our colleagues at DSS to address the homelessness crisis that our city is currently facing. The programs outlined above help prevent homelessness by connecting people to new housing opportunities, and by helping residents stay in their homes.

Additionally, HPD has a **3-pronged approach** to support DSS in addressing the specific needs of the formerly homeless:

- 1) **Building supportive housing**, which includes a platform for health and recovery following a period of homelessness, hospitalization, or incarceration, or for youth aging out of foster care. HPD has financed over **19,000 units** through supportive housing programs in roughly 240 projects across the five boroughs to date. Just in the last four years, we have financed roughly **3,096 supportive housing units** (and roughly **955** are complete).
- 2) **Homeless housing**: Through term sheet set-asides, we are building homeless housing at faster rate than ever before - **almost 7,200 homes** since 2014. Our goal is to create **15,000 new units to provide permanent housing for homeless individuals by 2026**.
- 3) **Homeless Placements**: HPD Homeless Placement Services has made over **1,300** homeless placements into its portfolio of general homeless set-aside units and 421a homeless preference units since the start of HNY. DSS has also placed additional homeless individuals and families into HPD-funded supportive housing projects across the city.
(Department of Housing Preservation & Development)

CM Rosenthal is fighting to ensure that low and/or fixed-income members of our community (and New Yorkers in general) can remain in their homes and not become homeless. Turn to page 33 to read more.

New York City is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis and homelessness here has reached levels not seen since the Great Depression. The City's homeless shelters are currently over-capacity. The Dept. of Homeless Services has been forced to rely on hotels and unsafe "cluster housing" to house homeless individuals. In February 2017, the Mayor announced a plan to build 90 new homeless shelters around the city to help address these issues. The specific plans for where the shelters will be placed have not been finalized.

The city also has a severe shortage of supportive housing which has shown to be very helpful for persons with mental health issues and other challenges. While the majority of homeless New Yorkers are families, many of the people you see on the streets are in need of mental health support.

CM Rosenthal works closely with providers of supportive housing in our district and supports an increase in this type of housing to help address our homelessness crisis.

If you have a concern about a homeless individual in your neighborhood, you can contact the City's Department of Homeless Services here:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/about/email-the-commissioner.page>

If you see illegal or dangerous behavior occurring, please call the NYPD.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

POLICING

Q: Does the 20th Precinct use the community policing model?

A: Yes, the 20th Precinct announced in April 2018 that they are using the model.

The 24th Precinct announced its Neighborhood Policing program in January 2018. The Precinct's Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO's) will be directly reachable to residents by phone and email.

The 24th Precinct community falls into two neighborhood policing "sectors." Officers Jovani Soto and Paige Hilbig are the NCO's for Sector A (west of Broadway); and Officers Lindsey Robles and Nelson Gomez are the NCO's for Sector B (east of Broadway, terminating at 100th Street). *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: What is legally required of the NYPD related to the posting of bail?

A: The NYPD does not control the bail system, it is under the jurisdiction of the courts. There is bail-reform legislation pending at both the City and State level. CM Rosenthal introduced legislation – now law -- which would require the Dept of Corrections to report regularly on who is in custody, for how long, and whether they remain in custody because they are unable to post bail.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

MISCELLANEOUS

Q: What is Council Member Rosenthal's stance on the IDC and current State Senator Alcantara's involvement with the organization?

A: The IDC's disbandment and rejoining of the Democratic Caucus is welcome news. However, what is essential is that the NY State Senate has a Democratic majority, so that New York State can pass meaningful, progressive legislation. To that point, the NY City Council is putting forward a package of resolutions around housing issues that they expect the former IDC members to support before the current legislative session ends on June 30th. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Who is CM Rosenthal supporting for State Senate District 31?

A: CM Rosenthal has not yet endorsed anyone for the D31 State Senate seat. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Can the City Council pass legislation or a resolution banning the gag rule which prevents pharmacies from telling a customer that the prescription requested could be less expensive if paid for in cash rather than one's health insurance?

A: It sounds like you are referring to the "No Gag Rule on Pharmacists Act." Such an act would make it illegal for health insurance companies to contractually prevent pharmacists from telling their customers about cheaper means to buy certain prescription drugs. The City Council can certainly review this topic. However, we are unsure whether it would fall under City jurisdiction, or if the State would need to act. Please check the City Council's website regularly to stay informed about any updates on this issue. *(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)*

Q: Does HRA have any plans to work with food delivery services, like Fresh Direct, to accept EBT?

A: The USDA oversees the SNAP program from a retailer perspective and has jurisdiction over the legislative and technological improvements necessary to accept EBT for online purchases. An online grocery's acceptance of EBT is a matter under federal purview.

USDA has awarded (as the result of a national RFP) waivers to two New York State grocers, including Fresh Direct, to accept EBT as part of a pilot program. It is our understanding that with the change of administrations in Washington, the expansion of the pilot has not moved forward, and has instead come to an immediate halt. HRA does not have the authority to expand this worthwhile pilot and it is up to the federal government to address this important issue. *(Human Resources Administration)*

Q: What are the City's laws relative to marijuana use?

A: In 2014, the NYPD changed its policy regarding marijuana possession. Burning or smoking marijuana in public is still cause for arrest, but the updated policy gives NYPD officers the option to issue court summonses instead of arresting individuals who are found possessing less than 25 grams of marijuana. If a police officer issues a summons, the person will be given a ticket to appear in court. There is a fine for the first offense, and these fines steadily increase with each offense.

Possession of more than 25 grams of marijuana results in more severe penalties.

The City Council recently passed a bill mandating that the NYPD post an online "marijuana enforcement report" documenting how different demographic groups and neighborhoods are policed for marijuana possession. It is waiting on the Mayor's desk to be signed into law.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

Q: Why doesn't the NYC DOHMH have any programs to help people with a diagnosis of ME/CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)? Can the City Council direct funds toward this issue?

A: ME/CFS is not a reportable disease to the DOHMH. We advise everyone to work closely with their medical providers on conditions that are concerning to them. *(Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)*

Q: What actions are the City and City Council taking on gun control?

A: According to the Mayor's Office to Prevent Gun Violence:

"New York City has the lowest incidence of gun violence of any major U.S. city and 2016 had the fewest shootings in over 30 years. New York City has enacted some of the strongest gun laws in the country.....which helped to drive an 83% decline in homicides between 1993 and 2016."

Learn more about the City's efforts here: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/peacenyc/index.page>

CM Rosenthal has consistently been a very strong advocate for gun control. She supports the Borough District Attorney's gun buy-back programs, and has advocated for stronger state and federal gun control legislation.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)

UTILITIES

Q: Are gas stoves with standing gas pilots illegal in New York, and are landlords required to replace them with gas stoves with an electric match?

A: Standing gas pilot stoves are not illegal in New York City. *(Department of Buildings)*

Q: Why is gas turned off for so long? We understand that every situation is unique and there are safety concerns, but apart from that the process takes too long. It's such a hardship for people. Is Con-Ed doing anything to speed up this process?

A: When gas service is turned off, Con Edison works closely with the building owners and their contractors to clarify what issues we found and develop a plan to address those conditions. When more extensive repairs are required, the building may have to obtain a certification from the City Department of Buildings (DOB) and then pass a Con Edison inspection and test.

Con Edison delivers gas through transmission and distribution piping, and we are responsible for maintaining those systems (“in-front of the meter”). The maintenance and repair of gas piping inside buildings are the responsibility of building owners and their contractors (“behind the meter”). When unsafe conditions inside of a building lead to a suspension of gas service, the building owner must address the conditions “behind the meter” that necessitated shutting off the building’s gas. The time it takes to get service restored is dependent upon the building owner completing the repairs, passing required inspections and tests, and providing necessary documentary as required to the DOB and Con Edison, respectively. Once the gas service is shut off, and after we help to develop a plan to address those conditions, Con Edison does not project manage the “behind the meter” repairs with or for the building owner. Con Edison does, however, regularly work with building owners, their contractors and the DOB to streamline the paperwork and inspection process when the repairs are completed. For heat and hot water, Con Edison expedites restoring service once the building is ready to safely receive gas.

As customers are waiting for the gas to be turned on, Con Edison often receives inquiries from building residents, both directly and through their elected representatives.

Unfortunately, in some instances the building residents may not be aware of the full extent of required repairs or may not have received complete information about the repair schedule from their building representatives.

Con Edison understands the frustration residents may face while their buildings are without gas. Over the last year, we have worked with real estate industry representatives

and the City's DOB to institute some changes to hopefully make the process more efficient while maintaining safety. They include:

- We have committed to restore heat and hot water during the heating season as a priority with goals of restoring gas within 48 hours of the plumber completing all of the work (assuming we have access as needed).
- We created an infographic to help explain to customers, particularly building tenants, how the restoration process works and the various parties that own different parts of the process.
- We met with building owners and the plumbing community and improved the technical manual that we publish on line so that they can better understand our expectations and what they need to do to ensure a reconnection can safely take place
- We work closely with DOB to share information about impacted buildings and making process improvements, such as coordinating of our respective inspections.

(ConEdison)

Q: How can we ensure that all students have internet access?

A: Access to the internet is absolutely essential for activities like school research projects and job hunting. Lifeline is a federal program which provides subsidized phone and internet services to millions of low-income, vulnerable Americans, including 1 million-plus New Yorkers. In November 2017, the FCC proposed changes that would significantly defund Lifeline, and eliminate service for as many as 75 percent of participants.

CM Rosenthal was proud to stand with one of her constituents, Pat Dasko, in speaking out against these outrageous cuts at a January 30th press conference called by Public Advocate Letitia James. We will continue to fight against cuts to the Lifeline program.

(Office of Council Member Helen Rosenthal)