



New York City Council Member
COREY JOHNSON



March 5, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

Only 15 more days until spring! But who's counting?

Over the last month we've been working closely with our city agencies to ensure that city roads and intersections remain clear of ice and snow. It's been a difficult winter for everyone and I applaud the efforts of the Department of Sanitation as they worked to keep up with all the storms. We appreciate your help letting us know when snow and ice needs to be cleared – from a bus shelter, an intersection, or sidewalk – and the work of the Department of Transportation and Department of Sanitation to keep our streets clean and safe.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some important updates from our office. There are some great opportunities for you to get involved, and I look forward to working with you to make our community an even better place to live and work.

My staff is available to answer questions and help you wherever possible and can be reached at our District Office at 212-564-7757. You can also email me anytime at district3@council.nyc.gov.

Hope to see you around the neighborhood soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CJ'.

Corey Johnson
Councilmember, 3rd District

224 West 30th Street • Suite 1206 • New York, NY • 10001
District3@council.nyc.gov
212-564-7757

You're invited to my first town hall event!

I'm excited to be hosting my first town hall event as your newly elected City Council Member.

This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about issues I will be working on in the City Council on behalf of our community and for you to ask questions to me and to city agencies about important issues.

My office has invited the following offices to attend: Dept. of Education, Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Sanitation, Dept. of Buildings, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, the NYPD, and MTA/NYCT.

The town hall will be held at the School of Visual Arts' theater which is located at **333 West 23rd Street on Tuesday, March 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.**

Please RSVP at district3@council.nyc.gov or call 212-564-7757. I hope to see you there.

An Inclusive St. Patrick's Day Parade

The St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue does not allow openly gay groups to march in its parade. This antiquated and discriminatory policy has yet to be changed by the Hibernians and I, along with many of my colleagues in government, vehemently object to this happening in our city. Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the Mayor urging him not to march and also asking that the NYPD not be permitted to march in uniform, as the parade endorses discrimination. The Mayor has agreed not to march and there will be no official presence by the City Council.

However, this being an inclusive city, each year, the St. Pats for All Parade takes place in Sunnyside, Queens. I was proud to participate in the St. Pat's For All parade this past weekend, where former State Senator Tom Duane was a Grand Marshal in the parade. The largest contingent of the City Council, ever, marched along with Mayor de Blasio, Public Advocate Leticia James, and Comptroller Scott Stringer.

As a born and raised Irish-Catholic, I'm proud to be an LGBT member of the City Council, and I'm grateful that the leadership of the Council and my colleagues did not endorse discrimination by marching in the Fifth Avenue St. Patrick's Day parade. It's important that our elected officials support community events that accept and treat LGBT New Yorkers fairly. It is still my hope that the Hibernians will accept every Irish person, no matter who they love.

Selling the Farley Post Office Air Rights

The James Farley Post Office building, on Eighth Avenue between 31st and 33rd Streets, is being transformed into what will one day be the Moynihan Train Station. Phase 1 of the project has begun and includes extending train platforms and catenary work; and creating two entrances at the northern and southern corners of the post office for access to train tracks below. Phase 2 will transform the old sorting rooms of the post office in a grand, sky-lit terminal which will be home to Amtrak.

Moving Amtrak across Eighth Avenue will reduce by one-third the amount of passengers passing through Penn Station. This project is important to improving public access to important forms of transportation and also creating a train hall on the west side that is truly worthy of welcoming – or sending off – passengers to New York.

The Empire State Development Corporation (EDC) is responsible for developing the train station. Money is needed to fund the project and a large portion of those funds will come from selling and transferring the air rights above the station. My office learned two weeks ago that EDC had issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a broker or "listing agent" to sell the 1.5 million square feet of air rights. This issuance of this RFP came as a surprise to the local elected officials. Previously, all the offices have been very involved in and supportive of the Moynihan Station Project.

I signed on to a letter with my colleagues in the state legislature regarding the RFP. I strongly believe that community members, urban planners, and Community Boards 4 and 5 must be included in the earliest stages of identifying appropriate receiver sites. Given the volume of air rights available, any identified development site should go through the New York City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) for approvals if not allowed under current zoning, with extensive public review and discussion prior to certification.

Our letter to EDC is attached.

The Union Square Pavilion: a Community Space

The Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Court of Appeals have ruled that a restaurant project could move forward in the Union Square pavilion.

One of my top priorities as your Council Member is to protect and create additional public spaces for our community. That is why I am in firm opposition to opening a restaurant in the Union Square pavilion. I will request that Mayor de Blasio take immediate action to prevent this restaurant from opening in one of our few remaining public spaces.

Bus Schedule Revisions for April 2014

The MTA released their revised bus schedule to meet customer demand and reflect current operating conditions. I want you to know about two of the more significant changes to the bus schedule which will improve the wait time for the M20 and M21 bus riders during the morning rush.

The proposed time change between buses on the M20 is going from 30 minutes to 20 minutes during the morning rush. And on the M21, your morning commute will be five minutes quicker, with buses arriving every 15 minutes instead of 20 minutes!

These revised bus schedule changes will take effect in April 2014.

Road work to improve 10th & 11th Avenues

10th Avenue

The Department of Transportation (DOT) contacted our office to tell us about several long-term construction projects along 10th Avenue between 29th and 33rd Streets. The scheduled work includes DDC water shaft work, Amtrak project work, and work in Hudson Yards. Please contact 311 and our office if you see that there are not three lanes open on 10th Avenue because of this road work.

11th Avenue

Our office has been working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to fix the large divots on the road on 11th Avenue between 26th and 28th streets. These divots were first reported to our office as potholes. Upon further inspection by the DOT, however, these divots were created by utility cuts and require the Department of Environment to do underground repair work. DOT will first do a strip paving to repair the subsurface condition, and DEP will be fixing these divots.

Grants Available for Community Composting Projects

The Citizens Committee for New York City is working with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board to offer grants for community-scale composting projects throughout the city. Grants will be up to \$750, and given to community groups, including schools, community gardens, housing development groups, and nonprofits.

Grant applications are due by **March 28th**. For the application and more information, see the website:

<http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/composting-grant>. For any questions, contact Sabine at sbernards@citizensnyc.org or [\(212\) 822-9578](tel:(212)822-9578).

Uninsured? Underinsured? Enroll in the Affordable Care Act!

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center is a New York State Department of Health certified patient navigation agency. They work to enroll individuals, families, small businesses and small business employees into the NY State of Health, the official Marketplace for new, affordable health insurance plans. For more information, please visit <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>

The Patient Navigation Team will be at my District Office at 224 West 30th Street, Suite #1206 on **Wednesdays, March 12 & 26 from 11am - 3pm** to enroll community members. To schedule an appointment, **email enroll@gaycenter.org** or call **646-556-9300** and ask to speak with someone from the Patient Navigation Team.

Please note that the open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act deadline for individuals and families is **March 31, 2014**.

Health Committee Update:

On February 24, 2014 the City Council Health Committee held a hearing on the Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) Five Year Plan. HHC is the corporation that manages the public safety net health care system of New York City. The hearing investigated the status of HHC's restructuring plan, which was created to cut a looming \$1 billion deficit by \$600 million. The hearing was nearly five hours long. While HHC is in better health than it was five years ago, challenges still lie ahead.

On Thursday, March 13 at 10 am, the Health Committee will be reviewing the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, HHC, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. It is a public hearing and is taking place in the Chamber at City Hall.

Introduced Legislation:

- A Local Law (Int 0051-2014) requiring the department of health and mental hygiene to issue an annual report regarding hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections.
- A Local Law (Int 0055-2014) in relation to prohibiting the sale of puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills.
- A Local Law (Int 0073-2014) updating the definition of "pet shop" within the Animal Abuse Registration Act.
- A Local Law (Int 0072-2014) requiring reporting and posting online information pertaining to mobile food vendors.
- A Resolution (Res 0050-2014) calling upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign into law the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (S.395/H.R.847), which would require commercial breeders who sell their puppies directly to the public, including via the Internet, to be licensed and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture and mandate that commercial breeding facilities provide dogs with daily exercise.



March 5, 2014

Kenneth Adams
President and Chief Executive Officer
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Re: Request for Proposals: Broker for
Disposition of Excess Farley Building
Development Rights

Dear Mr. Adams:

We write regarding the Moynihan Station and the Request for Proposals (RFP) that was released on February 6th. We understand the intent behind the RFP is to hire a broker or "listing agent" to determine the value of and sell the remaining 1.5 million square feet of Farley air rights. The money from the sale is intended to help fund "Phase 2" of the Moynihan project.

This RFP came as an unwelcome surprise to us. We had not been given notice of the timetable for or any indication of a plan or policy to guide the sale of the Farley air rights. This is a significant and unfortunate departure from previous practice relating to Moynihan. For the past several years, the Moynihan Station Community Advisory Committee (MSCAC) has been an active and welcome participant in the conversations around the development of the station. It is important that ESDC consults with the community's elected officials, Manhattan Community Boards 4 and 5, and the MSCAC before going forward.

The RFP marks the beginning of the process to transfer development rights from the Farley Building. As the representatives of this area, we share our community's concerns about significantly increasing density in the immediate area surrounding the station. Given the volume of air rights available, we strongly believe that community members and urban planners must be included in the earliest stages of identifying appropriate receiver sites. Further, any development that receives air rights should go through the New York City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) for approvals if not allowed under current

zoning, with extensive public review and discussion prior to certification. We also request that the plan include a provision to spread the transfer of these development rights outside the immediate area, mitigating the potential for increasing overdevelopment of this area.

We have been strong supporters of the Moynihan project. However, it must not depart from appropriate processes for public decision-making.

We look forward to continue working with you as this project moves forward.

Very truly yours,



Richard N. Gottfried
NYS Assembly Member



Jerrold Nadler
US Congress Member

Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Adriano Espaillat
NYS Senator



Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator



Corey Johnson
NYC Council Member

cc: Michael Evans, President, MSDC
Manhattan Community Board 4
Manhattan Community Board 5