



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

July 2016

Dear Neighbor:

Below is an update on my work in Albany and across the 27th Senate District since my last report to Community Board Five (CB5), including a review of the end of the 2016 legislative session and details on an upcoming film screening and discussion I am hosting of "Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA" on August 4 at the SVA Theatre. Many of my attached letters, testimonies, and press releases may also be found on my website at hoylman.nysenate.gov.

If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, you can always contact me or Rebecca Kriegman in my office at 212-633-8052 or via email at rebecca@bradhoylman.com.

Best regards,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

End of Session Review

The State Senate finished up the 2016 legislative session the morning of Saturday, June 18. Senators were forced to vote in the middle of the night with scant time to read the hundreds of bills before us, not to mention the lack of public review. Frankly, it's no way to run a legislative chamber in a state that, if it were a country, would have the world's 11th largest economy - larger than Mexico's.

Part of the problem stems from the fact that legislators are considered "part time" (tell that to my husband and daughter!) and as a result the legislative session is only half a year, forcing a considerable amount of work into a short amount of time. This arrangement permits legislators to supplement their state salaries by moonlighting. As we've seen in the recent trials of numerous members of the State Legislature, however, the potential for conflicts of interest is greater when public officials serve multiple masters -- their constituents and paying clients on the side. A legislator's duty to the public could be further compromised by a law practice on the side and private clients with whom they have an attorney-client privilege, which shields their interactions from public scrutiny.

- The Senate Majority failed to consider many other priority bills I co-sponsor, including codifying a woman's right to an abortion as determined by Roe v. Wade; permitting speed safety cameras to be installed every school to reduce speeding and traffic crashes; and demonstrating compassion to the children of undocumented immigrants. (The Senate voted to pass legislation to impede the "sanctuary city" movement, which provides support to the families of undocumented immigrants. You can view my floor remarks opposing the outrageous legislation at bit.ly/290zCOH.)

Despite some disappointment, I'm proud of the victories I was able to achieve during this year's legislation session with the help of thoughtful colleagues and committed advocates from across the state. Their hard work inspires my resolve that we can do better.

Join me for a Screening and Discussion of "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA"

Please join me on August 4 from 6-9pm at the SVA Theatre (333 West 23rd Street between 8th and 9th Avenues) for a film screening of Brave New Films' new documentary "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA." The film tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families, and exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit – and thereby putting people in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking - and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis. Following the screening, we will be joined by a panel of experts who will lead a discussion about how we can take action to minimize gun violence. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to my office by emailing hoylman@nysenate.gov or by calling 212-633-8052. Please see flyer attached.

Urging Developers at 38-42 West 18th Street to Follow Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Rules

I commend Community Board Five for fighting for affordable units as a condition of a developer's application for a special permit at 38-42 West 18th Street. This special permit will allow the developer to build 26 additional apartments, facilitating a project with a total of 66 residential units and a significant increase in residential Floor Area Ratio. I believe the permit should trigger Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH), which would require the inclusion of affordable units in the project. I stand with CB5, as well as Borough President Gale Brewer and State Senator Liz Krueger in demanding that City Planning apply MIH as it was meant to be applied, and force developers who use special permits to build bigger and higher to include affordable units in those developments.

Demanding the Rent Guidelines Board Protect All Tenants

Two weeks ago, I was glad to see that, for the second year in a row, the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) voted to freeze rents for one-year leases. However, I remain concerned that the board failed to do the same for two-year leases, allowing instead for a 2% increase. On June 20, I testified before the RGB on the need for a rent rollback for rent-stabilized tenants. This is the ninth year in a row that landlord profits have gone up in New York, and for the first time in decades, gross operating costs for landlords are down as well. Landlords are making even more money than last year, all while 30% of tenants in the City spend more than half their income on keeping a roof over their heads. While I appreciate the RGB's efforts on behalf of one-year leaseholders, the failure to freeze two-year leases is a missed opportunity that will place undue hardship on thousands of vulnerable