



Dear Neighbor,

Recently, Comptroller Scott Stringer and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer released reports documenting that our schools are violating state education requirements for art and music education. This is extremely distressing. Art and music education expands an understanding of the world and our cultural history and reaches students that may find other subjects disengaging. It also has far reaching implications for New York's economic vitality.

Living in a world class city like New York spoils us, because we have so many cultural opportunities at our fingertips. The challenge for our cultural institutions, based in an increasingly expensive city, is to maintain an audience even as their costs- and therefore ticket prices- rise.

This problem was recently highlighted by the crisis at the Metropolitan Opera which was threatened with a labor strike because of spiraling costs and lagging attendance.

Although these institutions attract many tourists they cannot survive on the tourist trade alone; they need a solid local customer base. This means a constant regeneration of local audience members. The lack of art and music classes in our City schools undermines the task of developing these new audience members.

An art instructor mentioned to me that youngsters are so focused on their digital handhelds that it is harder than ever to grab students' attention. There's no doubt the world is changing and being changed by technology, but it is equally important for us to support and encourage young people, through exposure to various art forms, to experience music, art, theatre and dance as live audiences. There is a world outside of screens. The experience can be magical, inspiring and life changing itself. Our city will be diminished if the future offers fewer live performances. So let's support art and music education, and our cultural community that makes New York the best place to live.

Deborah J. Glick



Assemblymember Glick speaking at Columbia's Start Up Lab in SoHo.

Disappearing New York

It seems like every day we lose another locally owned business that has been long cherished by the neighborhood. In the last few years alone we have lost Joe Juniors, Partners and Crime, Manatus, Dojo's, not to mention countless shoe repair and laundromats. The list of stores that have been beloved but forced to shut down, would take pages to be complete. Local businesses have a commitment to a community that chain stores do not have. They also make neighborhoods interesting places to live and be. We have all seen the number of quirky and innovative shops eroded or eliminated altogether. Our neighborhoods stop looking like our neighborhoods, and instead start to look like any other place. Ironically, the very uniqueness that makes Downtown so appealing has also hastened homogeneity, which is the antithesis of our community's spirit.

Not only do locally owned businesses brighten our community, they are also of tremendous benefit to our local economy. A study in 2012 indicated that independent stores recirculate 55.2% of revenues compared to 13.6% for big retailers, and that local restaurants recirculate 67% of revenues, while big chains fall in at 30.4%. This stark difference is not surprising but it illuminates why shopping locally is a way to keep our community unique and has clear economic merits.

I have long sought ways to support local businesses (besides my own local spending). After the close of St. Vincent's Hospital, I organized "A Valentine for the Village," to encourage shoppers to support local businesses hurt by the closure of St. Vincent's. That is why I was also supportive of Borough President Gale Brewer's efforts as a councilmember to put limits on the size of storefronts, to

encourage landlords to seek out smaller commercial tenants.

But equally important to supporting local businesses is supporting efforts to landmark the parts of our City that have historic value worth preserving. I have been especially pleased to be active in the Landmarking of the South Village historic district, which was designated into 3 parts. The first two sections have gained recognition from the Landmarks Preservation Council (LPC), and I continue to push along with local groups like the Historic District Council, and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, to ensure that the 3rd part is granted the protection it deserves and desperately needs.

Furthermore, I believe that the LPC's scope should be further expanded beyond its purview. Unfortunately, the LPC only has the right to examine the aesthetics of a building in a Historic District and not its use. This can lead to unfortunate situations in which buildings that have long been residential, but perhaps in a concurrent commercial zone, are refurbished as businesses that are inappropriate in the context of the neighborhood.

I am proud of my broad support for landmarking because I value the community we live in and will do everything I can to preserve it and keep our City from vanishing before our eyes.

In a City like New York change is inevitable; however as citizens we have a great deal of power in determining what that change will look like. Support our independent businesses and all of the mom and pop stores that make our community so great. Shop local, think local, and most deliciously, eat local.



Assemblymember Glick at the opening of the Lenox Hill Healthplex.

Protecting Higher Education in NYC

The value of a college education cannot be understated. Americans who complete a bachelor's degree have a median income of \$50,360. Those with a graduate degree have a median income of \$68,065. Compare these numbers to the median of \$29,423 for people with only a high-school diploma, and the importance of college becomes apparent.

Unfortunately, the escalating cost of higher education is placing it out of reach and it has become unaffordable for many students. The high cost of education in fact can spur individuals to attend online colleges and proprietary schools, whose quality can be extremely varied. The burden of student loans can delay a graduate's ability to buy a home or start a family. This affects our economy, not just the student's life.

Locally this issue resonates with the case of NYU, currently the priciest college in the United States, totaling \$179,380 for four years of tuition, not including books, food, or housing. However, instead of focusing on lowering the cost of admission, the NYU administration has been focused on capital expansion to grow its campus. I have opposed this plan from the very beginning and it is why I am the lead plaintiff, along with professors and local community members in a lawsuit filed against the NYU 2031 Plan.

The local community has come together in collective protest against the overreach of the NYU 2031 Plan which would greatly increase the density and height of NYU's presence in the West Village. Furthermore, as many have pointed out, it will also lead to further increases in tuition which will become necessary to fund such an expansion. This case continues through the courts and oral arguments will be held on September 24, 2014. I am hopeful that the courts will find that NYU has greatly overstepped its reach with this plan, and we can return to the drawing board to find a more sensible solution that is in line with the scope of our neighborhood.

Cooper Union is another local school that is pursuing a direction that is not in the best interest of the community or its students. Cooper Union, which has had free tuition since 1859, and has been able to maintain free tuition for the last 155 years, has announced a plan to start charging its students. Charging tuition will dramatically change the character of the school and might jeopardize their ability to maintain their current financial model.

Unbeknownst to many, Cooper Union owns the land underneath the Chrysler Building, and uses the rent it earns from this property to fund itself. Because it does not charge tuition the State has never levied taxes on this rent. This new plan would call this arrangement into question.

Students, faculty, and alumni are still baffled as to why there is an urgent need to begin charging tuition at this time, especially after the Administration was able to fund the creation of a new academic building at a cost of more than \$160 million. Is this construction driving costs? The situation remains unclear. Even more confusing is that the rents due from the Chrysler building are expected to increase from \$9 million this year to \$32.5 million in 2018. There are still many unanswered questions about Cooper Union's decision, and we all know that once a policy of charging tuition begins, it will never be reversed.

In reflecting upon Cooper Union's situation one can only think about the ramifications that NYU's 2031 Plan will have on tuition for students. If the construction of a \$160 million building can cause an institution to start charging tuition after 150 years, what will the ramification be for NYU if they embark on a multi-billion dollar plan. These questions deserve answers, and thus far none have been forthcoming.

The Danger of Fracking

As global energy consumption continues to soar, policymakers and private industry have begun investigating and investing heavily in alternatives to traditional energy sources. Unfortunately, much of this investment has been woefully misguided, as it has focused on a reliance on natural gas accessed through the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing, otherwise known as "fracking."

The process of fracking consists of injecting a mix of chemicals, sand, and water into shale formations at a high enough levels of pressure that the shale is fractured and releases whatever natural gas it contains. The public health concerns about this process are numerous. First and foremost, fracking is a grave threat to our fresh water supply. The chemicals used in fracking fluids are unregulated, and often include known carcinogens. These chemicals are both injected into the earth, and then extracted and kept in wells maintained by the natural gas industry. In both cases, there have been reports of leaks and the contamination of water supplies in areas where fracking is permitted. Fracking can also dislodge radioactive materials in the shale, like uranium, radium, radon, and thorium, which then contaminate the wastewater, easily contaminating water supplies and soil if a leak occurs. The fracking process is also highly wasteful, using massive amounts of our fresh water supply at a time when that supply is depleting in much of the country.

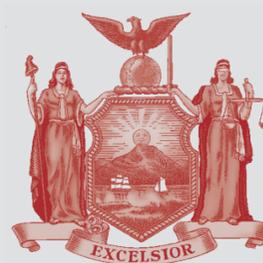
In addition, there are immense concerns about the emissions created through the fracking process. The methane gas released by fracking is both detrimental to the environment and to human health and safety when not well contained, and well leaks have been numerous, again causing the contamination of air and water and reports of illness from those who live near wells. Fracking also brings with it fleets of trucks, transporting the sand, water, and chemicals needed and significantly adding to the air pollution induced by the process.

Lastly, there has been a sharp increase in seismic activ-

ity in areas that permit fracking, causing concern that the process of dislodging rock formations deep below ground is so destabilizing that it is producing earthquakes. A stark example can be seen in Oklahoma, where a Cornell University study found that fracking has caused a 22,900% increase in earthquakes with a magnitude of 3.0 or greater since 2008, with the state going from one 3.0 earthquake each year to more than one each day.

Given the seriousness of the issues raised by fracking for both public health and the environment, it is imperative to ask why the process is even being considered, let alone hailed as the sustainable fix for our energy woes. The focus on natural gas is especially vexing given the promise of renewable energies like wind and solar power, which offer energy sources that won't deplete and can also be an economic boon to our state, bringing with them jobs and economic growth. The reason for our national focus on fracking lies largely in the power and reach of the natural gas industry, and New Yorkers must do everything possible to continue to block this industry from bringing fracking into our state.

Currently, there is a statewide moratorium on fracking while the State Health Department studies its health effects. While this moratorium is in place, it is essential that we work to make it permanent. New Yorkers had a big win in the State Court of Appeals this June, when it was found that towns have the authority to ban fracking. Now, it is more important than ever that the State act and pass legislation to ban fracking in New York permanently, and to reinvest our energies and resources in renewable energies. I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues to enact a ban, and while we face a formidable opponent in the natural gas industry, will continue to work until we win this fight. The health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers depends on it.



Assemblymember Glick with Assemblymembers Ellen Jaffee and Aileen Gunther.



Supporting Women's Rights in New York State

After over 100 years of fighting for women's rights, we are not just stalled from moving forward, women's rights are being eroded around the country. Most progress for women's rights over the last decades have been achieved through Supreme Court decisions. This means that at any point, such as the recent *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, rights we have taken for granted, like access to contraception, can be taken away. It is these ongoing threats that make it all the more important for New York to pass a comprehensive Women's Equality Agenda expeditiously so that if Court rulings get overturned, there are laws in place to protect the women of New York.

While there has been a lot of discussion about the Women's Equality Agenda (WEA), there has also been a lot of misinformation. The bill is comprised of 10-points focused on bettering the lives of women in New York. Some components of the WEA include: creating pregnancy protections in the workforce, addressing pay equity, supporting domestic violence survivors, and safeguarding reproductive health.

I was the author and lead sponsor of the Reproductive Health Act for years before it was included in the WEA. The Reproductive Health Act, and the similar component in the 10-point WEA, would codify a women's right to access a safe abortion,

and provide protections in New York State should *Roe vs. Wade* be overturned in the courts. It does not expand access to abortion, as some have erroneously stated.

The Assembly has passed the 10-point WEA twice, while the Senate has refused to take a vote on it. Instead, they broke the bill into 10 separate pieces of legislation and the Senate voted on 9 of them. They did this in order to avoid voting in favor of reproductive health. While not surprising, it is outrageous. Fighting for access to appropriate reproductive health options is fundamental and the women in New York deserve to have a vote on this bill, in its entirety.

While the 10-points of the WEA address many of the issues that women are faced with on a daily basis, it is still not a comprehensive list of the legislative actions needed to better the lives of women. For example, access to quality, affordable child care as well as paid family leave is integral to the lives of women and their families. The passage of the full 10-point WEA is a first step in ensuring the rights of New Yorkers are not in jeopardy regardless of Supreme Court rulings, but it is just a first step. I will continue to fight for comprehensive legislation that addresses the diverse realities of the lives of New York women.



Restoring Bus Service in Lower Manhattan

On July 30, I appeared with State Senator Squadron at a town hall meeting on bus service in the SOHO and Village area. Over the past few years, there have been several changes, which translate into service cuts, to bus service in our community. Our neighborhoods suffered a disproportionate impact when the changes to the M1, M3, M5, M6, M8 and M21 were made. Taken together it resulted in the total dislocation of critical bus service to many people who had few other transportation options.

Bus service is vitally important to older people, disabled people and people with small children or those with many packages. The subway is a great way to travel, but for many people it is not possible. Subway steps create an insurmountable barrier for many of these people, while the bus offers a more user friendly environment, when the bus exists, or comes on a reasonable schedule.

Our continued fight to restore M8 weekend service was successful and it returned in April, but many of these other changes remain in place and undermine the ability of my constituents to get to cultural institutions, medical appointments, more affordable shopping and to school.

I alerted the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), of my concerns and asked that additional bus routes be restored including the M6, and parts of the M1, M5, and M3. The cancellation of the M6 has eliminated the possibility of travelling from Union Square to SoHo in any reasonable manner.

The population in Lower Manhattan is growing while there is also an increase in senior citizens and children. Restoration of these buses will not just help address the needs of the current population, but will help support future populations as well.



Deborah Glick's NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE



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Assemblymember Glick with Saru Javaraman and Terry O'Neil, President of National Organization for Women (NOW), to discuss increasing the wages of tipped workers.