



September 19, 2019

Greetings --

My office continues to receive calls from constituents and business owners to report that National Grid is refusing to connect new gas lines across Brooklyn. At my request, as well as, a number of my colleagues, the Public Service Commission has commenced an investigation into National Grid's moratorium. This week [I sent the PSC a follow up letter](#) with ten of my colleagues calling for them to make the investigation open for public comment and participation. There are thousands of individuals around Brooklyn impacted by this and they should have an opportunity to provide evidence of their losses or harms for the record. [On Tuesday, I joined NYC Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams, Senator Kevin Parker and a number of victims of National Grid's self-imposed and sudden moratorium to call on National Grid to restore service for these customers immediately.](#)



National Grid's overtly political and coercive tactics are a desperate attempt to get the State to approve a fracked gas pipeline – if they don't get their pipeline then they say nobody gets gas. This is a bad faith approach for a company that has a monopoly on Brooklyn's gas lines and flies in the face of what is required of them as a provider of last resort. If they continue to shirk their responsibility and hold Brooklyn residents and business owners hostage then they demonstrate themselves to be an unfit steward

and they should not be in charge of our gas lines.

Public Campaign Financing and Election Commission Public Hearing:

Last week [I provided testimony at the first New York State Public Campaign Financing and Election Commission public hearing](#). I have always been a strong advocate for public financing of our elections. Removing barriers for those seeking office, and reducing the influence of money in the process are worthy and important undertakings. However, I harbor strong reservations against empowering an unelected and unaccountable commission to make these changes. [I was one of only a handful of Assemblymembers who voted AGAINST the creation of this commission in the budget](#) because I believe that the scope set forth in the enacting legislation that created the commission is in violation of Article III of the New York State Constitution, which clearly states that the law making authority of the state is solely vested in the Assembly and State Senate. The task of creating a public financing system out of whole cloth and potentially changing the foundation of many of our election laws should only be done in the light of day in the legislature.

In my testimony I call on the commission to take this opportunity to create a compendium of best practices for a small dollar matching program and contemplate how best for New York to implement a public financing system and to then charge the legislature to pass meaningful legislation to that effect.

Whatever they decide do, the commission must limit their engagement to the narrow task of creating a system of publicly financed elections. Because the commission's authority is too broadly defined, they will be tempted to change a wide range of our election laws, including the practice of fusion voting and other ballot access laws. This would be wrong. There are multiple instances of case law from The Court of Appeals that enshrine fusion voting as a State Constitutional right, and any efforts to undermine or remove fusion voting would be a violation voter's rights.

A transparent and democratic model of public financing and voting reform is what the State of New York requires, but an unelected and unaccountable commission is no way to provide it. I will continue to work on behalf of voting reform for all New Yorkers, and hope that we can continue to reform and improve our current process, including a robust system of public financing.



Housing Resource Fair:

On the heels of the historic tenant protections that the legislature passed at the end of last session, my office has received a number of questions regarding implementation and interpretation of these new regulations . On Saturday, Oct. 5th, I am hosting, along with NHS Brooklyn, Flatbush Development Corporation and Flatbush Tenants Council, a housing resource fair from 10am – 3pm at Ditmas Junior High School, 700 Cortelyou Road. The event includes free seminars on a broad range of topics, tables with information and resources, and mortgage, tenant, and property tax help on hand. RSVP at info@nhsbrooklyn.org. See the flyer below for more information:

HOME BUYERS HOMEOWNERS TENANTS VETERANS



HOUSING RESOURCE FAIR



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
10am – 3pm

Ditmas Junior High School
700 Cortelyou Road
Brooklyn, NY 11218

FREE seminars

- First-time Home Buyer Education & Grants 10:30am–12:15pm
- Applying for Affordable Housing Lotteries 12:30–1:30pm
- New Tenant Laws & Your Rights 1:45–2:30pm
- Help for Homeowners 10:30am–2:30pm

PLUS!

- Free mortgage, tenant, property tax & legal help
- Many tables with free info and resources

RSVP

Visit <https://bit.ly/31Wv9JS>
Call 718-469-4679
Email info@nhsbrooklyn.org

In collaboration with



Assembly
Member
Robert Carroll

Climate Wednesdays:

350 Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Public Library are sponsoring "Climate Wednesdays," a monthly series at the Central Library to discuss important topics related to climate change. Details:

CLIMATE WEDNESDAYS

Solutions for a Cooler Brooklyn

How can Brooklynites confront the climate crisis? What needs to change, and how can we make sure that change will be equitable? Over eight evenings, thinkers and activists will share their ideas about the crisis and offer strategies for effective action.

FALL SERIES

SEPTEMBER 18

The Big Green Picture: Local Strategies for a Livable World

OCTOBER 16

Climate Smart Energy: Heating, Cooling and Turning the Lights On

NOVEMBER 20

Parenting in the Age of Climate Change

DECEMBER 11

Green New Meal: The Food-Climate Connection

All events will take place from 7–8:30 pm in the Info Commons Lab at Central Library.

Spring series will begin on February 12, 2020.

Visit bklynlib.org/climateseries for more info.

Presented by



Upcoming Community Events Next Week:

Flatbush Frolic! Street Fair

Cortelyou Road between Ocean Avenue and Coney Island Avenue

Sunday, September 22

11am to 6pm

Come out and celebrate the 44th annual Flatbush Frolic street festival with friends & family! Cortelyou Road will be closed from Coney Island Avenue to Ocean Avenue filled with street vendors & live entertainment & games for all ages! Contact [Flatbush Development Corporation \(FDC\)](#) for additional information.

Community Board 12 Monthly Meeting

Amico Senior Citizens Center

5901 13th Ave, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, September 24

7pm

Open to community members. The [CB 12](#) board meeting is typically scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

78th Precinct Community Council

78th Precinct

65 6th Avenue

Tuesday, September 24

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [78th Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Tuesday of each month.

70th Precinct Community Council

ADAPT Community Network

175 Lawrence Avenue

Wednesday, September 25

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [70th Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Wednesday of each month.

Bobby

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