



Dear Neighbor,

The verdict in Sheldon Silver's trial is extremely disheartening for all the honest and hardworking legislators. Those of us who believe government can help solve the problems we face depend on our fellow citizens to trust government. The latest conviction of a legislator makes trust in government that much harder.

The conviction of former Speaker Silver highlights the potential conflicts that outside income can have for legislators. I have always served as a full-time legislator, as have many of my colleagues, and I have long supported the elimination of separate employment for all legislators. I hope that we can build on the collective desire to change the way things are done in Albany to make the necessary changes to see the elimination of dual employment. In addition, our system of financing campaigns needs to be revamped. The Clean Money Campaign, led by Citizen Action, has been the model for reforms repeatedly passed by the Assembly, including the closure of the LLC loophole, which has unfortunately stalled in the Senate.

We need a diverse legislature, and if eliminating outside income, we must ensure that the position is not just left to those with family and financial resources to serve. The conversation around changes must also include discussion about legislative compensation. Nor can candidates for public office be limited to the wealthy. Public financing of campaigns must be on the agenda in the upcoming session.

I still don't know why the Governor shut down the Moreland Commission which was tasked with ethics investigations of all members of all branches of Government. Sunlight is the best disinfectant and the Moreland Commission was tasked with shedding a light on any improprieties that might have been taking place in Albany. Our justice system alone cannot be held accountable for fixing everything that is broken in Albany. We must implement reforms that create transparency and accountability. The citizens of New York deserve an honest, hardworking government, and we must work diligently to ensure the highest standards of ethical behavior are followed by all Members.

I am honored to serve the 66th Assembly District and will continue to do so with integrity. I look forward to the start of the next session where we can tackle not just restoring the public's trust in the legislature, but also passing effective legislation that will make New York an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Deborah

Plagued by Violence

For years, domestic terrorists have targeted women's health centers around the country. Bombings, bomb scares, shootings, vandalism and harassment of medical staff and patients happen so frequently it often doesn't make the news. Over Thanksgiving weekend, three people were killed in a shooting outside of a Planned Parenthood facility. The goal of all of these acts of violence is to deny women their ability to exercise their constitutional right to an abortion, even though most women going to Planned Parenthood are receiving primary care or accessing contraceptives. Yet the Department of Justice remains frozen, ignoring these instances of domestic terrorism. All the while, the unfettered access to firearms and weapons remains throughout the country jeopardizing not just the safety of those at women's health clinics, but everyone.

Following the tragedy in Sandy Hook, New York passed the strongest gun legislation in the country, but we are not immune to the negative impacts of easy access to guns and ammunition. The Federal Government has failed to take any actions to protect our citizens from senseless gun violence and acts of domestic terrorism. Instead, they have started a witch hunt against Planned Parenthood and other women's health service providers. Special committees

within Congress, especially over the last few months, have sent a clear message that Planned Parenthood is the enemy and that they should be shut down at all costs. And while these committees continue to find no illegal activities on the part of health providers, they have incited and activated people around the country into believing that it is their right to take matters into their own hands. People are dying while members of Congress are trying to divert attention away from the real issues around gun control.

We must unite together and demand that Congress take action. We need support from our leaders on a National level to put an end to the senseless killings. We need sensible gun laws on a Federal level. People with mental health issues and known domestic violence perpetrators should not be able to buy a gun. Individuals should not be able to own military style assault rifles for personal use. We need acknowledgement that women's health clinics are targets of domestic terrorists so that we can respond and protect them accordingly.

I look forward to a day when we can turn on the news and not be bombarded with images of senseless violence. New York has been doing our part the best we can, but we need Congress to act in order to protect all citizens of this great country.



It was a beautiful day to celebrate Elizabeth Street Garden. Happy to join Community Board members Tobi Bergman and Jeanine Kiely at the annual Harvest festival.

Reviving NYC's Green Book

The Green Book is a directory of agencies, departments, services and people that has been published by the city of New York since 1918. While there were several years in which the Green Book wasn't published, it is now also online and can be accessed for free. To find contact information for County, State and Federal administrations, visit www.nyc.gov/greenbook.

Assistance for Heating your Homes

We all know that the cost of heating our homes in the winter can add up to a significant amount of money. If you are on a fixed income, or have a lower income, you may qualify for financial assistance to help cover the costs of heating your home. The Heat Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) subsidizes the cost of electricity, natural gas, oil, or other heating fuels. Applications for the program opened November 16th, and are accepted on a rolling basis for the season. The application can be found online at, <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap>. It may take up to 30 days for determination to be made.

Applying for Affordable Housing

With rents rapidly rising in the city, it is growing even more difficult to find housing that is both reasonably priced and affordable. If you are looking for affordable housing, there are a number of lotteries administered by the city that can assist you in locating housing options that fit your situation.

- NYC Housing Connect is run by the City, and acts as a clearinghouse for most affordable housing opportunities. To use the lottery system, you must first create a Housing Connect account on their website. Locations and eligibility requirements are provided for each development. After choosing the desired property, applicants will enter a lottery to determine the offering of the property. For more information visit their website, or call 311.
- Created in 1955, the Mitchell-Lama program provides affordable rental and cooperative housing to moderate- and middle-income families. Mitchell-Lama applicants apply to individual developments, with eligibility based off of criteria such as income and family size. Applicants enter a lottery and then are either offered a property or put on a wait list. For more information call (866) 463-7753.
- The New York City Housing Development Corporation offers development listings on its website, <http://www.nychdc.com/>. To apply, simply choose a development you are interested in and fill out an application online. Eligibility for the lottery is based on income. For more information or questions, call (212) 227-5500.



Proud to sponsor a bill, along with Senator Hoylman, that would require companies seeking contracts from the State to disclose their gender pay gap.



Happy to join with Senator Hoylman, Community Board 2 Chair Tobi Bergman, DOT and community members at the unveiling of improved street markings and engineering which will improve pedestrian safety in Sheridan Square.

Sharing the Roads Safely

We live in a fast-paced city where pedestrians, cyclists and drivers converge, sometimes resulting in serious accidents. Even as we see increased traffic on the streets and sidewalks, we do not need to see increased accidents.

Increased numbers of bike lanes, and other street engineering efforts serve to slow down traffic, which itself will save lives and reduce injuries. But everyone must do a better job at sharing the road from those who drive distracted, to those who cycle only focused on vehicles, and pedestrians too involved at looking at their cell phones. We all can do better.

If you're in a car

Take greater care when turning by looking out for bike riders and pedestrians. Don't drive or park in bike lanes- these are for bikers only. Never open your door without looking for a bicycle approaching alongside your car and ensure that your passengers do the same.

If you're on foot

Always keep in mind that cars and cyclists sometimes don't follow the rules. Don't step off the curb until the traffic light changes and cars stop and always look both ways before crossing a street, even a one-way street. Be particularly careful to observe turning vehicles and don't start to cross the street if it's obvious that you can't get the entire way across before the light turns.

If you're on a bike

Travel with traffic, follow traffic control signals and do not ride on sidewalks or the wrong way down one-way streets. Be careful of car and truck door openings and turning vehicles. And always wear a helmet—nearly all cycling fatalities and serious injuries occur to cyclists without helmets. Remember to respect pedestrians.

Recognizing the Contributions of Organized Labor

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 tore through this community and alerted the public to hazardous and inhumane working conditions in American factories. Looking back, it's hard to imagine a time when workers would have been locked in a room, chained to their stations and forced to work for pennies a week. One hundred and fifty people died that day and the labor movement was strengthened in a hope that no other lives would be lost due to unjust labor practices.

The fight for organized labor protections in the United States has touched many aspects of the American workforce, and provided a boon to workplace protections, including the creation of labor unions. New York has been central to this effort, and currently has the highest union membership of any state. However, union membership has been on a steady decline over the last fifty years, reaching a record low in 2014 of 6.6% in the private sector. Just over 7 million people in the American workforce are a member of a union. Unfortu-

nately, this steady decline has continued despite the continued contributions of the union movement to the American workforce – improving workplace standards for all workers, union or not.

Protections such as an 8-hour work day, 40-hour work week, paid holidays, work-place protections against harassment, and other standards working professionals assume to be constant in all industries represent hard-fought battles by workers and unions of past generations. Things that today appear absurd, such as those barring young children from labor, were fostered in large part by union efforts. And yet, we are bombarded with anti-union and anti-worker rhetoric from political candidates, CEOs, and other pundits who aim to lampoon union advancement as bad for business or an undue financial burden.

The truth is that unions increase protections for all of us who work for a living. They have traditionally served the needs of workers who are most vulnerable but their battles have benefited the entire workforce. As unfounded attacks against unions continue to grow, let us remember the necessary goals unions like the AFL-CIO, SEIU, UAW, IBEW, and Teamsters have sought and the benefits we enjoy in our professions because of them.



Enjoyed touring Cornell University with local Assemblymember Barbara Lifton and Cornell's first female President, Elizabeth Garrett.

Protecting our Diverse Ecosystem

Living in a dense urban environment, it is often easy to forget the diverse ecosystem we rely upon and how our actions, including our means of development, have direct impact on the environment. Even in a city, birds are a fundamental part of our ecosystem. They eat insects we consider pests, pollinate trees and other plants by carrying and spreading seeds, and create a multi-billion dollar tourist industry. Bees pollinate a large percentage of plants that humans eat as food. In fact two-thirds of the global food economy is dependent on bee populations.

The recent increase in glass-covered buildings has been particularly damaging to the bird populations both within the City and the country as a whole. Birds die as a result of mistaking reflections on building glass as a passage to trees on the other side, causing them to strike the building. Hundreds of millions of birds are killed each year from flying into glass buildings. Our overdevelopment and dependence on

pesticides and other chemicals are also killing off our bee populations. The loss of these two species would be detrimental to our own lives.

Whether through the construction of tall buildings near parks in urban areas that prove to be deadly obstacles for birds, or garden shops that sell flowers pretreated with pesticides that kill bees, we need to be more mindful about the effect we have on our world. Climate change, food production, and overall sustainability are topics that bombard our daily lives, and these threats should not be dismissed, they actually pose a credible danger.

We must take steps to protect these species, such as mandatory use of bird-safe glass, or a dramatic reduction in the use of pesticides. Our lives are hugely dependent on relationships with other animal populations and we must recognize challenges ahead when human development and interactions begin to negatively affect our fragile ecosystem.

Applying for a Senior Citizen MTA Reduced-Fare Program

The MTA Reduced-Fare Metro Card for Senior Citizens is an indispensable program. If you are 65 years old or older or have a qualifying disability you are eligible for a reduced-fare metro card. With this card, single fares are \$1.35 instead of the current base rate of \$2.75. Reduced-Fare Metro Cards work on NYC Transit and local buses anytime and express buses during limited hours.

Reduced-Fare Metro Cards must be applied for and are permanent, personalized cards which have your photo on them. For more informa-

tion visit the MTA website at <http://web.mta.info/nyct/fare/rfindex.htm>. You can also print and fill out an application for the reduced fare card from this website. Or you can call my office and we can mail you one. Please mail completed applications to 130 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201-9625, or submit applications in person at 3 Stone Street, Manhattan, NY. If you have questions regarding the application call the MTA at (718) 330-1234 during regular business hours.

The Impact of Homelessness on Education

We have been inundated with images and conversations about the current homeless population throughout the city. While there seems to be a more visible problem of people sleeping on the streets, the invisible problem of homelessness is much more concerning. In 2014, 87,000 New York City school children were homeless, according to a study by Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness (ICPH).

The homeless population has unique financial and social barriers to overcome, but children who are living in shelters, or temporary housing, have the added barriers of attending school. When there is no permanent home-base finding stability within education is particularly challenging. The educational impact associated with frequently moving around while living in a shelter, or being a “doubled-up” tenant living with friends or relatives, causes higher rates of absenteeism, emotional problems and poor academic performance. If left unaddressed, homeless students could have academic, emotional, and social performance problems for years even after permanent housing is found.

According to the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness, 1 of 13 New York City School children are directly impacted by homelessness, and, on average there is one homeless student in every classroom.

Studies have found homeless students failed standardized exams at a much higher rate than students with permanent homes. Moreover, 1 in 10 homeless students had to repeat a school grade after excessive absenteeism. A 2015 Atlas of Student Homelessness report found that there were over 43,000 homeless children in NYC public elementary schools. Out of the 43,000 students, 16,000 were reported as chronically absent; missing an average of four weeks of school in one year.

These statistics are alarming. Education is the best way to help children rise out of poverty and we must make sure that we are giving homeless students the social and emotional support they need in order to be successful not just in school, but in society. We must ensure that shelters and schools are working together to allow students in shelters to have a stable education. Otherwise, we will have a generation of students dropping out of school with no hope or goal in sight for moving beyond poverty. As we approach the holiday season, let us all do our part to help. There should be no stigma behind being homeless, especially for our youth.

If you have questions about the educational rights of a child in temporary housing, please call the Advocates for Children of New York's hotline, at 1800-388-2014.

Tackling Tenant Harassment

As the housing crisis continues to grow, so are the pressures landlords are placing on tenants. My office regularly hears from tenants facing harassment from their landlords. The best way to protect yourself is to know your rights. So below I assembled some of the most common questions and concerns I hear from constituents with suggested answers.

What constitutes tenant harassment?

Tenant harassment is anything that is meant to intimidate tenants or try to get them out of their apartments. Examples include landlords threatening tenants, limiting essential services, conducting unnecessary and disruptive construction projects, initiating baseless eviction notices, or refusing to renew leases for no valid reason.

Your Rights: Repairs and Construction:

- Basic services, such as heat, hot water and regular repairs are required of landlords. If you do not think your landlord is addressing these appropriately, you should first put your request in writing to the landlord. If the owner doesn't fix needed repairs in a timely fashion, you may file a Department of Housing Community and Renewal RA-810 form to report decreased services. Always keep copies of your documents and written correspondence with your landlord, management office and city and state agencies.
- If you are rent regulated, your landlord is required to notify all tenants of intent to apply for a demolition permit. Approvals are required from The Division of Housing and Community Renewal and Department of Buildings. If you receive notice of intended demolition, there are many steps that need to take place and ways for you to appeal, before you can be evicted. Please contact my office if you would like assistance through this process.

Seniors:

- As long as you don't violate the terms of your lease, and are 62 and over, your landlord cannot evict you if your building is being converted to a cooperative or condominium. The law also allows you to remain a rent stabilization tenant, if you are eligible for this protection.

- The landlord also cannot evict a senior for owner occupancy if the tenant or spouse is 62 years of age or older, without providing an alternative apartment.
- Senior Citizens may also be eligible to have their rent frozen and exempt from future increases under New York City SCRIE. (For more information call 311).

People with Disabilities:

- If you are disabled, you have certain protections granted to you under the law. The owner or landlord cannot evict you or your spouse for owner occupancy, unless the landlord or owner provides the tenant with an apartment of equal status.
- You may also qualify for DRIE, a New York City program that freezes your rent and exempts you from rent increases.
- For more information about any of these issues, please contact one of the resources highlighted below.

Resources

- Attorney General's Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force is a multi-leveled joint effort to assist people facing tenant harassment issues by enforcing laws, conducting inspections and imposing fines. For more information visit <http://www.ag.ny.gov/complaint-forms>.
- New York City Tenant Protection Hotline: 917-661-4505. It is open Monday-Friday from 10am-4pm for low income tenants.
- Housing Court Answers hotline: 212-962-4795. It is open Monday-Thursday from 9am-5pm.
- New York State Homes and Community Renewal hotline: 1-866-275-3427 or 718-739-6400
- Fair Housing NYC Fair Housing Protects you for more information visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fhnyc/html/rights/rights.shtml>
- Legal Aid Society: 212-577-3300
- Legal Services NYC: 917-661-4500

Deborah Glick's



NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
66TH DISTRICT
NEW YORK CITY

HOW TO REACH US:
Call 212-674-5153 or
email glickd@assembly.state.ny.us

Hedrick Martin Institute continues to provide invaluable services to some of our most vulnerable youth. I am thrilled to have joined Senator Hoylman, Councilmember Mendez, CEO Thomas Krever and students as Facebook donated computers for use by students.

