

Dear Neighbor,

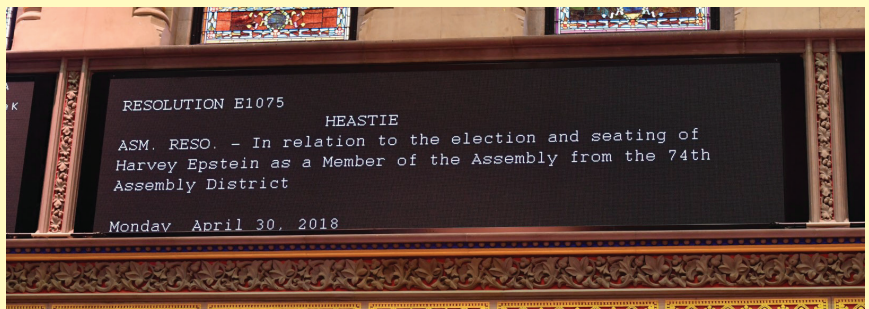
On April 24th, I was elected as the new Assembly Member for District 74. I immediately staffed the office to ensure that I could effectively hit the ground running on day one.

It has been both an exciting and challenging first month in office. I am honored to be representing our district at the State Capitol.

My office is open and providing constituent services. Please contact my office with any neighborhood concerns or feedback that you might have for me. We can be reached at 212-979-9696. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Harvey Epstein
Assembly Member, 74th District



My Inauguration

On Sunday, May 20th, I was joined by friends, family, neighbors, and elected representatives to celebrate my inauguration to the Assembly. The event was a reminder of how wonderfully diverse our district is in every way. Dave Brasuell presided over the event as our Master of Ceremonies and Judge Rita Mella administered the oath of office.

We welcomed elected leaders from around the city, who pledged to stand in solidarity with our community as we work to make our neighborhoods stronger and more affordable. I am so pleased to have such strong allies in the elected officials that represent our neighborhoods at the local, state, and federal level. I would like to thank a few of them who came out that day: Rep. Nydia Velazquez, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Council Member Keith Powers, Council Member Carlina Rivera, Council Member Brad Lander, Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, former Council Member Rosie Mendez, and others.



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We joined together in singing "Ella's Song" with community leader Ayo Harrington.

We were treated to a ukulele performance from a local student, Lymarie Y Monzón.

My Inauguration (continued from page 1)

The strength of our district lies in its diversity and our ability to come together and organize around values we all share. I am excited and honored to be able to work with all of you in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

Thank you, Joel for performing for us at the Inauguration and for allowing us to publish your work here.

Lovers East Side

by Joel Francois

If New York City were a mint condition vintage vinyl record filled with music, the Lower East Side would be the love songs ballads of brick and bones

About a lover made of barbed wire asking where have you been and why haven't you stayed with me
I don't know who filled these streets with this sad song but I never stopped listening
And never stopped crying at the good parts

She says haven't I given you a home
Haven't I dollar pizza fed you
Haven't I Nuyorican love lettered you
Didn't you know that my heart was at a top floor window
Waiting for you to return

The lower is side is every love song
That begins in pain ends in pain
But has so much beautiful music through and through

And I want to love this city back
I want to come back to it
With its bodega sized heart
And its people moving fast but in rhythm
Or moving slow with places to be
Who wear their favorite songs on their sleeve
And dancing
Even to the sound of honking cars and police sirens they dance

And they don't wait for the beat to do it
But loving a neighborhood you can't afford to live in
Is like crushing on a person out of your league
Oh so you like whole foods now I thought you liked
Walking into the bodega and
Asking why the cat is giving birth on the bread
Hey I guess people change
But I really mean I guess they're ripped from their homes

I guess they have to see their loved ones through
The barbed wire
I guess we used to that kinda family reunion ain't we
Ain't this the kinda love songs that sad cities are made of



Immigrant Accompaniment Training Session

in partnership with
New Sanctuary Coalition

Wednesday, June 27th
6:30pm – 8:30pm

East End Temple
245 E 17th Street
New York, NY 10003

Join us in partnership with the New Sanctuary Coalition on Wednesday, June 27th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm for an Immigrant Accompaniment Training Session.

Immigrant families trying to secure basic rights for themselves and their families are met with many barriers as they navigate an unknown and hostile legal system.

Help support these families through the immigration process in 3 ways:

1. Provides a support structure to strengthen those caught in immigration proceedings;
2. Keeps families members informed at every step of the process as their loved ones move forward;
3. Holds legal officials accountable for providing accurate information and serving due process.

The program pairs immigrants in final removal proceedings with volunteers who accompany them to their required, periodic check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP).

The training session will be held at the East End Temple, located at 245 E 17th Street, New York, NY 10003.

To RSVP please call **212-969-9696** or email **nievesr@nyassembly.gov**. You must RSVP to attend — space is limited!

Clean Up Tompkins Square Park

Saturday, July 14th
11:00am – 1:00pm

We would love to see you there! If you would like to come by, please **RSVP by July 7th** as we need to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone. To RSVP, please call **212-979-9696** or write to **nievesr@nyassembly.gov**



I joined Assembly Member Niou, Council Member Chin, Cooper Square Committee, and the residents of two Lower East Side Croman buildings to continue the fight against predatory landlords.

Standing Up For Tenants

When it comes to safeguarding tenants' rights, the State holds a great deal of regulatory power. Just weeks after my election to the Assembly, I stood on the floor to argue for the passage of a package of bills that would strengthen protections for tenants and fight back against some of the dubious practices that bad actor landlords have been using to displace tenants.

Among the bills passed is a solution that puts a stop to preferential rent scams, where unscrupulous landlords will offer rent-stabilized apartments far below the legal rent to entice tenants and then charge the maximum legal rent plus whatever increase the Rent Guidelines Board may allow when it comes time to renew the lease. The new rent could be hundreds of dollars more than the preferential rent, and as a result, the unsuspecting tenant cannot afford to pay. The preferential rent scam forces tenants out of their homes and edges units closer to deregulation. In the midst of an affordable housing crisis, we cannot afford to lose more rent-regulated units to scams like these—this legislation

will keep tenants in their homes and preserve rent-stabilized apartments.

The package we passed in the Assembly also includes legislation to close the Major Capital Improvement loophole which currently allows landlords to make a permanent increase to rent-stabilized tenants after a building-wide improvement is made. This unfair system has been historically abused to raise rents. In passing this package, my colleagues and I took an important step in leveling the playing field for tenants and keeping our neighborhoods affordable.

I look forward to the passage of this legislation and continuing the fight to improve living conditions for tenants across the City.



Strengthening Civil Rights For Transgender New Yorkers

In my first few days as an Assembly Member, I co-sponsored A.06500 to designate all single occupancy bathroom facilities in public places and in all public and private schools as gender neutral.

This bill works to remove the fear of harassment and anxiety that transgender and gender nonconforming individuals may feel when they face the everyday reality of using a public bathroom. All New Yorkers should have the freedom to access facilities that match their gender expression.

It's time we join a growing number of states in the effort to protect and expand the civil rights of transgender and gender nonconforming individuals.

Supporting and Protecting Survivors of Domestic Violence

In May, I proudly joined my Assembly colleagues in passing a package of bills aimed at preventing domestic violence and offering the support survivors need to help move forward with their lives.

This package is an aggressive action against the pernicious reality of domestic violence. Beyond introducing new laws to prevent domestic violence, this package also creates tools for survivors to move beyond their abuse, including legislation to allow the penalty-free cancellation of cable and cell phone contracts, a measure to protect survivors from employment discrimination, and bills to compel employers to provide accommodations for medical care and counseling services.

Survivors deserve every protection and support our State can afford them. This package represents a big step towards making New York a leader in providing the services survivors need to put their lives back together.



Just days after I was elected, I joined GWC-UAW to urge the administration at Columbia to recognize their union.

Fighting For Accessibility at Subway Stations

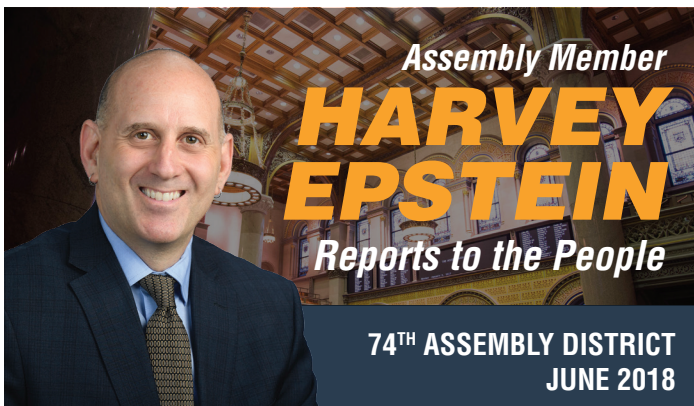


I held my first press conference in support of people with disabilities and their rights to access public transportation. While I focused on adding accessibility during the planning for the 'L' train closure, I also called for full accessibility throughout the subway system.

It is unconscionable that the MTA does not intend to comply with ADA standards. As New Yorkers, we cannot allow the MTA to fail people with disabilities. If the MTA is going to go through the extraordinary expense of renovating these stations and place an extreme burden on the community with these closures, the least it can do is guarantee accessibility for the future.

I was joined by State Senator Hoylman, Council Members Carlina Rivera and Keith Powers, as well as numerous disability rights advocates and transit improvement activist organizations.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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*Versiones disponibles en español
en la Oficina de Distrito*



Assembly Member

**HARVEY
EPSTEIN**