



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On January 15, we celebrate one of the greatest activists and advocates for social justice in our nation's history: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His movement resulted in the passage of monumental legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawing discrimination in public places such as schools, businesses and places of employment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawing racial discrimination in the process of voting and registering to vote. We can all celebrate his life and legacy by considering what we can do to extend a compassionate hand to our neighbors today and throughout the year.

As Chair of the People with Disabilities Committee I led a letter to Governor Hochul for the inclusion of a 3.2% cost of living increase and the Direct Support Wage Enhancement to support New York's Direct Support Professionals. Governor Kathy Hochul gave her State of the State Address Tuesday highlighting the 2024 Budget Priorities for the Assembly and Senate and we are advocating for her to include these measures in the Executive Budget to be released January 16.

My breast cancer screening expansion legislation is featured in Our Town this week. The legislation extends insurance coverage for breast cancer screening to "second-degree" family relationships such as grandmother-granddaughter or aunt-niece, closing a critical gap for early detection.

There are upcoming opportunities for public comment to the State Education Department on Mayoral Control of public schools set to expire this June and to the MTA on the Congestion Pricing structure proposed by the Transit Mobility Review Board. Enclosed in this report are details on how to voice your concerns at these upcoming hearings.

According to the latest forecast from the National Weather Service, moderate to heavy rain, strong winds, and minor to moderate coastal flooding are

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

On this day, we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a visionary, scholar and civil rights activist whose leadership left an indelible mark on this country.

We continue to stand united in equality for all.



likely tonight into Saturday. Take precautions and visit [NYC Emergency Management's website for updates here.](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

*Sincerely,*



**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

**As Featured In...**



A new bill that intends to expand insurance coverage for breast cancer screening to “second-degree” family relationships—such as grandmother-granddaughter or aunt-niece—has been introduced by UES State Assmeblymember Rebecca Seawright.

Current state law limits coverage to first-degree relationships, meaning that a sizable gap exists when it comes to providing insurance for people seeking vital early-detection mammographies. Therefore, patients looking to determine whether their family’s broader medical history will lead them to develop breast cancer have faced added cost burdens in doing so.

[Read full story here](#)

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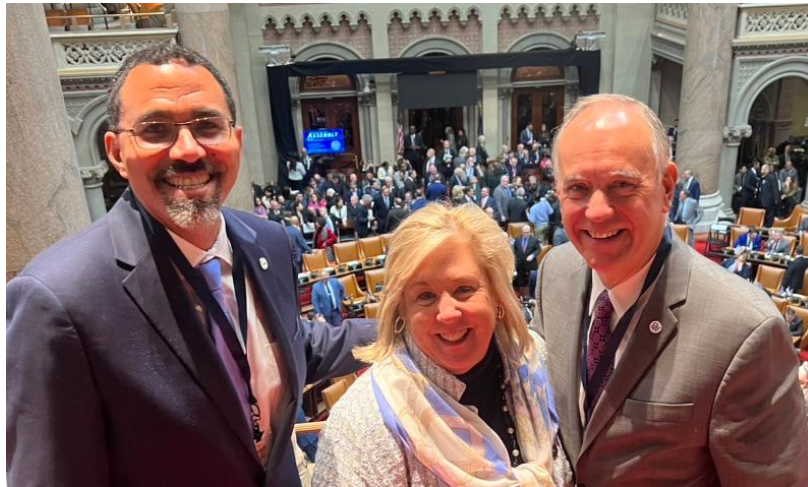
### **Seawright Stands in Support of Tuition Assistance Program as a Member of Higher Education Committee**

Assembly Member Seawright joined the press conference to call for the restoration of \$403 million for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and expand the program to more students so they can afford their education.



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**Assembly Member Seawright Advocates for Higher Education  
with SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. and CUNY Chancellor  
Félix V. Matos Rodríguez**



Seawright is advocating for additional operating aid to our cherished SUNY and CUNY systems.

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**Jewish Community Relations Council Represents at the Annual  
State of the State**



Michael Miller, Executive Vice President and CEO Emeritus of Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Noam Gilboord, CEO of JCRC in the Assembly Chamber.

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### **Assembly Member Seawright Introduces Michael Steifman, CEO of Utilisave on Assembly Floor**



Assembly Member Seawright introduced Assembly Bill 7822 to protect consumers from big utility companies anti-consumer practices. Steifman was introduced as an advocate for the pro-consumer legislation.



Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Vice Chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees Sandra Wilkin, Assembly Member Seawright, Michael Steifman and Aisha Christian.

### **Advocating for Increased Wages for Direct Support Professionals Working Hard for People With Disabilities**



Assembly Member Edward Ra, an I/DD parent advocate, Life's WORC Vice President Tina Moreno, Assembly Member Seawright, Sylvia E. King-Cohen and Assembly Member Jodi Giglio.

## New York City Mayoral Control of Schools

All members of the public wishing to provide oral feedback on their experiences, assessments, and/or review of the mayoral control system of New York City schools—including students, parents, teachers, school administrators and staff, and individuals with experience and expertise in education policy and school governance—are invited to testify in-person at the public hearings. All hearings will be livestreamed and recorded.

Individuals wishing to submit written electronic testimony must complete the written electronic testimony form. Written electronic testimony must be submitted by January 31, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

<https://www.nysed.gov/main/form/submit-written-electronic-testimony-nyc-mayoral-control>

The Manhattan Hearing:  
Thursday, January 18, 2024  
6:00–9:00pm  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 W 24th St  
New York NY 10011

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## Congestion Pricing

The MTA opened its public comment period on the congestion pricing structure. Submit comment until 3/11:

- Online: <https://contact.mta.info/s/forms/CBDTP>
- Email: [cbdtb.feedback@mtabt.org](mailto:cbdtb.feedback@mtabt.org)
- Mail: CBD Tolling Program, 2 Broadway, 23rd Floor, NY, NY 10004
- Phone voicemail: 646-252-7440
- Fax: (212) 504-3148 labelled “Attention to CBDTP Team.”

Four hybrid virtual/in-person public hearings will be held at 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004 in the MTA’s William J. Ronan 20th Floor Board Room:

- Thursday, 2/29, at 6 pm
- Friday, 3/1, at 10 am
- Monday, 3/4, at 10 am
- Monday, 3/4, at 6 pm

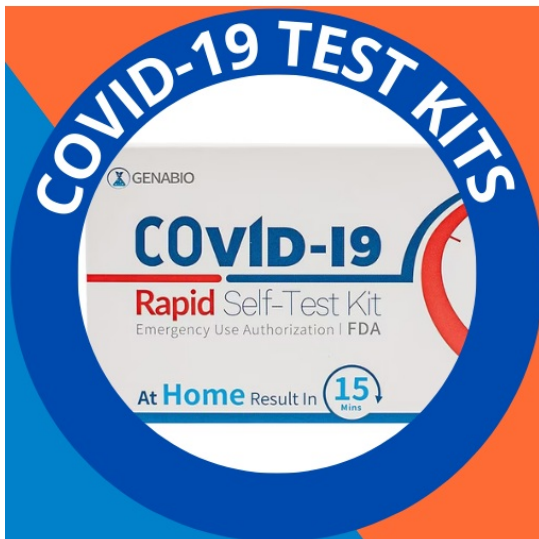
Members of the public who wish to speak (for two minutes) at a hearing must register online in advance, by calling the Hearing Hotline at (646) 252-6777, or in person at the hearing. Registration will open one week before the start time of each hearing and will close 30 minutes after the beginning of the hearing. People may also register to participate remotely via Zoom or telephone.

Each public hearing will be livestreamed on the [MTA YouTube channel](#) and on [the project website](#). Here’s the official MTA page on [How to comment on the proposed CBDTP Tolling Schedule](#).

## Consider Our Office A Resource

**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**NO-COST  
THURSDAY  
PPE  
GIVEAWAY**



**12:00PM-2:00PM**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78/79 STREETS)**

**212-288-4607**

**SEAWRIGHTR  
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**



# GRANTS ACTION NEWS

Information on available state, federal and private grants

To view the Assembly's Grants Action News for January click on the link below:

<https://nyassembly.gov/gan/?sec=story&story=108244>

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## Community Board Applications Are Now Open!

Prospective members must submit a biography or resume and complete a comprehensive online application explaining why they want to join the board, what skills they offer, and their relationship to their districts. These applications are reviewed and evaluated by an independent screening panel. Qualified applicants are interviewed on the panel's recommendation by staff members of the Manhattan Borough President's office. [Click here to apply!](#)

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# NYC'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST TEACHERS.

Join the movement.  
Teach NYC!

## A REWARDING CAREER



### COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

Teachers with a bachelor's degree and no teaching experience will earn **\$64,789**. Teachers with a master's degree will earn **\$72,832**.



### COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS

NYCPS offers a robust benefits package including health, dental, and vision insurance, a pension plan, an annual bonus, and UFT membership.



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Develop your teaching skills with professional development resources for new teachers and a mentor your first year.

## MAKE AN IMPACT



### THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

NYC Public Schools seeks passionate teachers who are New York State-certified or on track to be by September 2024.



### HIRING TRENDS

This year, in-demand subject areas include Special Education, Math, Science, Bilingual Education, World Languages, and Career and Technical Education.

Start your journey today!

[APPLY NOW >](#)

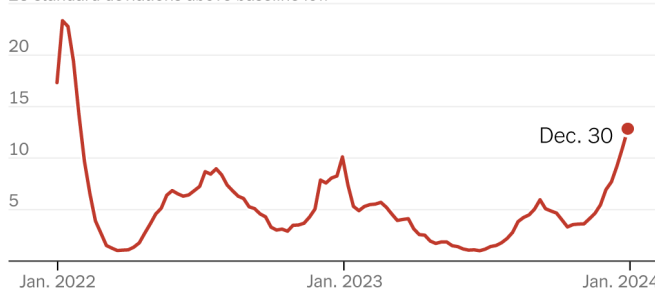
STAY IN TOUCH



## News You Can Use

### National estimate of Covid wastewater level

25 standard deviations above baseline low



We Are in a Big Covid Wave. But Just How Big?

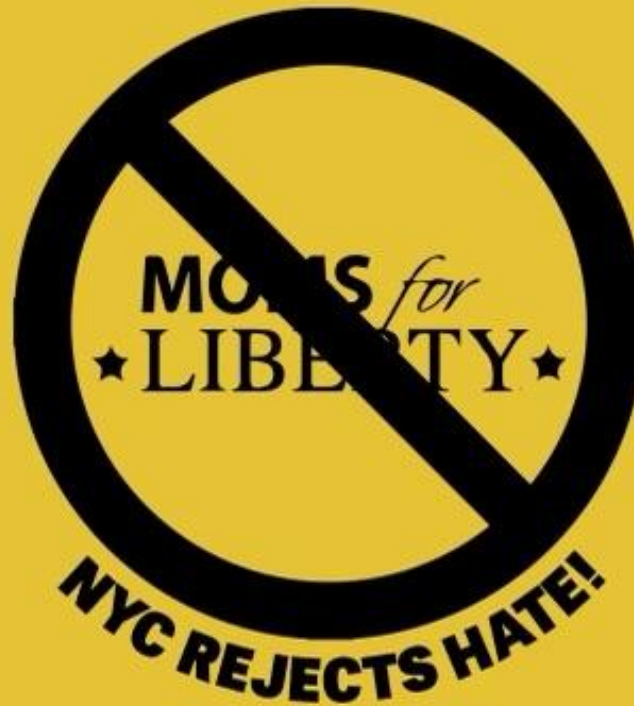
Wastewater data has become perhaps the best metric to track the spread of the virus in the U.S., but it's an imperfect tool.

[Read More](#)

## Upcoming Events

# RALLY AGAINST MOMS FOR LIBERTY

JOIN MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT MARK LEVINE • REP. JERRY NADLER  
NYS SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER • AM ALEX BORES • AM REBECCA SEAWRIGHT  
CM KEITH POWERS • CM JULIE MENIN



**JANUARY 18**  
**6:30PM**

In front of Benevolent & Literary Association  
321 East 73rd St, 3rd Fl, New York, NY 10021

COMMUNITY BOARD 8 MANHATTAN presents

# Winter Crafts Show

featuring

## LOCAL NYC CRAFTERS



Please Join us on:  
February 10, 2024

Free Admission!  
11am to 4pm

Location: Robert F. Wagner  
Middle School; 225 East 75th St.

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Crafts • Jewelry • Clothing  
Soaps • Pottery • Housewares  
Notecards • Gifts • Handmade  
Items • And more!



[www.cb8m.com](http://www.cb8m.com)



@CB8M



@CB8Manhattan



# ROOSEVELT ISLAND TREE-CYCLING

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation is excited to offer Tree-Cycling to the community!

The Grounds and Horticulture team will chip the trees provided and turn them into mulch to be used to nourish the island trees and plants making Roosevelt Island even greener!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023 —  
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024**

Residents should remove all stands, tinsel, lights, ornaments, and bags before disposing of trees.

## How to participate:

1. The participating buildings below will bring their Residents trees to Lighthouse Park for chipping:

- 425 Main Street
- 480 Main Street
- 551 Main Street
- 555 Main Street
- 575 Main Street
- 595-625 Main Street

2. Residents may drop off their tree to the designated area underneath the helix on the East side.



Roosevelt Island  
Operating Corporation



## Manhattan Community Board 8 Calendar

The Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. CB8M is comprised of 50 volunteer members who serve as advocates and service coordinators for the community and its residents, as well as help citizens resolve municipal service delivery complaints.

CB8M reviews and makes recommendations on various issues, including applications for Zoning Text Amendments, building variances and special permits, liquor licenses, sidewalk cafes and street fairs, changes to landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts, traffic and transportation issues, and more.

Each month, CB8M committees meet to discuss and resolve issues in the community.

Full Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday  
Land Use Committee - 2nd Wednesday  
Street Life - 1st Tuesday  
Transportation - 1st Wednesday  
Housing - 1st Thursday  
Parks - 2nd Thursday  
Landmarks - 3rd Monday  
Social Justice - 4th Monday  
Zoning and Development - 4th Tuesday  
Youth and Education - 4th Thursday

[Read More](#)

## In Case You Missed It: Past Editions Of Our Community Update

[Happy New Year: A Year in Review](#)

[Community Update: December 22, 2023](#)

[Community Update: December 15, 2023](#)

[Community Update: December 8, 2023](#)

[Community Update: December 1, 2023](#)

Community Update: November 20, 2023

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