



Yuh-Line Niou

REPORTS TO YOU

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to update you on some of my work in the community and in Albany. In January, I held a community town hall to help shape our neighborhood's priorities. Over two hundred lower Manhattan residents attended the town hall where they participated in a series of panels on subjects like housing, transportation, education and immigration.

Everyone's questions and comments were critical as I worked on our state budget, which was finalized in late March. This feedback helped me set our neighborhoods' priorities, and below you will find a summary of what we accomplished in the budget.

I also wanted to update you on our work in the district. My office continued to assist the 85 Bowery tenants who had to vacate their homes due to safety issues; we hosted a women's history month event where young women and girls were able to connect with women mentors; and I stood with NYCHA tenants to demand heat and hot water restorations throughout lower Manhattan this winter.

As always, our office is equipped to work with constituents in several languages, so please reach out with any questions!

Sincerely,

Yuh-Line Niou

Assemblymember, 65th District



Budget Update

Below are highlights from this year's state budget. Following our community budget and legislative town hall in January, I spearheaded efforts conveying our district's most pressing needs, and we were able to secure many accomplishments for lower Manhattan.



Housing

Securing funding for public housing repairs was one of my highest priorities, and I am happy to report that this year's budget includes a \$250 million investment to address NYCHA's repair backlog. Although this is not enough, it is a historic accomplishment for tenants. Furthermore, the budget includes design-build legislation which will allow for faster completion of NYCHA capital projects. The budget also includes support for families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, through rent supplement programs. Also included in the budget is funding to increase mental health and substance use disorder services for homeless individuals.

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Senior and Social Services

For the second year in a row, I spearheaded critical human service budget restorations. This year's budget includes \$2.45 million for the Settlement House Program (SHP). In lower Manhattan, settlement houses provide comprehensive services to children, families and seniors, ranging from after-school programming, workforce training and meal services. This funding will help our local settlement houses carry out their crucial services in our neighborhoods.

I also led efforts to secure more funding for our seniors, through the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) program. NORCs are hubs that are home to a significant number of older individuals, which provide critical social services for our aging population. This year's budget invests a new \$2 million in the NORC program, and it allows the \$2 million from last year's budget to be released, bringing us to a total \$4 million. I look forward to working with advocates to preserve and expand NORC programs across our neighborhoods so our older population can thrive.

Education

I helped lead the push to fund language training programs across our state, through the Adult Literacy Education program - and we secured \$1.5 million! As our federal government continues to target our immigrant communities, it is critical for our State to step up to ensure that adults, regardless of their immigration status, have the opportunity to strengthen their language skills.

In addition, the budget includes \$618 million for Foundation Aid to help fund the State's obligation to its neediest schools, pursuant to the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. While we still have a long way to go to fulfill the obliga-

tion to fund our public schools, I will continue to push for what we are owed. As a member of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, I was pleased that this year's budget includes \$96.6 million in aid to public libraries.

Transportation

The budget commits to have the State and City jointly fund the \$836 million Subway Action Plan to improve the quality of our MTA public transit. New Yorkers rely on the MTA every day, but the crumbling infrastructure and unreliable trains have become such an issue that last summer the Governor declared a state of emergency. These funds will help address critical repairs across our transit system, like signal related subway delays. In addition, the enacted budget includes a surcharge on for-hire vehicles, yellow cabs, and pooled rides traveling below 96th Street in Manhattan. Revenue generated from this surcharge will go towards supporting the MTA and improving public transportation. Unfortunately, as a state we were not able to advance a comprehensive plan to fund the MTA, and we obviously have more work to do to fully fund our public transit.

Women's Issues

All elementary and secondary public schools in the State will now be required to provide feminine hygiene products in restrooms at school free of charge. Women everywhere know how costly feminine hygiene products can be, and this will ensure that young women and girls are able to focus on their studies while at school rather than worry about the cost of pads and tampons. In addition, domestic violence abusers will be required to surrender all guns, bringing us one step closer towards protecting victims and our most vulnerable.



Yuh-Line participated in this year's Women's March to fight for women empowerment across our city, state and nation.

District Updates

Rebuilding After Sandy

In January, I was appointed Chair of the Subcommittee on Catastrophic Natural Disasters. This subcommittee provides input to the Assembly on the insurance coverage available to New Yorkers for disaster recovery. As lower Manhattan continues to recover after Hurricane Sandy, I look forward to leading this committee so that our community, and others across the state, have access to the insurance coverage we need to rebuild. If you have any comments about insurance coverage related to Hurricane Sandy, particularly if you were a small business impacted and had issues with claims, please reach out to my office!



Standing with 85 Bowery Tenants

In January, tenants from 85 Bowery were suddenly vacated from their homes due to unsafe building conditions. Dozens of families, including small children and seniors, were left homeless due to years of landlord neglect and lack of repairs. My office quickly stepped in to assist tenants and ensure that they had a place to live while we pushed for rapid repairs. In addition, echoing tenants' concerns, I called on the NY District Attorney and NY Attorney General's office to open an investigation into the 85 Bowery landlord given his track record of tenant harassment and neglect.



Fighting for NYCHA Heat Restorations

This winter, we faced dangerously cold temperatures, and yet we had countless residents on the Lower East Side without heat and hot water. I was contacted by 90-year-old seniors and families with newborn children complaining about the lack of heat during these sub-zero temperatures. Tenants should not go to sleep worried that their building's heating system may collapse overnight, which is why I stood with NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer and tenants to call for rapid heat restorations across NYCHA.

Protecting Inmates' Rights

Earlier this year, as means to control prison contraband, the New York State Dept. of Corrections introduced a directive that would have limited inmates' access to reading materials as well as other articles like fresh produce. In response, I spearheaded a coalition of elected officials opposing this policy, citing the importance of literacy when countering prison recidivism – and the order was rescinded! We also requested that the State work with the NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus when shaping policies impacting communities of color, such as this one.



Empowering the Next Generation of Women Leaders

This March, in celebration of women's history month, I hosted a panel and mentorship event to honor the contributions of women over the years. It was great to see so many new and familiar faces in the crowd and I was especially moved by the number of young women and girls who participated in this important conversation. One of the big things that panelists touched on was the importance of building a pipeline for these young women – no matter what they want to be when they grow up, they can't do it alone. I've made it a mission of mine to create mentorship opportunities, and I hope that some of the women who attended this event can use this as a jumping off point to develop valuable relationships with these role models.



Yuh-Line stood with organized labor to call for better protections and benefits for the thousands of doormen, porters and handypersons that keep our buildings running across our City.



Yuh-Line joined community members in the annual Lunar New Year parade to celebrate the Year of the Dog!

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Assemblymember
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District and Budget Update

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