

Free Shipping Isn't Free, Con-Edison Rate Increase, **Support the Arts**

December 19, 2019

Greetings -

This morning the New York Daily News published my op-ed, "Free shipping isn't actually free," which calls for the state to impose a \$3 dollar per package fee on all online deliveries. Read my prescription for how New York can break the online delivery addiction that is clogging our streets, polluting our air, creating waste, burdening workers and killing small businesses below:

Free shipping isn't actually free

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DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

Con Edison Rate Increase

This week I submitted comment in opposition to the Joint Proposal from Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) and the Department of Public Service to increase electricity and gas rates by \$1.2 Billion over the next three years. New York City already pays the 2nd highest municipal energy rates in the country and this rate hike would increase those rates 13% over the next three years for electricity and 22% for gas. After a disastrous summer of blackouts, brownouts and shut-offs, the last thing that Con Ed deserves is more money from ratepayers. Taken together with the chaos that National Grid caused this year with their self-imposed gas moratorium and their own proposed double-digit rate increase, it's quite a bitter bill for ratepayers to swallow. Ratepayers should not be given short shrift over shareholders, which is why I am introducing legislation to make our utilities public. Look for updates on this as we head into the legislative session in January. See my full comment regarding the Con Ed rate hike below:



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

COMMITTEES Cities Election Law Environmental Conservation Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development Chair: Subcommittee on Museums & Cutural

December 18, 2019

Hon. Michelle Phillips Acting Secretary to the Commission 3 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223

Dear Secretary Phillips,

I write to oppose the Joint Proposal of Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) and the Department of Public Service to increase energy rates by approximately \$810 million for electric delivery and by approximately \$393.8 million for gas delivery over the next three years. This proposed hike would increase the cost of gas by 22% and of electricity by 13% for the average ratepayer. New York City already pays the 2nd highest municipal rates in the country and I question whether we are receiving value for the huge sums of money Con Ed regularly receives through settlements, rather than through fully litigated rate cases.

Not surprisingly, while the Joint Proposal pays lip service to the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) by authorizing a study on the decapitalization of the gas system and climate change, it simultaneously includes \$200 million for new fossil fuel infrastructure. If New York is going to meet the ambitious renewable energy goals set forth in the CLCPA and in New York City's climate goals, more must be done. This "business as usual" approach to Con Ed's obligations to serve New York and its citizens cannot continue.

Additionally, this proposed rate increase comes as Con Ed is coming off a disastrous year for everyday New Yorkers. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers experienced blackouts, brownouts, and shutoffs - many happening on the hottest days of the year. These mostly happened because Con Ed demonstrably had not done the routine work of grid maintenance and upkeep necessary and is further evidence that this is not a well-earned rate increase, but rather a money grab for shareholders. At the same time New York City's other energy utility, National Grid (f/k/a Brooklyn Union Gas), is proposing double-digit increases in gas costs despite having created chaos by failing at its core duty of meeting its customers' needs.

If New York is serious about these utilities serving the public then we should take the incentive for profit out of the equation and bring public power to New York City.

Regards,

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Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll

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Hearing to Support the Arts

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, I was in Albany last Thursday to co-chair a hearing about capital funding for arts organizations. There are a lot of important issues that we must address in Albany, but it's critical that we remember that arts and culture are a big part of what makes New York great. Arts and Culture institutions are a significant economic force for our State, they have significant infrastructure needs and the state must do more to invest in these institutions. We heard testimony from artist leaders from across the State and you can view all the <u>videos from the hearing here</u>.



Advocating for the Independence of the Disabled

I met this week with the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled to talk about an incredibly important budgetary issue related to the MTA's e-hail pilot program. This terrific pilot program brings the efficiency and nimbleness of taxis to the users of the highly costly and inefficient access-a-ride system. Under funding this pilot program will only cost New York in the long run. In the coming weeks I'll be fighting to restore the e-hail pilot program's budget in Albany. I hope you will join me in advocating for sensible expansion of this critical program that helps thousands of disabled New Yorkers.

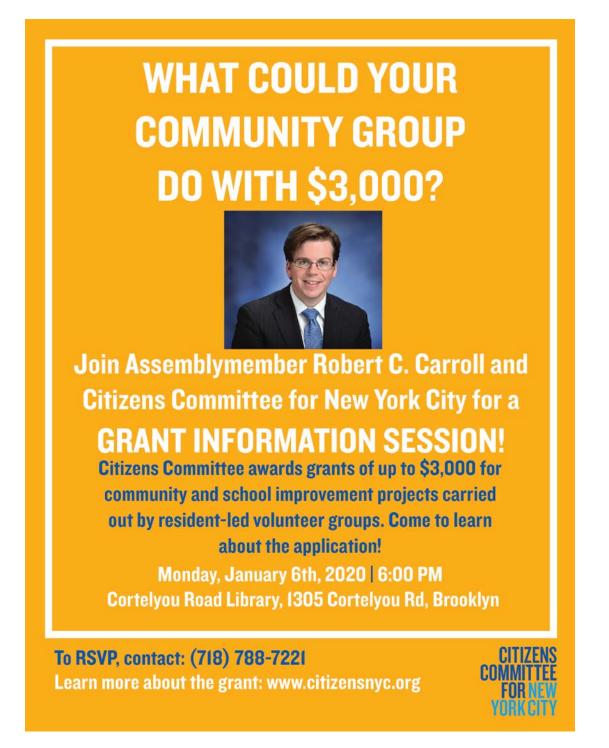


<u>Citizens Committee for New York City Grant Program</u>

The Citizens Committee for New York City is promoting a funding opportunity for grassroots organizations working to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Citizens Committee's Neighborhood Grants program offers up to \$3,000 for communityimprovement projects led by volunteer groups such as block and tenant associations, PTAs, community gardens, groups working with youth or seniors, cultural organizations and more. Unlike most grant programs, groups do not have to be incorporated or have 501(c)(3) status to be eligible for a grant!

I am co-sponsoring a grant information session on January 6, 2020 if you would like to learn more about this opportunity. See the flyer below for details:

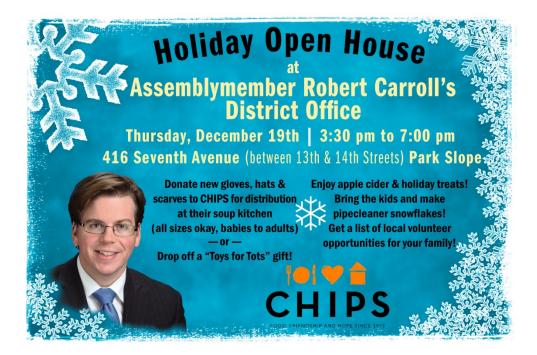


You can find out more about the grant and application at citizensnyc.org/grants.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season,

Bobby

P.S. Join me **today** at my district office (416 7^{th} Avenue) for my holiday open house. We are collecting hats, scarves and gloves for CHIPS or an unwrapped toy. 3:30pm - 7:00pm.



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