

Yuh-Line Niou

REPORTS TO YOU



Dear Neighbor,

As your Assemblymember, I fight every day for the basic rights and diverse needs of our community. With so much happening and real change coming to Albany, I wanted to give you some updates!

It's an honor to represent lower Manhattan, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished this year. Together, we pushed for and passed the 9/11 Health Benefits Extender bill which gives our 9/11 responders the chance to obtain the benefits they deserve. As a testament to our efforts, the 9/11 Health Benefits Extender bill was signed into law!



On these legislative issues and more, your continued advocacy is what helps us prioritize what we need to keep fighting for. In response to plans for the proposed Manhattan Detention Center and Two Bridges Project, we submitted public testimonies and formal comments that outlined the concerns we shared on the effects projects like these have on our neighborhood. Our community has made it clear that we want real community-based planning that focuses on engaging us at every step and addressing the severe impacts our community experiences from massive projects.

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, I encourage you to reach out to our office and attend our community budget and legislative town hall. Please let me know your concerns and priorities so we can fight for them together in Albany. A flyer for the town hall is enclosed in this report.

I also wanted to remind you that we moved our office to 64 Fulton Street, Room 302. It's near several subway and bus lines, and I encourage you to stop by with any questions or concerns! To be even more accessible to you, we continue to hold mobile district offices where we help constituents apply for and navigate government services and listen to your concerns. If you still have trouble reaching us, call our office to set up a mobile district office event near you.

See you around the neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Yuh-Line Niou

Assemblymember, 65th District



9/11 Health Benefits Extender Signed into Law

I'm humbled to represent the district that includes the site of the 9/11 attacks, and I know the solemn responsibility that it brings. With the special health needs of 9/11 responders, I sponsored the 9/11 Health Benefits Extender Bill which was signed into law in September. This bill extends the time frame in which first responders can apply for critical health services. Although it has been 17 years since the attacks, some rescue workers are only now feeling the effects. Diseases from exposure to toxic materials can progress at slower rates, which is why we need this law for our first responders. This law gives our rescue, recovery and clean-up responders a fairer chance to receive the benefits they deserve. We remain forever grateful for their service.

District Updates

Speaking Out Against the Manhattan Borough Detention Center

While I support the closure of Rikers Island, I strongly opposed Mayor de Blasio's push to open a Manhattan Borough Detention Center without community input. In multiple hearings and town halls, our community voiced serious concerns about the severe impact the detention center has on our neighborhood and the lack of a meaningful community engagement process. Together, we pushed for the Mayor to restart the process from the beginning and provide an actual engagement process that met our needs. Manhattan was the only borough to have its site changed with no community input. The plans thus far are insufficient and do not come close to addressing the tremendous impact the Mayor's proposal would have on our community.

In addition, our community expressed serious concerns about the lack of clear policy proposals on the Mayor's plans to reform the criminal justice system. If the Mayor intends to implement real criminal justice reform, he must also address the conditions inside the detention center. Criminal justice reform does not happen simply from moving from one site to another. Without a clear, detailed, and transparent plan for criminal justice reform, the administration cannot possibly assure the community that the same result will not happen again and create four smaller Rikers, all equally inhumane as the original. I will continue to fight to ensure real progressive reform that addresses the needs of our community.

Two Bridges Project LSRD Written Comments

I believe that community concerns must always take higher priority than any new luxury developments, which is why I am opposing the proposed Two Bridges Large Scale Residential Development (LSRD).

A large development of this scale permanently changes our community. The project would result in over 2.5 million square feet of development in three towering luxury high-rises, with thousands of new residents entering our community. It would impact overall community affordability, school seats, parking, and transit. Our community deserves a detailed mitigation plan that focuses on community-based planning and addresses the damage to our infrastructure and impacts from a two and a half to three year construction period.

Along with my colleagues, I have called on the City to apply ULURP, or Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, to the current Two Bridges LSRD, to require significant community engagement, as the proposed modifications are too large to ignore. The Mayor continues to resist this important step, which is why we must continue to stand against overdevelopment in our community.

Fighting to Prevent Another Rivington House Closure

The closure of the Rivington House, a Lower East Side nursing home that had served HIV/AIDS patients since the mid-90s, came after secret, untransparent and unfair deals that lifted historic deed restrictions on it for luxury development. Rivington House cared for our most vulnerable members in the community and we continue to be grateful for its service in caring for a severely underserved population.

I sponsor a bill in the Assembly, known as the Rivington Act, which would create a more transparent system during potential closures of facilities like Rivington House. I will continue to keep fighting against the overdevelopment of Lower Manhattan and ensure that our most vulnerable residents receive the protections they deserve through a more transparent process.

National Night Out Against Crime

I joined the New York City Police Department (NYPD) at their National Night Out Against Crime! The NYPD works tirelessly to keep us safe and build stronger bonds between local communities and the police who serve them. At this memorable event, I commended the many honorable men and women in uniform for their decision and sacrifice to protect and serve our community.



Establishment of the Tenant Restitution Fund

At Croman Properties, Steven Croman methodically and illegally harassed and pushed out tenants. I am proud to announce the establishment of the Tenant Restitution Fund in which victims of these predatory acts can apply to receive financial restitution. If you lived at a Croman property and experienced harassment, please contact my office.

I want to thank the Attorney General's office for its continued support of protecting the rights and needs of our community members. I also want to send a clear message to unfair landlords everywhere: you are not above the law. Today, I continue to fight for our tenants' rights, affordability and basic housing conditions.

83-85 Bowery Tenants Return Home

From the moment the tenants of 83-85 Bowery were forced to vacate their homes in early January due to their landlord's negligence, we have stood by their side as we fought for justice. We provided on-site translation services during the entire emergency vacate order, helped to secure warm shelter and food, followed up with every tenant during their displacement, and led a multi-agency effort to ensure that our tenants were safe until they were able to return to their homes. Finally, I am happy to report that the 83-85 Bowery tenants have rightfully come home. From rallies to hunger strikes, they showed incredible resilience, courage and strength during this very difficult time.

It is clear that we need stronger state housing laws to prevent tragedies like 83-85 Bowery from ever happening again. No person should ever have to endure this type of experience. In the upcoming legislative session year, our rent stabilization laws which protect tenants from unfair rent hikes and evictions are up for renewal. I will be there to ensure that these laws are not only renewed but strengthened so we can end vacancy decontrol, stop the preferential rent scam and reform the MCI laws that drive up rents.





Save the Date!

**Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou's
Legislative and Budgetary Town Hall**

*Discuss legislative and budgetary priorities
and have your voice heard.*

February 3rd, 2019

*Please RSVP for more info: E-mail info@yuhlineniou.org or
call at 212-312-1420*

Fire Safety Workshops

I had the best time with students from all over our district learning about fire safety!

We see a spike in fires in our district during this season because more people are indoors with space heaters. In collaboration with the FDNY and local schools, we held this workshop to ensure that our community remains safe. I want to thank the New York City Fire Department and schools for joining us and for improving our City's safety.



Constituent Services

To provide more direct services to our community, our office held over 50 mobile district offices in locations all over our district since our last update. These mobile district offices provide services that we offer at our district office like assistance in signing up for and navigating public benefits, important program information such as senior healthcare or rent increase exemptions, free flu shot drives, and senior MetroCard registration. Let our office know if you want a mobile district office held at a location near you!



NYCHA Heat and Hot Water Outages

The previous budget negotiations have been some of the toughest New York has seen in history. But through our advocacy, we were able to secure a historic \$550 million dollar investment for NYCHA and passed legislation to accelerate repairs by improving efficiency in the procurement process. Even with our milestone achievements, NYCHA has been unable to come up to the mark. We continue to receive and assist with complaints from NYCHA residents regarding heat and hot water outages. NYCHA consistently fails in providing basic water services to its tenants. Our residents will not stand for these poor conditions. NYCHA should be held accountable in meeting its basic obligations to its tenants and addressing the failing infrastructure in public housing. Recently, I sent a letter to NYCHA demanding a permanent solution to this ongoing problem. I will continue to advocate for our tenants and work to ensure our residents receive the quality-of-life they deserve.

L-Train Shutdown Rally

I joined residents, local residents, Community Board 2 and elected officials at Petrosino Square to voice our shared concerns about the L-Train Rehabilitation Project which will commence in April of 2019. The partial shutdown of L-Train service will impact our community because it increases the strain on our local transit system. Many of the alternative bus routes run through already heavily congested areas of our community and the lack of no emission buses affect our air quality. We need to continue to engage the MTA and DOT to create a better mitigation plan that addresses the needs of our community.



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember
Yuh-Line Niou

REPORTS TO YOU

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ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Yuh-Line Niou

Winter 2018

District Update

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