



Dear Neighbor,

The last few months have been both harrowing and hopeful. The deployment of thousands of federal Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Minnesota in January brought scenes of chaos, violence, and eventually deaths at the hands of federal law enforcement. The damage that so-called Operation Metro Surge wrought to immigrants and their neighbors cannot be understated. But at the same time, we saw something miraculous in Minnesota – neighbors uniting across class, race, and even sometimes political differences to support and protect one another. Community members show up in many ways, from escorting children to and from school, to delivering groceries to vulnerable families, to exercising their constitutional right to protest. Even less emotionally charged actions like neighbors helping to shovel after a large snowstorm, or in upstate towns, neighbors helping each other to repair a damaged barn, can help to bond a community.

Minnesota is not the first state that has faced a surge in immigration enforcement, nor are they the first state where community members have organized effectively to end these alarming surges. Across the country, wherever CBP and ICE have shown up to take people out of their communities—often unlawfully—neighbors have shown up too. Everyday people have shown remarkable courage and resilience, putting their bodies, time, energy, and money on the line. They have also shown their power; when neighbors band together to resist efforts to divide their communities and take people from their homes, they have not only been able to provide life-sustaining support, but also a model for the rest of the country that feeds our own hope and resilience.

Jelani Cobb, a historian and the current dean of the Columbia Journalism School, has spoken about teaching the Fugitive Slave Act and sharing that there were often mass protests when slave patrols would come into northern cities to kidnap people to return them to slavery in the South. Cobb describes that his students often assume that all these protestors must be abolitionists, but that in fact, people had a wide array of views on slavery; what they could not abide was someone coming into their communities and taking their neighbors. As Cobb states, “In a democracy, the fundamental civic unit is neighbor.” When we talk about policies writ large, individual people disappear. But when we see the impacts up close, when we are connected and engaged in our communities and see someone in need, we can understand the damage being done and we are moved to help.

That's why this newsletter is focused on the power of being a good neighbor. This district has a rich history of community engagement, from block associations to school organizations to the community boards. Neighbors have banded together again and again to fight for what the community needs. Even as we've seen changes and lost some great block associations, we've seen renewed efforts of people meaningfully connecting to their neighborhoods. I'd like to honor what the community has accomplished, as well as share opportunities and ideas for how to get engaged. I'm also sharing some of what my office is doing to be a good neighbor, including advocating in Albany and to our city and federal partners, and an upcoming shred event on April 9th. My hope is that this newsletter will help us remember what this community has accomplished and help inspire you to recommit to our community. If what has happened in Minnesota has shown us anything, it's that we need each other.

Sincerely,

Deborah

Fostering Community While Giving Back

You may be wondering how to strengthen your own ties to your community. One way is to volunteer your time and effort with organizations and groups who are working to better the lives of New Yorkers. There are many opportunities to volunteer and connect with like-minded people. Here's a selection close to home:

Beautification and Land Stewardship

The Battery Conservancy

<https://www.thebattery.org/volunteer/>

212-344-3491

Maintain perennial gardens, care for crops on the farms, beautify the grounds

Billion Oyster Project

<https://www.billionoysterproject.org/volunteer>

Restore reefs to New York City's waterways

Friends of City Hall Park

<https://www.cityhallparknyc.org/>

Garden and beautify the 6 acre park surrounding New York City's municipal government buildings

GrowNYC

<https://gownyc.org/individual-volunteering/>

212-788-7900

Volunteer with GrowNYC Greenmarkets and Farmstands

High Line

<https://www.thehighline.org/volunteers/>

Sign up to learn when openings arise to volunteer as greeters, docents, and to assist horticulturists

Hudson River Park

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

212-242-6427

Garden and beautify the park, facilitate composting, clean up the shoreline

Liz Christy Garden

<http://www.lizchristygarden.us/>

Garden and beautify New York City's first community garden, founded in 1973

Lower East Side Ecology Center

<https://www.lesecologycenter.org/volunteer/>

212-477-4022

Conduct outreach, stewardship, support compost operations

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/volunteer>

Clean the parks, garden, engage the community

Washington Square Park Conservancy

<https://washingtonsqpark.org/volunteer/>

Maintain a clean and verdant park, weed garden beds, water the trees

Animal and Wildlife Care

NYC Bird Alliance

<https://nycbirdalliance.org/take-action/taking-action>

212-691-7483

Assist injured birds and migrators, monitor window collisions, report findings through www.dBird.org

Caring for Our Community

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html/?icid=surge&imed=display&isource=regionalcontent>

800-733-2767

Respond to emergencies to meet disaster needs for individuals and households, ensure needs are met for residents at shelters, licensed healthcare professionals provide essential care and education, greet and register blood donors, assist with community relations

Fostering Community While Giving Back *(continued)*

Community Service Society of New York

<https://www.cssny.org/programs/entry/amicorps-seniors-retired-and-senior-volunteer-program-rsyp>

212-674-7787

Adults aged 55 and over are connected with opportunities at soup kitchens and food pantries, hospitals and health care facilities, educational settings, community-based organizations, and cultural institutions

Department for the Aging

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/volunteer.page>

212-244-6469

Tutor and mentor children, assist with health insurance counseling, assist with blood pressure monitoring, lead exercise classes at older adult centers, provide in-person or phone visits, be an American Sign Language volunteer

Educational Alliance

<https://edalliance.org/get-involved/volunteer/#individual-volunteer-form>

212-780-0800

Serve meals, volunteer at food pantries, sort donated clothes

Greenwich House

<https://greenwichhouse.org/about/get-involved/volunteering/>

646-516-9818

Join students on field trips, serve holiday meals, teach classes in person and via zoom, host trivia parties at centers, repaint facilities, plant flower boxes for rooftop playground

New York Cares

<https://www.newyorkcares.org/volunteers>

212-228-5000

Sort and pack donations, pack and deliver meals, mend coats, play sports with students, support jobseekers, rescue food from becoming waste, pack pantry food

Village Preservation

<https://www.villagepreservation.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

212-475-9585

Assist with mailings and general office work, and assist with events

Visiting Neighbors

<https://www.visitingneighbors.org/volunteer>

212-260-6200 and speak with Volunteer Coordinator Howie Square Match with an older adult based on interests and personalities, assist with shopping, errands, or appointments, escort on outdoor walks, share talents with Visiting Neighbors to find opportunities

We Speak NYC, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

<https://a002-irm.nyc.gov/EventRegistration/RegForm.aspx?eventGuid=7d6f7829-b867-4acd-b461-e917c9281124>

212-788-7654

Lead a conversation group on Zoom or at local community organizations to practice conversational English and share about City services

Assist with Meal Packaging and Delivery

God's Love We Deliver

https://glwd.volunteerhub.com/vv2/#_

212-294-8100

Assist with meal fulfillment, kitchen projects, baking projects, meal inventory and processing, and meal delivery (both walking and driving)

Rethink Food

<https://www.rethinkfood.org/volunteer-form>

212-364-7040

Prepare and package meals with the culinary team

City Meals on Wheels

<https://www.citymeals.org/get-involved/volunteer-with-us>

212-687-1234

Deliver meals, make holiday calls and cards, assist in the kitchen, shop for groceries

Stay Informed and Take Action

Hands Off NYC

<https://www.handsoffnyc.com/get-involved>

Protect your neighbors and our larger community by attending trainings, hosting or attending community events, and finding opportunities for outreach and advocacy

Celebrating Our Block Associations

Greenwich Village has a rich history of community involvement. Time and time again, neighbors have taken on the work of organizing together to protect and support their neighborhoods. Since the founding of the Washington Square Association (the city's first neighborhood organization) in 1906, block associations and community-based civic organizations have been vital to the life of the 66th Assembly district. So many of the things that residents love about our community – our parks, our architecture, our community events – are what they are because of the efforts of these organizations. It can be easy to take these things for granted, but it's essential to recognize the work of the volunteers who do so much for our community, both to honor them and to (hopefully) recruit others to help!

Below, you can learn more about just a few of the many dynamic block associations in the district, and how to get involved. Please let me know if you lead a block association not listed here and can share a way for community members to join. My office would be happy to provide details to interested neighbors.

Abingdon Square Conservancy

Abingdon Square Conservancy works to enhance and maintain the square as a landmark. They hold annual events including a spring tulip display, a Halloween night carved pumpkin patch, and a winter holiday decoration and lights display. The Square was first established as a park by the City in 1836; the Conservancy was established in 2000, and raised the funds that ultimately led to the Square's renovation from 2003-2004.

Want to get involved? Visit: <https://www.abingdonsquare.org/volunteer>

Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association

One of the districts oldest block associations, the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association (BBC) was established in 1974 and

has continued to thrive. Every year the association purchases a variety of flowering plants and ivy for neighbors to plant in tree pits around the district. The association also works to beautify the neighborhood and worked with my office to install 15 lampposts that were historic reproductions. The BBC has been generous in sharing the wisdom they have gained over the years, offering advice, funding, and encouragement for anyone seeking to start their own block association.

To get involved, visit: <https://bbcblockassociation.com/join/>

East 11th Street Block Association

The East 11th Street Block Association was founded in 1971 to take on issues concerning neighborhood safety like crime and lax sanitation rules. In the 1990s, the association began working on projects to beautify the neighborhood and improve quality of life. These projects include protecting trees in the neighborhood and improving residential lighting. To this day, the association operates with the primary mission of developing a community of neighbors working to enhance the block and cooperate with other associations for community development.

Want to learn more? Get involved (<https://www.east11thstreetblockassn.org/newsletter>) or read their more recent newsletter (<https://www.east11thstreetblockassn.org/news>).

Tribeca North Neighborhood Association

Tribeca North Neighborhood Association was started in 2021 when a group of neighbors gathered with the goal of adding more trees to their neighborhood. They found the process more arduous than expected, leading to the formal establishment of the association in 2023. Since its formation, the membership has grown to include hundreds of residents and has broadened its scope to include advocacy for pedestrian safety and working to create a greener neighborhood.



I was delighted to speak at the Beauty Justice Fair at CUNY–City College (CCNY) on March 6th, 2026, an event dedicated to advancing safer beauty products, public health, and environmental justice, hosted by WE ACT for Environmental Justice in partnership with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. I was able to share information about my bill, Beauty Justice Act (S2057A / A2054A) which would ban certain toxic ingredients from personal care products and cosmetics, focused on those that are disproportionately harmful to women and people of color.

Celebrating Our Block Associations *(continued)*

If you're interested in joining, visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdt5QxnUZBa0eWdRrVqUhsxtyIw-dwGONSLuow33KCcvyZeA/viewform>

West 9th Street Block Association

The West 9th Street Block Association (W9BA) was founded in 1971. Since its founding, W9BA has focused on a number of issues, advocating for increased safety and security and improved neighborhood conditions; providing a unified voice for the community as they deal with policymakers, developers, and businesses; and organizing community events.

To learn more, visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19aWkVC1IHPNAizfjsW-BFXObxowOdVPm/view>

West Village Residents Association

Founded in 2011, West Village Residents Association (WVRA) focuses on preserving the architectural character of the West Village and improving quality of life issues, including commercial noise issues. WVRA coordinates closely with the local community board, city agencies, and the New York State Liquor Authority to advocate for residents.

To get involved, reach out to WVRA: <https://www.westvillageresidents.org/contact-us>

Correspondence Corner

While taking action is crucial, letters and testimony also play an essential role in the offices of elected representatives, and I want to highlight some of the writing my office has produced that features achievements won over the years through community members working together.

Preserving the Merchant's House Museum and Underground Railroad Site

The Merchant's House Museum located at 29 East 4th Street, at over 190 years old, is recognized as one of the finest residential landmarks in the nation. For over a decade, the community has been **fighting to protect the Merchant's House from attempts to develop a larger building adjacent to the museum, which would destabilize the original 1832 foundation**, potentially causing the house to collapse. I have joined colleagues and the community in testifying and writing letters several times over the years urging the City to take decisive action to protect the Merchant's House. Community advocacy has proved successful thus far, as we've managed to stop previous proposals. The historic structure is once again facing an existential crisis as, at the time of this writing, the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) is considering whether to approve a new plan to build a 9-story building along the Merchant's House fragile wall.

Most importantly, **recently discovered evidence and a hidden passageway behind a bureau have revealed that Merchant's House was a stop on the Underground Railroad**. At a time when the federal government seeks to erase our nation's history, it is even more critical that sites related to the struggle and freedom of enslaved Americans be protected and revered. I submitted testimony urging the LPC to deny the developer's latest application during the Commission's March 17, 2026 hearing, and will continue to stand with community members fighting to protect this irreplaceable landmark.

Fighting for Affordable Housing at 388 Hudson Street

As many of you are aware, the Greenwich Village community has been **advocating for the creation of affordable housing on a city-owned lot at 388 Hudson Street for many years**. This is one example of local residents working alongside neighbors, elected officials and other community leaders to fight for affordability as housing prices have risen exponentially in this district. I've written many letters pushing the City to support the community's vision, including pressing the NYC Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development, in 2023, to ensure that their plans for 388 Hudson Street include permanently affordable housing – not the “long-term affordability” they initially announced. I'm pleased

to see that the recently released plan for the site does state that a building at 388 Hudson Street will be comprised of 278 units of permanently affordable rental housing. **I will continue to monitor that plan and urge the developer to work with the community to finalize a design that fits into the contextual aesthetic of the Greenwich Village Historic District.**

A Past Victory: Creating a New Public School at 75 Morton Street

Another nod to our community's history of working together to accomplish great things can be found in the creation of 75 Morton. **Parents, community activists, my partners in government and I began the work of creating a new public school nearly 20 years ago**. As you can imagine, that work involved countless meetings, discussions, resolutions, and letters written as we collaborated to achieve our goal. As I wrote in a statement from 2014, “For seven years and through 3 successive Governors, elected officials and community activists have sought to have New York State sell the building at 75 Morton Street to the School Construction Authority to be used as a public middle school. Today, that dream moved one step closer to reality as New York State officially transferred the building to the School Construction Authority (SCA) who will now transform the site into a middle school that will hold at least 800 students.” MS 297 at 75 Morton is a beacon of what our community has done over the years in service of the students in the district.

As you think about how you might further engage in community work or volunteering, I hope you find it helpful to reflect on how your own writing can be used to advance a cause or advocate for an issue you care about.



It was a pleasure to join the Ali Forney Center's 2026 Advocacy Day in Albany, in March, and learn more about their essential work in support of LGBTQ youth, even more critical as programs nationwide have been cut by the federal administration.



On January 5th, I was happy to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the congestion pricing program in New York City. While I know it has been a challenging adjustment for many of those living and doing business inside the zone, the first year of the congestion pricing program has delivered to the MTA more resources than anticipated to support critical capital improvements to our essential public transit. I'm heartened to see a strong foundation that will enable the MTA to make desperately needed upgrades to our system, upon which millions of New Yorkers rely. It's also great to see reduced traffic, improved commute times, and a reduction in air pollution throughout the Congestion Relief Zone.

Community Boards 101

You have likely heard about Community Boards (CB), as our Lower Manhattan boards are active leaders in reviewing and opining on a wide range of issues. There are 59 Community Boards in New York City, each consisting of up to 50 unpaid, volunteer members, some of whom are nominated by their district's City Council members. Board members are selected and appointed by the Borough Presidents from among active, involved people of each community and must reside, work, or have some other significant interest in the community.

The boards have certain responsibilities, such as weighing in on zoning issues, approving liquor licenses, and processing permits for block parties and street fairs. They also function as a resource for sharing information with their communities, and they serve to hear and address complaints from residents regarding municipal services.

Assembly District 66 includes five boards: CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4, and CB5. They each hold monthly full board meetings, and several monthly committee meetings — **all of which are open to the public** and take place in the evenings. Most are also available virtually and recorded for viewing at a later date.

Each board maintains a website where you can join their mailing lists and read about their various committees, meeting notes, resolutions, and agendas to learn more about issues that have come before the boards in the past. **Learn more about how you can get involved by visiting:** <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cau/community-boards/community-boards.page>

853 Broadway, Suite 2007, New York, NY 10003

Deborah Glick's

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER
66TH DISTRICT
NEW YORK CITY

HOW TO REACH US:
Call 212-674-5153 or
email glickd@nyassembly.gov



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**Assemblymember
Deborah J. Glick**
853 Broadway, Suite 2007
New York, NY 10003
212-674-5153
glickd@nyassembly.gov

Join me for a
FREE SHRED EVENT!
Thursday, April 9 • 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
St. Vincent's Triangle
(on Greenwich Avenue near 7th Avenue)

I'm partnering with the NYC Department of Sanitation, and we'll be joined by a few local organizations sharing information about volunteer opportunities.