

## August, 2020 DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

### Agency Reports:

#### Department of Education (DOE) Reported:

All NYC families should have received a letter from our Chancellor (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4KCwQRABGuhfc8uUUAB-RO12RzPZTU5/view>) that reminds them to complete the all-remote learning preference form and provides additional information about what in-person learning will look like. DOE central offices and schools are working hard to ensure a safe and healthy return to school this Fall.

#### Fall Re-opening Updates

The, New York City Department of Education's District School Reopening Plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department. In the next few weeks, there are a few important planning deadlines for schools, as follows:

- Remote Learning Opt-Out Survey: 8/7
- School Reopening Phase 1 plans due: 8/12
- Program Models Due: 8/14
- District Review Team Decisions: 8/21

#### Opt-In to Remote Learning Only Option

All schools are currently preparing for a blended learning model. Blended learning means that students learn part of the time in-person in school buildings, and continue their learning remotely, from home, on the remaining weekdays. Any family can also choose all-remote learning this fall, for any reason. We are asking for parents who are selecting all-remote learning to fill out a short web form at [schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020](https://schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020), or by calling 311. The power point describing the blended learning program models are available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

*If students begin in blended learning, caregivers can decide later to transition to all-remote. Families that opt-out of blended learning will be able to re-visit the decision later in the fall, depending on seat availability.*

#### Reopening of Schools – Governor Cuomo's Announcement

The Governor announced that schools across New York can reopen for in-person instruction this fall. Under the governor's announcement, schools can be reopened if they are in a region where the average rate of positive tests is below 5 percent. Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza have set a higher standard and announced that schools can only open if the rate of positive tests in the city is 3 percent or lower. Currently, New York City's positivity rate is below 1 percent.

### **Instructional Videos for Parents**

The Office of the Chief Academic Officer has produced a series of instructional videos for parents on topics ranging from “Remote Learning for Students with IEPs” to “Instructional Strategies.” These videos aim to support parents with techniques and strategies to help students learn at home. Please [check out the videos](#) here.

### **Apple Workshops**

Apple is hosting virtual learning sessions for parents and guardians from July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 22<sup>nd</sup> on topics ranging from how to set up an iPad and how to manage parental controls to a review of build-in apps and features. Learn more [here](#).

### **Summer Challenges for Kids**

Calling all students across New York City! It doesn't matter which borough you're from or which grade you are in; you can join the fun and maybe even win a prize or two. The NYC Department of Education is hosting citywide summer challenges. [click here to learn more](#).

### **Department of City Planning (DCP) Reported:**

**NEW YORK** – As the City Planning Commission (CPC) begins remote public meetings today, CPC Chair Marisa Lago announced that the City's [Uniform Land Use Review Procedure](#) (ULURP) is set to resume on Monday, Sept. 14.

“As New York works to recover and rebuild from this pandemic, it is more crucial than ever that, together, we get back to the business of creating new affordable housing and good jobs. I think that I speak for the entire Commission in saying that we are excited to return to the important work of helping craft a more equitable, healthier, sustainable and livable city, one that bounces back stronger than ever,” **CPC Chair Marisa Lago** said.

The ULURP process was suspended by [Mayoral Emergency Executive Order](#) on March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the CPC began work on land use applications that are not subject to ULURP, on ULURP applications that were already in public review prior to March 16 and on applications that will enter ULURP review in the future.

The portion of the Mayor's Emergency Executive Order that suspended ULURP will end on Sept. 14, at which point the CPC will again begin advancing new ULURP applications. Not until then will ULURP applications adhere to ULURP time frames for public review.

This staggered restart of the public review process will help ensure that the City's 59 community boards, which must adhere to ULURP's timeline but often do not meet during summer months, are ready to host remote public meetings as soon as the ULURP clock restarts.

Public draft agendas for upcoming CPC meetings will be posted on the [Department of City Planning \(DCP\) website](#) in the days before the meetings take place. Due to the pandemic, CPC meetings will be held remotely for the foreseeable future.

To provide the public with information about upcoming meetings and how anyone can participate online or by phone, the City recently launched a new web portal, [NYC Engage](#). Events will be added to NYC Engage in the coming months from the CPC and other agencies. Additional information on NYC Engage is available at the above link and in this earlier [press release](#).

#### **MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE REPORTED:**

- The "Fresh Air Summer Spaces" is offering Fun, free, and safe play spaces for NYC children ages 5-13 on 150th Street (from St. Nicholas Place to Edgecombe Avenue). Monday thru Thursday; August 5 - 27th; 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.; 12 P.M. - 2 P.M.; and 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.
- Please sign up at [www.FreshAir.org/Summer-Spaces.com](http://www.FreshAir.org/Summer-Spaces.com). Fresh Air Summer Spaces is made possible with the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ford Foundation, and the JPB Foundation.
- National Farmers Market Week begins today (8/3), so visit your farmers market for local, fresh food! Find [one of GrowNYC's Greenmarkets here](#).
- Don't forget that \$420 [Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer](#) (P-EBT) cards, scheduled to be sent to families of public school students in July, and August can be used at many farmers markets. And if you don't need those benefits, you can share those benefits with food-insecure families. Find out more at <https://www.sharemyebt.com/>

#### **NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation Reported:**

- NYC Parks' [Summer on the Hudson](#) is offering online fitness, arts and family programming in lieu of its annual Riverside Park festival.
- Enjoy daily free concerts at home with [Concerts in Motion's Virtual Visiting Series](#).

#### **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION REPORTED:**

The Civic Engagement Commission are hosting workshop(s) on nominations and elections; these workshops are an interactive learning experience that will focus on how to properly conduct nominations, elections, and voting in a virtual setting using standard and alternative methods.

### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS WORKSHOPS**

- August 27, 2020 - Manhattan - <https://bit.ly/NYNomElectWkshp>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This workshop is an interactive learning experience that will focus on how to properly conduct nominations, elections, and voting in a virtual setting using standard and alternative methods.

**TARGET AUDIENCE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The workshop is designed to provide new and returning community board members with an overview of how to properly handle their nominations and elections in a virtual meeting.

### **CITYWIDE SECRETARY WORKSHOP**

- September 17, 2020 - NYC CB Recording Secretaries - <http://bit.ly/CBSecWkshop>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This workshop is an interactive learning experience that will focus on the responsibilities of the secretary with an emphasis on the importance of accuracy of the minutes pursuant to the recommended best practices based on RONR .

**TARGET AUDIENCE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The workshop is designed to provide community board secretary and chairs with an overview on how to properly take minutes as well as the handling of the approval of minutes. By the end of this workshop, participants will:

1. Have a better understanding of the proper contents of minutes;
2. How to properly take and prepare minutes; and
3. How minutes are approved and amended before and after adoption

### **MAYOR'S OFFICE REPORTED:**

The start of a new No-Penalty Business Accessory Sign Inspection Program and the return of the annual No-Penalty Deck and Porch and Retaining Wall Inspection Programs. These initiatives allow small business owners and homeowners to obtain free inspections of the relevant structures, without risk of penalty, to determine if they comply with City safety regulations. Rather than penalize small businesses and homeowners, these initiatives will help New Yorkers comply with the regulations and proactively maintain their properties, saving them time and money by fixing potential problems before they occur.

### **No-Penalty Business Accessory Sign Inspection Program**

Beginning July 31st until September 15th, 2020, the Department of Buildings will start accepting business accessory sign inspection requests from small business owners. For the first time, DOB is offering to inspect business signage at no cost and without penalty. During the inspection, DOB's team will come out and verify that business accessory signs comply with City regulations and are safely installed. Small business owners can take advantage of these no

penalty inspections and avoid issues later by bringing their signs up to code if any deficiencies are found. Those interested in the No-Penalty Business Accessory Sign Inspection Program can contact 311 to set up an appointment.

As part of a moratorium from February 9, 2019 until February 9, 2021, the Department will not issue violations for business signs that existed on or before February 9, 2019, unless the sign is not eligible for the moratorium for reasons such as being an imminent threat to public health or safety. Businesses are encouraged to contact 311 to have their signs inspected to determine whether they comply with applicable regulations before the end of this moratorium to potentially avoid receiving future violations for signs that are not in compliance. DOB will continue to respond to 311 complaints about signs to determine whether a business' sign is compliant or eligible for this moratorium. Visit our site for more on the [Business Accessory Sign Moratorium](#)

### **No-Penalty Deck and Porch and Retaining Wall Inspection Programs**

Beginning July 31st, and also ending September 15th, homeowners and property owners can also contact 311 to request a free DOB inspection of their decks, porches, or retaining walls as part of the annual No-Penalty Deck and Porch and Retaining Wall inspection initiatives. By law, homeowners must properly maintain any deck, porch, or retaining wall on their property, and ensure that these structures comply with City regulations. Over time, weather and shifting soil can cause these household structures to deteriorate, and periodic maintenance of these structures is critical to preventing accidents. During the scheduled inspection, a Buildings inspector will look for potential dangers, such as cracking, rotting, bulging, leaning, and conditions that could lead to structural failure.

The Department first launched the No-Penalty Retaining Wall Inspection Program in 2005 and later added the No-Penalty Deck and Porch Inspection Program in 2010. Since the start of these initiatives, the City has dealt with over 1100 properties across the five boroughs, helping to prevent structural failures and saving money for homeowners. New Yorkers concerned about the safety and stability of any of these structures in their neighborhood are also urged to contact 311 to report any unsafe conditions.

### **MTA REPORTED:**

The Metropolitan Transportation (MTA) and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that stationary and bus-mounted cameras to enforce bus lane restrictions are coming to a host of new corridors and bus routes across the City, with a 60-day warning period beginning Monday, August 10th. With the announcement of the Better Buses Restart plan and new routes featuring bus-mounted cameras, the two agencies remain committed to increasing bus

speeds with the help of automated camera enforcement of bus lanes. That enforcement is expected to help ensure that congestion is reduced and bus speeds and commute times are improved for riders.

**The corridors in Manhattan where stationary cameras will be activated next week are:**

**Manhattan:**

- Lexington Avenue
- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
- Madison Avenue
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

**MTA bus-mounted cameras will also be activated on buses along three routes in Manhattan next week:**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (M23)
- 34<sup>th</sup> Street (M34)
- 86<sup>th</sup> Street (M86)

Bus lane camera enforcement technology currently exists in all five boroughs, and expansion is planned for all five boroughs as well. There are currently eight corridors in Manhattan, five corridors in Brooklyn, four corridors in Queens, three corridors in the Bronx and one corridor in Staten Island with bus lane camera enforcement.

**CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORTED:**

**Citizens Committee Neighborhood Business Grant Application.** To help New York City's small businesses experiencing financial distress due to the impact of COVID-19, Citizens Committee has launched the Neighborhood Business Grants. Grants of between \$5,000 to \$10,000 will fill gaps in funding by prioritizing businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women, which the New York Times and others report have weaker access to banking systems and financial support. Proposals that focus on adapting businesses to the challenges of COVID-19 (i.e. delivering orders, fulfilling online requests for products, conducting training and classes online) will also be prioritized. Grants may be made to barber shops, restaurants, food carts, vegetable stands, and other small businesses. Unlike many financial opportunities currently available to small businesses, this program will provide grants rather than loans. The application is intended to be accessible and short, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If you have any questions, please email [businessgrants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:businessgrants@citizensnyc.org). Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC), a non-profit which was founded to respond to the fiscal

crisis of the '70s and has provided instrumental community support after 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. PRIORITIES: Preference will be given to businesses that are: • Owned by people of color, immigrants, or women. • Owned by low- and moderate-income residents. • In need of funding to stay afloat. • Using funding to adapt the business make it operational during or after COVID-19. • Groups that have not received Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan (COVID-19 related), a Paycheck Protection Program Loan, or other loan. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: To be eligible for a grant: Business must be located in one of New York City's five boroughs. Demonstrated business revenue decrease of at least 25% due to COVID-19. Business must employ no more than 10 employees.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Employment Opportunities are also available @ <https://freshair.org/summer-2020-jobs/>

I hope that everyone is enjoying this time with their families...Have a great Summer!

Respectively Submitted by,

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District Manager