

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

JULY/AUGUST - 2023

DOT Reported: NYC DOT's Summer Streets will open nearly 20 miles of car-free streets to pedestrians, cyclists, and joggers throughout the five boroughs. In Manhattan, the route runs along Brooklyn Bridge to West 125 Street. Attendees will be able to enjoy free fitness classes, cultural performances, and family-friendly activities along the route and at rest stops.

Street Access for Motor Vehicles Park Avenue, north of 125 Street, and adjacent avenues will remain open to motor vehicles.

Summer Streets is an annual celebration of New York City's most valuable public space — our streets. On three consecutive Saturdays this August, NYC's streets are open for people to play, run, walk and bike. This year Summer Street is expanding to all five boroughs. The Manhattan dates are August 5, 12 & 19.

Brooklyn Bridge Access • Vehicles going to Manhattan: Motorists will be diverted from Centre Street Exit to either FDR Drive or the Park Row South Exits. • Vehicles going to Brooklyn: All entrances to the Brooklyn Bridge will be accessible, including Chambers Street, Park Row North, Pearl Street and the FDR Drive.

Businesses • Consider scheduling deliveries and pick-ups on Friday and/or after 2 PM on the three Summer Street Saturdays. • Notify your clients and customers ahead of time and invite them to participate in the festivities.

Residents • Parking will be restricted along the route beginning at 11 PM the night before each event through 2 PM the day of the event. We encourage you to plan ahead and observe posted parking restrictions. • Access to garages on side streets might be limited. • Noise volumes will be kept low throughout the event with no amplified sound before 10am.

Transit • Buses will be rerouted along the Summer Streets route; look for posted signs or visit mta.info for more information. • Major cross streets will be open to traffic. • Subways along the route remain unaffected by the event.

Parking • No parking regulations will be in effect from 11pm Friday before the event until 2pm the day of each event. • Street closures will begin at 5am with streets reopening at 1:30pm on the day of each event.

HRA REPORTED: CityFHEPS Landlord Incentive Bonus

The NYC Department of Housing and Preservation & Development (HPD) has designated certain zip codes in NYC as expanded housing opportunity areas. Because rents tend to be higher

in these zip codes, CityFHEPS is now offering a landlord bonus of two month's rent in zip codes who accept a CityFHEPS voucher at their market rate rent. Stabilized rents already at or below the CityFHEPS maximum are not eligible for this bonus. This incentive will be available until at least December 31, 2023. Previously, this incentive was only for one month's rent and expired on June 30, 2023.

Cash Assistance (CA) Application Interviews On-Demand

As a reminder, HRA now offers on demand interviews for all Cash Assistance new applicants and existing recipients. Clients are now receiving instructions to contact the on-demand call center in Cash Assistance related correspondence from HRA as well as in ACCESS HRA when submitting a new application.

HRA encourages callers to utilize the call-back option when calling for an interview - in order to minimize the time a client waits on hold, the CA on demand system allows callers to request a call back rather than wait on hold. This option will keep a caller's place in the queue and they will receive a call back for their interview when the call center reaches their place in the queue.

It is important for clients to also understand that on-demand interviews for CA have replaced the interview calls that HRA was initiating to clients previously. Clients must now initiate their Cash Assistance interview by calling the on-demand number provided to them. They can receive a call back, but only if they have initiated the interview process.

Clients who have questions regarding an existing application or case should continue to visit the ACCESS HRA website at nyc.gov/accesshra or call the DSS One Number (formerly HRA Infoline) at 718-557-1399.

Waiver Extensions – SNAP and Cash Assistance Telephonic Signatures

The temporary adjustment to the requirements for recording telephonic signatures for SNAP applications filed over the telephone or submitted without a signature has been extended. The waiver will now expire June 30, 2024. While this SNAP adjustment is in effect, CA, or Medicaid case applications may also be accepted over the telephone.

To apply by telephone, applicants should reach out to DSS One Number (formerly Infoline) to be referred for assistance.

The telephonic signature waiver was previously set to expire on June 30, 2023, following the May 11, 2023, lifting of the federal PHE.

Ride for Half Price – Fair Fares

Fair Fares NYC is a city program that offers eligible New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares or Access-A-Ride paratransit trips.

Fair Fares is open to all eligible New Yorkers aged 18-64 at or below the Federal Poverty Level without discounted transportation from the MTA or the City. The program's NYC residency requirement does not include a minimum timeframe. Many of the Department of Homeland Security documents provided to asylees are accepted as proof of identity.

Many Cash Assistance and SNAP recipients can ride for half price. Each non-elderly adult should log into Access HRA or create an account if they are not the head of their case and click "Enroll Now".

Encourage everyone to ride for half price with Fair Fares by sharing our **Social Media Fair Fares toolkit** and **short video**. Share and amplify!

Fair Fares enrollment is simple and can be completed online: **Apply for Fair Fares on ACCESS HRA!** View the "How to Enroll" videos in **English** and **Spanish**.

If you need assistance applying or have questions, please visit the Fair Fares **website** to find a location near you. Fair Fares enrollment assistance is also available at the NYC Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center.

Clients who need a replacement card or refund can visit any Fair Fares office or mail their damaged or expired card to:

Fair Fares NYC
P.O. Box 7099
New York, NY 10008-7099

Clients who mail their card must include the following information in the envelope along with the card:

- ✓ First and last name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Fair Fares Client ID number

All new and replacement cards are mailed to the address provided by the client.

Fair Fares Updates and Outreach Materials

The city has created Fair Fares outreach materials - including palm cards, brochures, and posters that community organizations and others can order. Please use the **Design and Print Ordering System (DPOS) website** after registering on the **login page**.

Health Insurance Renewals with GetCoveredNYC - Since 2020, Medicaid, Essential Plan, and Child Health Plus health insurance plans have been automatically renewed. Now, automatic renewals have ended. Also, New York State is resuming eligibility reviews for these public health insurance plans.

Over the next year, New Yorkers with Medicaid, the Essential Plan, and Child Health Plus will have to renew their health insurance plans or find a new plan if they no longer qualify. When your turn comes, you'll have to renew or re-enroll to stay insured.

GetCoveredNYC is here to help you navigate every step of the way. Learn more at: on.nyc.gov/GreatRenewal

MTA Reported:

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recently announced the start of its Bus Stop Hub approach as part of the Authority's initiative to implement the recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Panel Report on Fare and Toll Evasion. The MTA will deploy EAGLE teams to local and Select Bus Service (SBS) bus stop hubs with high rates of fare evasion. With NYPD support, officers will both educate members of the community on fare payment options and issue

In 2022, the MTA lost an estimated \$315 million to fare evasion on buses. Customers evade the fare on buses by walking past the farebox without paying, boarding through a back door, short-changing the farebox, or failing to purchase a ticket for Select Bus Service.

New strategies are also recommended to encourage better distribution of information about ways to save on fares with the [Fair Fares](#) and [Reduced-Fare](#) programs.

The goals of the Bus Stop Hub approach are to improve bus customer awareness of opportunities to pay lower fares, raise visibility and improve equity of fare evasion inspection on buses in all five boroughs and increase the effectiveness of Eagle Team fare inspectors. Bus stop hubs were chosen with an approach that balances data and equity, as recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Panel and includes density of bus stops within an approximate 10-minute walking radius, ridership of at least 10,000 riders per day, fare evasion rates, and presence within equity areas.





Earlier this week, the MTA began deploying a high concentration of EAGLE Team inspectors to Bus Stop Hubs to engage with customers on ways to save when paying the fare. This effort ensures better distribution of information about ways to save on fares with the [Fair Fares](#) and [Reduced-Fare](#) programs.

EAGLE Team inspectors are charged with inspecting fares on local and SBS bus routes. The Authority is also partnering with the NYPD to ensure safety of EAGLE Team staff and has seen a decrease in bus operator assaults on lines that have enforcement. Governor Hochul's FY24 budget allows the MTA to hire over 100 new EAGLE Team staff in the next year. Currently the MTA has 140 EAGLE Team members involved in Bus Stop Hub efforts.

In addition to enforcement throughout the city, the Bus Stop Hub approach is launching at the following locations before expanding throughout the five boroughs:







- Monday, July 31: Downtown Brooklyn along Fulton St, Jay St, Livingston St, and Smith St
12 Bus Routes: B25, B26, B38, B41, B45, B52, B57, B61, B62, B65, B67, B103
Bus Transit Talk: Tuesday, August 8 at 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 7: Staten Island Ferry
22 Bus Routes: S40, S42, S44, S46, S48, S51, S52, S61, S62, S66, S74, S76, S78, S81, S84, S86, S90, S91, S92, S94, S96, S98
Bus Transit Talk: Monday, August 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 14: Kips Bay along 34 St, 1 Av, 2 Av, and 3 Av
25 Bus Routes: BM5, BXM1, M101, M102, M103, M15, M34, M34A, M9, QM1, QM10, QM12, QM15, QM16, QM17, QM18, QM2, QM20, QM24, QM3, QM4, QM5, QM6, SBS15, X68
Bus Transit Talk: Tuesday, August 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced the MTA will begin its fare free bus pilot on five routes, one in each borough, that will now collectively serve 43,900 daily weekday riders by late September this year for a period of six to 12 months. Routes were chosen based on a variety of factors, including ridership, fare evasion, service adequacy, equity for low-income and economically disadvantaged communities, and access to employment and commercial activity.

This comes weeks after the first phase of previously announced weekend service increases on the ,  and  lines. These enhancements were made possible by a \$35 million contribution from the FY 2024 New York State Budget to increase subway service. The multi-phase approach will increase service across several train lines during weekday midday, weeknights, and weekends, and the second phase will begin next month, where additional midday and weekend service will be added. In addition to the increased service, a second R211 train was put in service on the  line last month.

Buses on routes included in the pilot program will be clearly marked "Fare Free" with green and black destination signage, digital signage onboard buses, decals inside the bus and covers on farebox and OMNY readers. The pilot will not include free transfers to other buses or subway lines.

The Manhattan bus route(s) included in the six-to-twelve-month pilot are:

M116: This bus route operates daily during daytime hours between W 106 Street /Broadway and E 120 Street/Pleasant Avenue. The route primarily operates along 116 Street, Manhattan Avenue and W 106 Street and serves the Harlem, East Harlem and Morningside Heights neighborhoods. The route makes connections to the , , , , ,  trains and several bus routes. Major employers and institutions covered on the route include St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, Columbia University and the East River Plaza Mall.

DSNY Reported: DSNY Rule Change for Food Service Businesses Beginning August 1st

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is implementing a new rule starting August 1, all food-related businesses in NYC must use rigid containers with secure lids when setting out trash and compost for collection. Join an info session to learn more.

July 18th at 11:00am

Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b91ac246-7724-4712-bb42-4cdc28efd632@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

July 24th at 2:00pm

Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2c36b8b1-05bb-414c-a47b-293b5bd0685b@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

August 3 at 11:30am

Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cb63fd99-c15d-44cc-9582-dd535b67d0dc@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

If you're unable to make an info session, go to nyc.gov/UseBins or reference to below flyers for information on the rule.

Mayor's Office reported: Free Summer Meals

Free Summer Meals Through September 1st Breakfast and lunch will continue beyond the instructional school year. Our Summer Meals Program is available throughout New York City to anyone ages 18 years old and under. Designated public schools, community pool centers, parks, and food trucks will be open for service. No registration, documentation, or ID is necessary to receive a free breakfast or lunch meal.

Find A Location Near You

- Search for a location near you [here](#)
- Text: NYCFood to 304-304 (standard text messaging rates may apply)
- Call 311

click [here](#) for full program information

NYC Emergency Management Reported: Extreme heat can be deadly. Because NYC is made up of materials like asphalt, concrete, and metal that trap heat, temperatures in NYC can oftentimes be 10 degrees higher than other surrounding areas. Visit the [NYC Emergency Management site](#) for tips on how to prepare for extreme heat and other emergencies.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/extreme-heat.page>

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) REPORTED: Please take the Survey on NYC Parks Electric Micromobility Pilot: As an initiative of Mayor Adams' "**Charge Safe, Ride Safe: Electric Micromobility Action Plan**", the NYC Parks department is piloting a new rule to allow electric bikes (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters) to use park drives and greenways. The pilot program is in effect from **June 20, 2023 through May 31 2024**.

Share your thoughts on e-bikes in parks! The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Bangla](#), and [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#). To learn more, visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/things-to-do/e-bikes>

ConEdison Reported: They recently received state approval for critical clean energy investments that will help New York transition away from fossil fuels while enabling the continuation of Con Edison's safe and reliable service. The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) ruling sets electric and gas rates through 2025 and advances an investment plan totaling \$11.9 billion. That plan will help reach the state and city's clean energy goals and funds initiatives that will reduce emissions, promote resiliency, and continue improving Con Edison's nation-leading reliability, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

This approval comes after extensive engagement and negotiation with the New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) and stakeholders. It was supported fully or in part by New York City and several other parties including the MTA, New York Power Authority, Natural Resources Defense Council, and New York Energy Consumers Council, among others.

Investing in the Community

The investments approved are consistent with New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as well as Con Edison's [Clean Energy Commitment](#). In that policy, the company pledges to build a grid that delivers 100 percent clean energy by 2040, and will also spur infrastructure development across New York City and Westchester.

Investing to Protect Vulnerable New Yorkers

Con Edison is making significant investments across our service territory, including in disadvantaged communities, and supports our most vulnerable customers through programs focused on bill affordability including:

- Rate relief to low-income customers enrolled in the Energy Assistance Program by targeting an electric discount program cost of \$166.3 million per year and \$35.8 million per year for the gas program;
- Primary Feeder Reliability Program, which will enhance electric reliability and resilience in disadvantaged communities;
- Selective Undergrounding Pilot, which will enhance electric resilience, including in disadvantaged communities;

- Glendale Substation Storage Project, which will support the distribution system serving a disadvantaged community, and;
- Programs that will help the company provide more information quicker to customers via the company website, phone and texts. Customers will see more choice, control, and convenience as they manage their usage and communicate with the company.

The Commission approved a level electric rate increase of \$457.5 million for each of the three rate years. On a total electric bill basis, the results yield 4.2 percent, 4 percent, and 3.8 percent increases in each of the rate years, respectively. In addition, the Commission approved a level gas rate increase of \$187.2 million for each of the three rate years. On a total gas bill basis, the results yield 6.7 percent, 6.3 percent, and 5.9 percent increases in each of the rate years, respectively.

Customers who need help with payment assistance can speak with a customer service specialist at 212-358-4565 or visit coned.com/billhelp.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Reported: The New York City Emergency Management Department welcomed 27 new Community Emergency Response Team (NYC CERT) volunteers to its program during a hybrid graduation ceremony on Wednesday, July 19. The NYC CERT basic training cycle includes 11 sessions that focus on disaster preparedness and emergency response, equipping volunteers with skills in basic fire safety, search and rescue, traffic management, and first aid and triage. NYC Emergency Management offered the training program with instructors from the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and New York City Police Department (NYPD) Auxiliary Unit.

During the graduation, 33 members from across the city received Presidential Service Award certificates for volunteering over 100 hours last year. The award was presented by NYC Emergency Management Deputy Commissioner for Community Engagement Herman Schaffer.

Most recently, NYC CERT members have responded to both planned and unplanned emergency deployments. These deployments included: the New York City Pride March, the Mermaid Parade in Brooklyn, the Five Bike Boro Tour, and cultural events at Gracie Mansion. CERT members were also able to support the NYPD 100th Precinct Easter Egg Hunt, Asylum Seeker Respite Centers, and several July 4th events including Nathan's Hot Dog Contest and Macy's 4th of July Fireworks. Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's office and the Knickerbocker committee requested CERT members to support all pedestrian management for many of their events.

CERT members also work year-round to ensure their communities are prepared for emergencies, providing information and resources to assist residents with creating an emergency plan for their friends and family. NYC Emergency Management hosts CERT training cycles three times a year.

Since its launch, NYC CERT has responded to a host of emergencies, and local divisions quickly adapt to the City's specific emergency needs. CERT members also work year-round to ensure

their communities are prepared for emergencies, providing information and resources to assist residents with creating an emergency plan for their friends and family. NYC Emergency Management hosts Community Emergency Response Team training cycles three times a year. For more information about the program, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/cert.

DID YOU KNOW?? IMPORTANT NEWS, DATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Employment Opportunities with the City of NY

Join the NYC Department of Social Services! Find out how rewarding it is to serve fellow New Yorkers with care and compassion.

Apply for the Senior Policy Advisor position at IDNYC.

- Search Job I.D. 583867 at nyc.gov/jobs or via this link: <https://on.nyc.gov/423f2sM>

To view jobs available with the City at any time, **Start at this page**, or search for jobs **here** (to search by agency or area of interest) or **here** (to search by job ID# or agency). Please find a helpful flyer with more information about applying for HRA open positions which can be shared widely **here**.

This year Marks the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop and who would have thought it would come this far!

As the birthplace of Hip Hop, New York City is playing its part and hosting free block parties in each of the five boroughs.

Mayor's Office will have Free Events, such as a Panel Celebrating the Female MCs who shattered glass ceilings with Salt N' Peppa, Remy Ma, and Flo Milli.

ITS ALL BLACK MUSIC PRESENTS, Lisa Project NYC, Pixis Drones, and KRS One are assisting in this celebration of 50 years of hip hop.

For more information and to RSVP, visit <http://www.5x5blockparty.com>. See you on the block!

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, November 28th, 2023 Broadway Housing Communities Gala will be held honoring Ellen Baxter and 40 years of visionary leadership at the Ziegfeld Ballroom, 141 W. 54th Street, NYC 10036.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT/MESSAGE FROM UPTOWN NIGHT MARKET:

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Uptown Night Market Fans,

After much deliberation, we're returning to our roots as a family-focused and friendly foodie event. We'll make changes to enhance your experience, starting with the upcoming market.

To maintain a secure and enjoyable environment, we kindly request that no outside food or beverages be brought into the market. Additionally, we'll transform the performance aspect into ambient entertainment, perfect for complementing the foodie festival.

These changes are necessary because of the operational strain, loss of income, and high costs that unauthorized vendors, known as "nutcrackers," are forcing us to deal with. By addressing this issue; we aim to preserve the integrity of our event and ensure your and our teams' safety.

We are trying to keep the Uptown Night Market a FREE community event. However, dealing with these illegal alcohol vendors jeopardizes our permit. If this continues, we must consider changing the event to a paid entry one, as it nearly doubles our operational costs.

Thank you for being a part of our community. Your support is appreciated as we work to create a more sustainable and enjoyable Uptown Night Market experience!

Warm regards, Marco Shalma Founder, MHG Events

Respectfully Submitted,

Eutha Prince
District Manager – MCB9