

# DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

## JUNE, 2023

**Mayor's Office Reported:** Recently, the NYC Civic Engagement Commission announced the launch of *The People's Money* voting phase. *The People's Money* is New York City's first-ever citywide participatory budgeting process using mayoral expense funding.

Between now and June 25th, all New York City residents ages 11 and older, regardless of immigration or incarceration status or council district, will be able to vote on how to spend \$5 million of mayoral expense funding to address community needs.

The guiding principles for citywide participatory budgeting are expansion and equity. New York City is home to one of the largest participatory budgeting programs on the globe and under the Adams Administration, they have made it even bigger, giving more New Yorkers real dollars to invest in projects that impact their lives. Don't miss your opportunity to make a difference and make your voice heard.

How to Vote by June 25th:

**Online Ballot:** Visit [on.nyc.gov/pb](https://on.nyc.gov/pb) and follow the steps below.

- Select the language you want to vote in.
- Enter your zip code of residence.
- Enter your cell phone number to receive a code to validate you are only voting once. Please note: your phone number will not be stored or accessed by the CEC.
- Read through the projects on your ballot and select the projects you want to vote for. At the bottom of the page, click submit when you are done.
- After voting, you will be asked to complete an optional survey.
- Paper Ballots: Voting in-person is also easy. Starting between now and June 25, visit a vote site in your neighborhood: [on.nyc.gov/pbvotesites](https://on.nyc.gov/pbvotesites)

**Comptroller's Office Reported:** The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that having access to high-speed internet is critically important – and that access is unavailable to many low-income families, often because of cost. In 2021, the Office of the State Comptroller reported that more than 1 million (roughly 14 percent) New York households lacked access to broadband.<sup>1</sup> Two federal programs—the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and the Affordable Connectivity Program—have been established to address these disparities in access and are demonstrating positive results. The share of low-income households with a broadband subscription climbed from 64 percent to 76 percent between 2019 and 2021, a 12 percentage point increase. As of May 15, 2023, more than 1.3 million New York households are receiving affordable broadband subscriptions with federal support.

## **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**

The \$2 trillion pandemic relief package in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included authorization for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to develop the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP), which was launched in May 2021. Funded at \$3.2 billion, the program was intended to provide temporary relief during the pandemic emergency to households struggling to afford broadband services or a computing device at home. A subsidy of \$50 per month for a subscription and a credit of up to \$100 for a computing device was made available to households that met certain criteria, including being at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Over the eight months the program was active, \$1.9 billion in support was claimed nationally.

By the time the program expired on December 31, 2021, 609,748 New York households had enrolled, comprising 7 percent of the 8.7 million total enrollments nationwide. The more than 600,000 households enrolled comprised approximately 8 percent of all New York households. Over eight months, 2.6 million claims were filed for support under the program for a total of \$123.4 million, or \$202 per enrolled household.

New York City households comprised 55 percent of households enrolled in the program in the state. Bronx and Putnam Counties enrolled the highest and lowest percent of households at 17.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. Five regions exceeded the State average of 8 percent with the Central New York region having enrolled the largest share of its households. The Long Island region enrolled the lowest share at 1.8 percent.

**Con Edison Reported:** Con Edison has invested a record \$2.4 billion in its electric delivery system to keep service reliable ahead of the sizzling summer heat.

The company is maintaining the reliability of its system while leading the region's clean energy transition. Con Edison helps customers connect solar projects, offers incentives for the electrification of buildings and transportation and is deploying battery storage projects.

Con Edison has achieved several clean energy milestones recently. The company has helped customers connect more than 57,000 solar projects with the combined capacity to produce 517 megawatts. Customers in the energy efficiency programs for small and medium-sized businesses have saved more than 1 million megawatt hours of power.

The company also completed construction of a transmission line in Queens, one of its Reliable Clean City projects. The Queens line and associated substation upgrades enabled the retirement of an inefficient, polluting power plant in Astoria.

The pre-summer upgrades will help keep service reliable across the service area. They include 61 underground transformers, 100 transformers on the overhead electric delivery system, 148 spans of overhead wiring and 198 poles.

The investments are among the improvements Con Edison is making to fortify the grid against extreme weather resulting from climate change. Specific projects Con Edison has undertaken for this summer include:

- Manhattan: Installation of new transformers and cable to improve reliability in the Harlem and Yorkville neighborhoods.
- Staten Island: New substation equipment in Grant City and additional switches with remote control and data monitoring in Castleton Corners, South Beach, Willowbrook, Woodrow and Annadale.
- Brooklyn and Queens: Improvements to increase reliability and resiliency and meet growing demand in Red Hook, Sunset Park, Williamsburg and Gravesend in Brooklyn and in Ridgewood, Middle Village, Maspeth and Richmond Hill in Queens.
- The Bronx: New conductors in Mott Haven, Hunts Point, Soundview, and Parkchester.
- Westchester: Smart switches that reduce the number of customers who lose service when a tree or branch hits a power line.

Con Edison projects that the demand for power this summer will peak at 12,990 megawatts. Last summer's peak occurred at 5 p.m. on Aug. 9 when the company provided 12,424 megawatts. The record is 13,322 megawatts, which occurred at 5 p.m. on July 19, 2013. (One megawatt is equal to 1 million watts.)

### **MTA Reported:**

**The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced it is celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Month** with a comprehensive public engagement campaign across New York City Transit (NYCT), Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and Bridges and Tunnels to communicate with both customers and employees on the importance of Pride and its message of diversity and inclusion across the transit system. The MTA celebrated this announcement with a musical performance by Cyre at Union Square.

Throughout the month of June customers riding the transit system across subway, bus and commuter rail will see Pride messaging and information including special 2023 limited-edition Pride posters on display, trains decorated with Pride-themed decals, commemorative Pride MetroCards available for purchase at vending machines in select stations, and special Pride-themed public events. The MTA remains the best way to get to all Pride events across the metropolitan area.

**LGBTQ+ Pride-Themed MetroCards** - 50,000 Pride-themed MetroCards are now available for purchase while supplies last at vending machines located at six subway stations across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.

**Stations include:**

- West 4 St – Washington Square – A, B, C, D, E, F, M
- 59 St – Columbus Circle A, B, C, D
- Grand St -L
- 74 – Broadway – 7 Train/Jackson Hts-Roosevelt Av E, F,M,R
- 125 St – A,B,C,D
- Christopher St – Sheridan Square – 1 Train

**LGBTQ+ Pride March** - The fun continues with special events throughout Pride month. MTA employees including New York City Transit President Richard Davey will march in New York City's 2023 LGBTQ+ Pride Parade taking place on Sunday, June 25.

**The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced that public comments on proposed changes in fares and tolls can now be submitted online.** In addition, a series of four hybrid public fare hearing will be held between Thursday June 22-Monday June 26 at MTA Headquarters (2 Broadway, New York, NY on the 20th Floor in the William J. Ronan Board Room) and will also be live via Zoom and YouTube.

You can read more about the proposed changes to MTA fares and tolls in 2023 here: <https://new.mta.info/transparency/mta-fares-tolls-2023>

Members of the public who wish to speak can provide comments either in person or via Zoom.

The MTA Board will vote on the fare and toll changes in **July 2023** with changes expected to go into effect no later than **Labor Day, Monday, Sept 4.**

Please visit <https://new.mta.info/transparency/mta-fares-tolls-2023/hearings> to get all info on how to submit comment regarding the MTA's proposed changes to fares and tolls.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Family Fun Day at Frederick Douglass Playground:** Join NYC Parks and Council Member Shaun Abreu for a fun afternoon of crafts, inflatables, music, jumbo games, an obstacle course, and more. Come ready to have a great time on **Friday, June 9, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Frederick Douglass Playground**, Amsterdam Ave bet. W. 100 St. and W. 102 St. to RSVP, visit [FFDFD.eventbrite.com](https://FFDFD.eventbrite.com)

**Movies Under the Stars -**

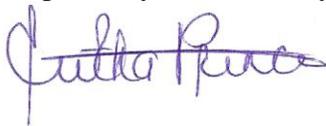
- **The Sun Is Also a Star: Thursday, June 15, 2023 St. Nicholas Park James Baldwin Lawn St. Nicholas Ave. & W.135 St.**
- **Black Panther: Wakanda Forever Saturday, June 24, 2023 Morningside Park (Ballfield) W. 112 St., Manhattan Ave.**

Grab a blanket and come enjoy a movie in a neighborhood park or playground this summer, NYC Parks will host family-friendly movie showings across the five boroughs. Movies will begin at dusk. Estimated start time is approximately 7:30 p.m. For more information visit [nyc.gov/parks](https://nyc.gov/parks) or call 311. This event is sponsored by Council Member Shaun Abreu.

**Join the 14th annual NYC Multicultural Festival on Saturday, June 17th** at St. Nicholas Ave. between 141st and 144th Street as performers come out to thrill you. Experience a free dance workshop, watch the award ceremony for Mr. Voza Rivers presented by the Nigerian Consulate, celebrate Juneteenth and Father's Day, shop our vendors and much more. (See attached Flyer)

**New York Transit Museum Walking Tour** –The New York Transit Museum will host a walking tour in the West Village neighborhood of Manhattan on Thursday, June 29 touring the community's extensive LGBTQ+ history. Tour stops will cover historic transit sites and landmarks including Stonewall Inn, the birthplace of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Respectfully Submitted by:



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District  
06/08/23