

# District Manager's Report

## May, 2023

**Mayor's Office Reported: Participatory Budgeting Vote Period - May 10th to June 25th.** Please save the date of May 10th - that is when voting will begin for The People's Money, NYC's first-ever citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process, run by the NYC Civic Engagement Commission!

**How to Vote between May 10th - June 25th:**

**Online Ballot: Starting May 10th, visit [on.nyc.gov/pb](https://on.nyc.gov/pb) to vote online.**

**For Organizations:** Organizations and groups can invite CEC staff to attend their event/meeting/forum to lead a voting activity between May 10th - June 25th, or groups can request paper ballots and a ballot box to organize their own activities. Sign up here: [on.nyc.gov/pbvoterequest](https://on.nyc.gov/pbvoterequest)

**For Individuals:** Individuals can volunteer with the CEC to canvass and table at pop-up events with paper ballots! Sign up here: [on.nyc.gov/cecvolunteer](https://on.nyc.gov/cecvolunteer)

### [About The People's Money:](#)

The People's Money gives all New Yorkers age 11 and up, regardless of immigration status, the opportunity to decide how to spend \$5 million of Mayoral expense funding on projects in their community.

Participatory Budgeting began in NYC in 2011 when the City Council started PBNYC, and today many City Council members participate by voluntarily putting up their own discretionary funding. The People's Money is the first citywide process utilizing Mayoral expense funding. Expense funding can be used for projects and services, and the citywide process allows all New Yorkers to participate, regardless of the council district they live in. To learn more about the process, visit [participate.nyc.gov](https://participate.nyc.gov).

**NYC Emergency Management Reported:** NYC Emergency Management runs a program called "Share Your Space" that allows people to offer their properties voluntarily for emergency management-related activities, such as a service center, a CERT training, a commodity distribution point, or other functions identified by the department.

To support emergency sheltering for arriving asylum seekers, New York City is currently looking for facilities to be used as Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRCs) as well as for short-term, smaller congregate sheltering. If you know of a space of at least 25,000 square feet, please consider filling out the survey. You can fill out the survey, find

more information, and gets answers to frequently asked questions [here](#) or email [nycshareyourspace@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:nycshareyourspace@oem.nyc.gov).

The State Budget for FY24 passed in Albany here is a [roundup of specifics](#) from the State Senate; here's the [Times' roundup](#) (and here's [Chalkbeat's report](#) on school funding increases). Major points include: (inserts taken from CM Brewer's Report)

- New funding for the MTA, including funding for a pilot of one free bus route in each borough. (Which route do you think should be the free route in Manhattan?)
- Bail reform that removes the “least restrictive” language from bail laws, giving judges more discretion to hold those accused of crimes in jail before trial.
- A minimum wage increase, in steps through 2026.
- Incentives for more renewable energy plants—and a ban on fossil fuels for cooking and heating in new construction.
- Expansion of free school meals.
- A \$391 million in rental assistance for residents of subsidized housing including NYCHA.
- \$25 million in public matching funds for state Assembly and Senate candidates in the 2024 primary and general elections.

An important component that was passed as part of the budget was creation of new tools for stronger enforcement against unlicensed cannabis retailers. Selling cannabis without a license will now be classified as a class “A” misdemeanor, and makes failure to collect or remit required cannabis taxes a form of tax fraud. The legislation also allows the NYS Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) and the NYS Dept. of Finance to conduct regulatory inspections of all businesses selling cannabis, and empowers them to take enforcement actions including...

- Seizing unlicensed cannabis from unlicensed cannabis businesses.
- Assessing civil penalties (taxes and OCM fines and penalties).
- Allowing OCM to seek court-ordered injunctions, closing orders, and the removal of unlicensed retailers from retail spaces (and to incentivize commercial landlords from renting to unlicensed retailers).

### **HRA-DSS Reported:**

#### **City Services for Asylum Seekers Arriving in NYC**

As of April 5, 2023, over 53,000 asylum seekers have gone through the system and been offered a place to rest at night since last spring. Over 33,400 asylum seekers are currently in the City's care. The City has opened 100 emergency shelters and 8 HERRCs to meet this unprecedented need. This does not reflect the total number of asylum seekers in New York City, it does not include those who are staying with family, friends, and networks here after being connected.

Additional information on the City's efforts to support asylum seekers can be found [here](#).

**Asylum Seekers who has just arrived in New York City, can get free and confidential help at the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center.** Asylum Seekers will need to schedule an appointment through NYC shelter staff or a community-based partner office.

The Center will connect Seekers with services and resources, including but not limited to:

- Health insurance enrollment
- Healthcare services and appointments
- Mental health counseling
- School enrollment
- Child services
- Immigration legal services
- IDNYC (Municipal Identification) enrollment

The Center can also connect Seekers with providers and community-based organizations throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

Visit [nyc.gov/asylumseekers](https://nyc.gov/asylumseekers) for more information.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for services and referrals, you must:

- Provide U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement paperwork showing that you entered the U.S. Southwest Border on or after January 1, 2022,
- Currently live in New York City, **and**
- Make an appointment with the Center

The Center is open to anyone who meets those three requirements. You do not need to live in a New York City shelter to access these services.

### **Appointments**

At the appointment, you will have an interview. It will be:

- Fully confidential
- In your preferred language
- With a trained case manager

The case manager will help identify your needs and connect you to services, resources, and information.

The Center is located at:

American Red Cross

520 West 49th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues)

New York, NY 10019

Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5PM. Closed on weekends and major holidays.

### **Office of Child Support Child Support Pay It Off Program Opens in June**

The DSS Office of Child Support Services will be offering its Pay It Off program again for the month of June 2023 (June 1-30th). This program matches dollar for dollar when Noncustodial parents make a minimum payment of \$500 towards their permanently assigned debt to the DSS, up to the total DSS debt owed. For those who pay off the principle of a money judgment, will have their DSS interest removed.

Those who sign-up to participate in our Arrears Credit Program will receive a \$2,500 sign-on bonus that will be applied to DSS debt that is permanently assigned. More details will be made available beginning April.

OCSS will be hosting a conference titled, Confronting Structural Racism in the Child Support Program: Listening, Understanding, and Taking Action. It will take place on October 26th, please save the date. More details will be forthcoming.

**DSNY Reported:** The Department of Sanitation is set to launch a pilot of containerized waste collection in Harlem this Fall, with an eye towards possibly ridding New York's streets of the mountains of trash bags set out each week

MCB9 has been chosen as one of the pilots that will repurpose a few parking spots on a residential block within district 9; there are 10 residential blocks throughout the city participating with shared, wheeled waste containers, about three square yards each, for trash, recycling, and organics produced by the block.

The waste will be collected by Sanitation trucks retrofitted with mechanized "tippers" to lift and dump the loads, rather than workers lifting and tossing the bags themselves, and collection will increase from three to six times per week. Containers will also be placed outside up to 14 schools in the neighborhood.

### **DSNY Spring Safe Disposal Events:**

The New York City Department of Sanitation has announced its **Spring 2023 SAFE Disposal (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables, and Electronics) Events schedule**. The events provide city residents with an easy way to safely dispose of potentially harmful household products.

Household products such as pesticides, strong cleaners, mercury-containing devices, paints, automotive fluids, and medications may be brought to the drop-off events. Residents can also bring electronics, which may no longer be collected with trash and other recycling, due to a New York state law. **Only NYC residents' waste will be accepted.**

The Department will hold five SAFE Disposal events this spring, one in each borough. All events are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine please note the following upcoming events:

**Saturday, June 3 - Queens**

Astoria Park Parking Lot

Vehicle entrance accessible from Ditmars Boulevard to 21st Street

Pedestrian walk-in area available

**Sunday, June 11 - Manhattan**

Columbia University/Teacher's College

W. 120th Street between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue

Vehicle entrance accessible from Seminary Row to Amsterdam Avenue

Pedestrian walk-in area available

For further information please visit DSNY website [here](#).

**Employment Opportunities:**

The City Dept. of Administrative Services (DCAS) manages job recruitment for city government, including examinations for Civil Service. [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](#).

**NYC Parks is hiring for the summer.** If you or anyone you know are interested in helping to keep New York City's green spaces beautiful and safe, NYC Parks offers a range of seasonal opportunities including positions in maintenance, security and recreation. Visit [nyc.gov/parks](http://nyc.gov/parks) for more information and to apply. Informational flyer is available [here](#).

**Did you know?**

**The FAA is asking the public for input regarding how the FAA analyzes, explains, and presents publicly, changes in aircraft noise exposure to affected communities.** The posting of the Request for Comments will start a 90-day comment period during which the public can share their input by submitting a written comment to Docket FAA-2023-0855 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The comment window will close on Monday, July 31, 2023. To learn more, please visit <https://www.faa.gov/noisepolicyreview>

**DEP Amnesty Program - has been extended through May 31<sup>st</sup>** : As NYC recovers from the pandemic, the Department of Environmental Protection is offering a limited **one-time** amnesty to provide much-needed relief to all qualified delinquent customers struggling to pay their water and wastewater bills. To see if you're eligible, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/pay-my-bills/amnesty-program.page>. More info can be found on the website as well as this **presentation**.

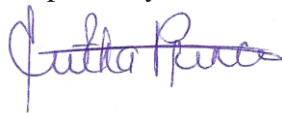
**Upcoming Events:**

Virtual “Rat Academy” trainings from the City’s Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene where you can learn about the rodent crisis and how to take action. The next in-person date in Manhattan is Wednesday, 5/31, 5:15– 7:30 pm at the East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Center, 158 E. 115th St. See attached Flyer and register at:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/5639842/Rat-Academy-Registration?eventid=a1Q4V00000nCNGDUA4&Programname=Pest%20Control%20Services>

**Manhattanville Community Day:** Join Columbia for a free, fun-filled celebration of community! Immerse yourself in the arts through on-site film screenings and arts activities with the Wallach Art Gallery. Indulge in Uptown cuisine with flavorful food samples from Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center vendors. Explore the world of STEM with interactive projects led by Saturday Science—plus so much more on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>; Noon – 4p.m. at Columbia’s Manhattanville Campus at 125<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway

Respectfully Submitted by:



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05/11/23