

District Manager's Report June, 2021

Department of Health Reported: COVID-19 Vaccination Updates As of May 27, New Yorkers aged 12 to 17 who receive their COVID-19 vaccine can have their names entered into a random drawing for a full scholarship to SUNY or CUNY. Winners receive a full scholarship to any public college or university, including tuition and room and board. New York State will administer the random drawing and select 10 winners a week over five weeks, for a total of 50 winners. [Sign up to be notified when the drawing begins by registering here.](#)

The City has created detailed fact sheets for outreach to families with children aged 12-15 years who are newly eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Flyers can be found at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-vaccine-youth-sites-flyer.pdf>.

NYC Mobile Vaccine Buses continue to provide vaccines in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. The full schedule of mobile vaccine locations can be found [online here](#). Walk-ups are welcome and you can also book in advance through the [Vax4NYC website](#).

As a reminder, New Yorkers ages 12 years and older can continue to receive their COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment at select sites across NYC. Sites can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines.page#walk-up-sites>. New Yorkers are required to provide proof of age and residency in order to receive the vaccine. Additional information can be found [here](#).

While walk-up vaccines are available at City operated vaccination sites, appointments can still be made by using vaccinefinder.nyc.gov.

The in-home vaccination program is continuing. Homebound New Yorkers interested in receiving an in-home vaccination can sign up at nyc.gov/homebound or by calling 1-877-VAX-4-NYC.

COVID-19 Testing

Free testing continues to be available throughout the five boroughs. A schedule of mobile testing locations throughout the City as well as detailed information on locations and types of testing offered at regular testing sites (including rapid testing and antibody tests) can be found [here](#). Locations of testing sites can also be accessed by texting "COVID TEST" to 855-48. These are no cost testing sites open to all New Yorkers.

Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Reported: As of May 3, 2021, HPD's Division of Tenant Resources' Client Services office at 100 Gold Street has re-opened by appointment only. Appointments will be scheduled only when business may not be handled virtually or by phone. The most efficient way to reach HPD staff is by using email. [Follow this link for HPD staff email addresses](#).

HPD has extended voucher terms: Applicants and participant movers with vouchers that expired during the pandemic have been mailed notice of their extensions. Any Section 8 voucher holders with questions or concerns about their voucher status should reach out to the Division of Tenant Resources (DTR) at DTRInitials@hpd.nyc.gov.

Clients who need more time should submit a request for an extension within 30 days of their voucher expiration date. Requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

[The Extension Request form](https://a806-asap.nyc.gov/HPDPortal/#/login) may be uploaded to the [DTR Portal at https://a806-asap.nyc.gov/HPDPortal/#/login](https://a806-asap.nyc.gov/HPDPortal/#/login) or emailed to DTRInitials@hpd.nyc.gov for applicants or Portability@hpd.nyc.gov for participants that are moving or porting with their voucher.

Small Business Services (SBS) Reported: On May 25, the Governor announced financial assistance for small businesses experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The small business recovery grant program will provide funding to small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, with priority being given to socially and economically disadvantaged business owners, including minority- and women-owned business enterprises, service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses, and businesses located in economically distressed communities. Grants will be for a minimum award of \$5,000 and a maximum award of \$50,000 and will be calculated based on a New York State business' annual gross receipts for 2019.

Please refer to [NYSBusinessRecovery.ny.gov](https://www.nysbusinessrecovery.ny.gov) which highlights the various resources available to support small businesses seeking pandemic relief. The website will be continuously updated as more details and funding information as it becomes available.

Buildings Department Reported: No-Penalty -Deck, Retaining Wall, and Business Sign Inspections If you Have a deck, porch or retaining wall? Then you're in luck, DOB's Annual No-Penalty Inspection Programs are back! Property owners can receive a free inspection of these structures, without risk of penalty, to determine if they comply with City regulations... please contact 311 to request a free, no-penalty inspection of these outdoor structures anytime between May 1st and June 30th, 2021

Extended: Moratorium on Issuance of Business Sign Violations The prohibition on issuing business sign violations has been extended until January 1, 2023. DOB will not issue violations for business signs that existed before February 9, 2019 during this time. Exceptions to this prohibition are if a sign poses an imminent danger to the public. If you own a business, this is the time to bring your sign into compliance! We encourage you to take advantage of our No-Penalty Business Sign Inspections, which can help you identify violating conditions. See our Service Notice for more information.

Upcoming Deadline: Local Law 152 Local Law 152 of 2016 requires all buildings, with the exception of most one- and two-family homes, to be inspected by a Licensed Master Plumber (LMP), or a qualified individual working under the direct and continuing supervision of an LMP, at least once every four years. The deadline for properties in Community Boards 1, 3, and 10 was

originally set for December 31, 2020, but has now been extended by 6 months to June 30, 2021. Properties located in Community Boards 2, 5, 7, 13 and 18 have a deadline of December 31, 2021. See our Service Notice for more information. We have also created a step-by-step guide you can use to comply with this requirement.

HRA Reported: Special Grant Requests and One Shot Deal (OSD) Applications

Clients applying for a One-Shot Deal, or active clients requesting a special grant, for rent arrears or both rent and utility arrears, will be required by the State to apply for the State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for as long as the ERAP funds remain available. DSS will encourage all applicants to apply for ERAP for rent arrears (and utility arrears if combined with rent arrears) as these funds do not require repayment or recoupment. Other Special Grant Requests will be processed as usual for expenses such as utility arrears without any rent arrears, moving costs, storage expenses, security deposits, and furniture allowances.

NYC COVID-19 Immigrant Burial Assistance Program

The NYC COVID-19 Immigrant Burial Assistance Program helps family members and other individuals responsible for burial costs of their loved ones who have passed away from COVID-19 and who are not eligible for any other federal or State burial assistance benefit. The program was established through a partnership between the Mayor's Fund to Advance NY and MOIA, and will be operated through select community-based organizations. The program is available to any eligible individual regardless of immigration status. For more information or to be connected to a CBO partner, New Yorkers can call the MOIA hotline at 212-788-7654.

Veteran Fee Waiver for NYC Civil Service Exams: The City has announced a waiver of all fees for civil service exams for veterans. For many years, the City has long waived the fee for one civil service exam for U.S. military veterans, and is now waiving fees for as many tests as a veteran wants to take. Individuals receiving certain kinds of public assistance and unemployed persons are also eligible for a waiver from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). [Learn more here.](#)

Department for the Aging Reported: Senior Centers Re-opening Senior centers will be re-opening on June 14 for indoor and congregate services. Outdoor activities have resumed. Social distancing and other precautions are being implemented to ensure safety for all members and staff.

Manhattan District Attorney's Office Reported: Their signature youth program, Saturday Night Lights (SNL), is expanding to 100 locations this summer amid the rise in gun violence across NYC. SNL began with just 1 gym in Harlem and now has 20 locations in all five boroughs. They are proud to fund world-class sports and fitness training in safe spaces for youth ages 11-18 across the five boroughs.

To find the nearest site, please visit their website at [manhattanda.org](https://www.manhattanda.org) (*direct link is <https://www.manhattanda.org/our-work/community-partnerships/saturday-night-lights/>*)

Assembly Member Inez Dickens Reported on the following Comprehensive Package of Legislation to Protect New Yorkers from Gun Violence...

Speaker Carl Heastie announced that the Assembly will pass a comprehensive package of commonsense gun safety legislation. Included in the legislative package are bills that would ban ghost guns, hold the gun industry liable for damages it causes, prohibit those with an outstanding warrant of arrest for a felony from purchasing a gun, and require quarterly reports on the origin of firearms used to commit crimes in New York.

“We have seen too many lives cut short and too many communities devastated by senseless gun violence – we should not have to see another person lose their life in a shooting at a school or workplace, or who was shot outside their home,” **Speaker Heastie** said. “The Assembly Majority has worked hard to address the root causes of gun violence in our state, and the commonsense legislation we pass today will build on that, helping keep dangerous weapons off our streets and make it easier for law enforcement to trace and track down firearms that are used in crimes.”

To pass is legislation that would allow those responsible for the sale, manufacture, importing or marketing of guns to be held liable for the public nuisance caused by such actions. The legislation complies with the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) as interpreted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in *City of New York v. Berretta USA Corps*. The PLCAA has been used to shield the firearm industry from civil liability ([A.6762-A](#), Fahy).

“Over 74 percent of all guns recovered from violent crimes and shootings in New York are trafficked in from out-of-state,” said **Assemblymember Patricia Fahy**. “Right now, only one industry in the United States enjoys blanket immunity from civil liability under federal law for negligence in the use of their products; the gun industry. Passing this landmark legislation will allow gun manufacturers knowingly utilizing bad actors and dealers to market their products to be held civilly liable for the damage they cause on our streets. We have always led the nation on gun legislation — and we aren’t letting up now to help keep New Yorkers safe from the scourge of gun violence. I thank Speaker Heastie, my Assembly colleagues, and gun violence prevention advocates for passing the Gun Industry Liability Law; it is one of if not the most effective tools we can leverage in the fight against gun violence this year in New York State.”

Included in today’s legislative package is the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act, which would prohibit the possession of ghost guns. Ghost guns are unserialized firearms, typically assembled from unserialized parts, including unfinished frames or receivers. It would require licensed gunsmiths to serialize and register with the New York State Police any unserialized firearm, rifle, shotgun, finished frame or receiver, or unfinished frame or receiver in their possession ([A.613-A](#), Rosenthal).

“New York has some of the strongest gun control laws in the country, and the proliferation of ghost guns - unserialized and untraceable firearms - threatens to undermine our laws and make New Yorkers and their families less safe. New York and the rest of the country has seen a marked increase in the sales of ghost gun kits and gun violence, which make it harder for law enforcement to get dangerous weapons off our streets and track down those committing gun violence,” said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal**. “Banning ghost guns and requiring that semiautomatic pistols are capable of microstamping ammunition are two ways that we can help law enforcement keep our communities safe.”

Also to pass is the Scott J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act, which would prohibit the possession and sale of unfinished frames and receivers by individuals that are not licensed gunsmiths. Unfinished frames and receivers are incomplete gun components that do not require serial numbers under federal law. Because guns assembled from unfinished frames and receivers do not have serial numbers, they are untraceable and can be built and transported without the normal background checks required when purchasing a gun from a licensed retailer. The legislation is named for Scott J. Beigel, who lost his life during the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida while trying to protect his students ([A.2666-A](#), Lavine).

“I commend my colleagues in the Assembly for passing this bill which, alongside legislation recently passed in the Senate, gives New York the strongest ‘ghost gun’ protections in the country,” **Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine** said. “This bill will enhance safety to our community and our children by creating much more accountability. It is dedicated to honor Scott Beigel, who lost his life tragically trying to save others during the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018. It is intended, just as Scott intended, to save lives. With an epidemic of gun violence plaguing the United States, and in the face of federal inaction in dealing with the crisis, it is incumbent upon the states to enact commonsense reforms that close dangerous loopholes that allow untraceable weapons to flood our communities.”

The Assembly will pass legislation that would require all semiautomatic pistols to be capable of microstamping expended cartridge cases. Microstamping technology utilizes lasers to make precise, microscopic engravings on the internal mechanisms of a gun. As the gun is fired, information identifying the make, model and serial number of the gun can be stamped onto the cartridge as numbers and letters. This will allow law enforcement to trace firearms to their original purchaser through cartridge cases found at a crime scene. This would apply to semiautomatic pistols manufactured after January 1, 2023, that are sold or delivered in New York ([A.7926](#), Rosenthal).

The legislative package includes legislation that would prohibit the purchase, acquisition, sale or disposal of a weapon by or to anyone known to be the subject of an outstanding warrant of arrest for the alleged commission of a felony or serious offense. It would also prohibit an individual from purchasing or acquiring a gun on behalf of another person who the purchaser or acquirer knows to be the subject of such a warrant ([A.6198-B](#), Paulin). Another bill to pass today would

authorize the court, in matrimonial matters, to order a search and the seizure of firearms when a person against whom an order of protection has been issued refuses to surrender their firearms when so ordered. The criminal courts and the Family Court currently have similar statutory authority ([A.7957](#), Richardson).

“Too often, we see guns fall into the wrong hands,” said **Assemblymember Amy Paulin**. “If you have committed a serious offense, and there is an outstanding warrant for your arrest, you shouldn’t have a gun. In addition, if you are suicidal, you should have the information you need to file an extreme protection order preventing you from getting a gun and harming yourself. Guns must be kept away from those who are a threat to themselves or others.”

“The Assembly Majority is committed to fighting the scourge of gun violence that is devastating communities across the state,” said **Assemblymember Diana C. Richardson**. “We must do so in a comprehensive manner. The bills I sponsored will give the courts the ability to seize guns from those who have an order of protection against them and refuse to give up their firearms, and will also require reports to be published on guns that are used in crimes so that we can continue to craft sensible commonsense policies to protect our communities.”

Also included is legislation that would require mental health facilities to provide patients and their authorized representative with information on how to seek an extreme risk protection order prior to a patient’s discharge or conditional release. This builds on the 2019 red flag law, which allows law enforcement to confiscate firearms and prohibit an individual from purchasing a firearm if they are deemed to be a threat, and if an extreme risk protection court order is issued ([A.1005-A](#), Paulin).

Today the Assembly will also pass legislation that would amend the definition of “disguised gun” to include any rifle, shotgun or machine gun that resembles a toy gun. This would prohibit the possession, manufacture and design of such disguised guns ([A.6522](#), Stern).

“I am proud to sponsor this critically important legislation that will prohibit the design, sale and possession of guns disguised as toys in New York State,” **Assemblymember Steve Stern** said. “These weapons put our law enforcement personnel at a dangerous disadvantage in situations when they are facing down the barrel of what appears to be a toy gun and have to make a split-second decision that could be the difference between life or death. This initiative will protect our entire community and save lives.”

Respectfully Submitted by,

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