

## **District Manager's Report May, 2022**

**DSNY Reported:** Beginning July 5, 2022 **Alternate-Side Parking Regulations** for street cleaning will be restored to pre-pandemic frequency as posted on the signage throughout the City. DSNY are excited to be getting more of the tools they need to do our job of keeping the city healthy, safe, and clean. DSNY stated *“Environmental justice begins at the street level, and clean streets are vital to vibrant neighborhoods and our city’s economic recovery. Mechanical sweeping is the most cost-effective and efficient means of street cleaning! Mechanical brooms pick up several thousand pounds of litter and debris each day and are key components of a comprehensive public health and environmental justice program. Without this brief period of curb access, litter and debris build up causing a cleanliness problem and polluting our waterways”*.

**DOT Reported:** On or about Tuesday, May 17th, NYC DOT will commence the next phase of the rehabilitation of Riverside Drive. The work zone will be on the east side of the viaduct while maintaining two northbound and one southbound lanes on the west side of the roadway. During this phase, the SBS and BX6 bus stop will be relocated to the southern end of Riverside Drive West closer to West 155th St.

- ✓ The traffic shift and bus relocation will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m, weather permitting;
- ✓ Please refer to the attached Flyers on Important Notices and Construction Bulletin for more information;

**HRA Reported:** In 2016, to better serve New Yorkers in need, the Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (HRA) made the SNAP eligibility process easier by eliminating appointments for telephone interviews for recertifying SNAP recipients, and beginning in 2017, HRA extended the service, in a phased approach, to new SNAP applicants. The availability of On-Demand interviews gives clients more flexibility as they do not have to wait for HRA to call them to complete their eligibility interview.

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, once they submit their application or recertification form via ACCESS HRA, at a PC Bank, in-person, or by mail, clients are able to call HRA at 718-SNAP-NOW (718-762-7669) anytime between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, for an “on-demand” telephone interview. If an applicant has an emergency need for SNAP they should call right after they submit their application. Clients have up to 30 days from the time they submit their form to make this call and fulfill the interview requirement.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, HRA suspended the On-Demand System as they received a federal waiver which temporarily removed the SNAP eligibility interview requirement for applicants and recertifying recipients who submitted enough information and documentation to verify all elements of eligibility without needing further clarification. If an interview was needed, clients were contacted by HRA via telephone, rather than 100% of all clients needing an

interview. With the end of the interview waiver and the resumption of the On-Demand System, clients will once again be able to call HRA, rather than wait for HRA to call them or miss their call by chance.

If you have any questions about SNAP, please contact Kenneth Charles, at (929) 221-7209 or via e-mail at [charlesk@dss.nyc.gov](mailto:charlesk@dss.nyc.gov).

**MTA Reported:** The Chair and CEO Janno Lieber of the MTA announced the creation of a blue-ribbon panel that will develop fresh approaches to reducing fare evasion across the entire MTA system of subways, buses, commuter rails, bridges and tunnels. Members of the “Fareness” panel will focus on innovative approaches to encourage fare payment through education, equity, and enforcement. The panel will also look at how technological, design, and personnel solutions can help limit fare evasion.

Farebox and toll revenue account for 50% of the MTA’s operating budget. In recent years, fare evasion has nearly tripled on the subway from about 3% to more than 12%. On buses, approximately 1 out of every 3 bus riders evades the fare. Fare evasion on bridge and tunnel crossings has also become an issue with an increase in fake and obscured license plates designed to evade tolling cameras.

### ***Education***

To better spread the word that paying the fare is the right thing to do, the panel will look at creative ways to communicate that message to customers of all ages. Communication across all platforms will be discussed to address fare evasion, which has become an increasing problem among a diverse array of customers across the socioeconomic spectrum.

### ***Equity***

The panel will explore how the MTA can work with City partners to expand access to the MTA system for low-income New Yorkers so that no one is denied connections to jobs and educational opportunities due to an inability to pay. One approach will be to take a fresh look at the City’s Fair Fares program, which provides MetroCards discounted at 50% of the regular fare to New Yorkers living below the poverty line.

Only 200,000 of the 800,000 New Yorkers who qualify for Fair Fares take advantage of the program. Working with the City, the MTA will push for more New Yorkers to enroll in Fair Fares by making it more inclusive and easier to access.

### ***Enforcement***

A law enforcement presence in the transit system keeps customers safe and deters fare evasion. Critics of past approaches to fare evasion enforcement have raised serious questions about equity and racial justice. The panel will look at those questions and recommend fresh solutions that respond to them – considering, for example, greater use of civil penalties; possible increased reliance on civilian MTA staff to do fare compliance checks; and reserving criminal law enforcement for the most serious cases of recidivism or of evasion linked to violent crime.

The panel's efforts will include partnering with the five district attorneys' offices to seek a uniform five-borough approach to what will and won't be charged and under what circumstances.

George Bruce Library Reported: While the branches are still offering general library use and seating, unlimited browsing, laptop and computer access, and more, staffing shortages are impacting some locations. Find an open location near you at <https://www.nypl.org/locations/directory>. PLEASE NOTE: Masks are encouraged at all NYPL locations.

**Books for All** The New York Public Library stands by the right to read freely. In response to recent efforts to ban certain books in some communities across the United States, the Library is making a selection of commonly banned books available to everyone for free.

**ConEdison Reported:** That Con Edison has earned recognition from two federal agencies for its sustained success in helping customers reduce their energy usage and contribute to a clean energy future.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy have given Con Edison their 2022 Energy Star Partner of the Year Sustained Excellence Award for the company's [energy efficiency programs](#). It is the fifth year in a row Con Edison has won the Partner of the Year award. Companies that receive that award for three or more straight years earn an additional level of veneration for sustained success.

The Sustained Excellence award is the highest honor bestowed by the Energy Star program. The 2022 awards are based on accomplishments in 2021. Con Edison and the other 2022 winners were selected from a network of thousands of Energy Star partners. For a complete list of 2022 winners and more information about the awards program, visit [energystar.gov/awardwinners](https://energystar.gov/awardwinners).

The company delivered its highest level of energy efficiency savings to date in 2021, both overall and with upgrades such as insulation, major HVAC equipment, and advanced building controls. These projects are impactful but also challenging. Con Edison energy efficiency programs include offerings for every customer group – residential, owners of multi-family buildings, and commercial and industrial.

**DEP Reported:** The NYC Water Board / NYC DEP announced their upcoming FY 2023 Water Board Rate Schedule hearing to take place on:

**Wed., May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2p.m.; phone number: (347) 921-5612/Access Code: 835 020 477#;**  
**Thurs., May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6p.m.; phone number: (347) 921-5612/Access Code: 941 587 106#**

**The Board will consider the following rate and policy modifications, to take effect as of July 1, 2022:**

1. An increase of up to 4.90% to the metered and unmetered water rates and rate-based billing programs described in the Rate Schedule that was first effective July 1, 2021;
2. For properties that were automatically enrolled in the Multiple-Family Conservation Program, the Board will consider amending the Rate Schedule so as to not assess the 10% surcharge prior to July 1, 2023 on enrolled properties that did not administratively demonstrate compliance with the program's terms;
3. Clarification of the terms of the inspection requirements necessary to obtain the billing provisions available under the Cap on Metered Charges;
4. Clarification of the availability of unmetered water rates;
5. Additional clarifications of an administrative nature to existing policies and procedures;

Please find additional information about the hearings and the Board, as well as information on accessibility options, at [nyc.gov/waterboard](http://nyc.gov/waterboard).

**DYCD Reported: The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) application deadline was extended** two weeks to Friday, May 6. It was reported that nearly 130,000 young people have applied so far, and the extension has given even more youth and families time to vie for the unprecedented number of opportunities available this summer.

SYEP supporting materials were updated to reflect the new deadline, and DYCD got the word out to New Yorkers through their usual communications channels, including the DYCD website, a press release, provider notifications, social media, and Community Connect. There is also time left for employers interested in becoming worksites; refer them to the [Hire NYC Youth](#) site for further information and an application.

**Invest in Your Mental Wealth with WorkWell NYC** May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Mental health challenges are more common than we might think, with 1 in 5 adults experiencing at least one mental health condition each year.

The individual ability to manage stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices are all impacted by mental wellbeing. Invest in your mental wealth by trying a new activity to boost your mental resilience. Please find great ideas <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/wellness/wellness-upcomingevents.page>.

**Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Reported:** The Department of Cultural Affairs has officially launched the Fiscal Year 2023 Cultural Development Fund (CDF) application. The CDF is a competitive grant process that supports a broad, multidisciplinary group of diverse non-profit organizations for their cultural programming across the five boroughs. Cultural nonprofits

from New York City's vast, diverse cultural community are encouraged to apply to receive public support for their arts and cultural activities.

This year's CDF launch marks a major step forward in fostering greater equity in this important source of funding, including greater recognition of historically marginalized communities, increased minimum grant size, and recruitment of review panelists who reflect the diversity of New York City.

Applicants are encouraged to attend a CDF application webinar session, which started on Tuesday, April 12 and ran through early May. The FY23 CDF application deadline is Monday, May 16, 2022, at 5:00 PM. For further information please visit their website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/applying.page>.

**Mayor's Office Reported: NYCHA's Heal the Violence program** provided 260 young NYCHA residents with anti-violence workshops where they received mentoring, learned ways to navigate their emotions and social challenges, and developed solutions for curbing violence in their communities. The \$720,000 program was funded by the City from a larger \$2 million grant for youth programs.

The Young people surveyed at the end of the program said that as a result of completing Heal the Violence, they feel they are becoming community leaders who can address violence through education and activism.

### **Did you Know???**

**NYC Housing Connect** Are you looking for housing that you can afford? Check out NYC Housing Connect; it's your online portal to find and apply for affordable rental and homeownership opportunities across New York City. Explore the portal at [nyc.gov/housingconnect](https://nyc.gov/housingconnect).

**NYC311** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They work to make government services accessible for all. People who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired can contact 311 at 212-NEW-YORK (212-639-9675) using a Video Relay Service (VRS), or at 212-504-4115 using TTY or Text Telephone. Contact 311 to submit language access complaints, questions, and requests.

**Preparing a Pandemic Response for All New Yorkers** Join **NYC Pandemic Response Institute (PRI)** -- a new public health partnership designed to unite academia, community, government, health care, and business across New York City as we prepare for, recover from, and protect ourselves during public health crises. Learn about PRI's plans to help address future health emergencies by supporting locally tailored health solutions, enhancing workforce capacity, advancing racial equity, and working with the communities most at risk throughout the five boroughs. Tuesday, May 10, 9AM - 11AM at The Forum at Columbia University (601 W 125th St (at Broadway)).

**The Office For Faith-Based and Community Partnerships (OFCP) Survey**

THE OFFICE FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (OFCP) works to build bridges among City government, diverse religious communities and nonprofit organizations to better serve all New Yorkers. OFCP will reflect the diversity of religion, race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation of the New Yorkers it will serve. Faith leaders serve as an important source of guidance throughout the City of New York. This survey is to better understand what the needs are, and how they can serve you. [The Office For Faith-Based and Community Partnerships \(OFCP\) Survey.](#)

**Got a parking ticket? Has your vehicle been booted? Beware of scams!**

Protect yourself against fraud. Disregard any notice or advertisement that promises to get you a discount on your parking ticket or boot removal. There are no discounts on parking tickets or boot removals.

**NYPL Late fines are gone for Good!!** Say goodbye to late fines and hello to the Library! NYPL has eliminated all fines, past, and future, to ensure access and opportunity for all.

**UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, a number of actions in response to the leak of the potential overturning of Roe v. Wade** will be taking place:

- Planned Parenthood is organizing a rally at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn at 12pm. Following the rally, there will be a march to Foley Square in Manhattan (Please check your local publications for further information);
- Organizations including the Women's March and Move On are hosting a “day of action for abortion rights” in cities across the country. In New York City, a rally will be held at 2 pm in Union Square.

**The NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund is now offering grants of \$500 to \$12,500** to groups with experience working in NYC’s open spaces and supporting community health and wellness. The deadline for submission is 12pm noon on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Join in an info session webinar and learn everything you need to know about applying for funding including the timeline, priorities of the grant, and examples of successful applications.

**Tuesday, 5/24, 8 am – 1 pm: Dept. of Youth and Community Development hosts a virtual CBO/MWBE Exchange, "Empowering Communities, Advancing Businesses."** Network with community based organizations in the DYCD social lounge, learn about upcoming contract opportunities, build lasting relationships, and meet with vendors in the exhibit hall. visit the following link to register: <https://www.airmeet.com/e/4afdb3a0-bb6e-11ec-9458-c5ffdd47e3cc>

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Manhattan Community Board No. 9 is seeking to hire Community Associate minimum qualifications** include: HS Diploma or Equivalent and three years of experience in community work. *(Please see Flyer);*

**Saturday, 5/14, 12 - 2 pm & Wednesday, 5/18, 5 - 7 pm: The YMCA is hosting in-person hiring events** throughout Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. Click the link for exact locations, job postings, and more information.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Rivera".

District Manager  
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