

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER – 2021**

**NYCEM Reported:** The City's Emergency Management Department continues to coordinate the interagency response to historic citywide flooding that occurred in New York City beginning Wednesday, September 1. Several City agencies — including the FDNY, NYPD, the Departments of Environmental Protection, Parks, Buildings, Transportation, the New York City Housing Authority, and Emergency Management — continue to respond to hazards caused by the storm. The city is also working with partners like Con Edison and the American Red Cross in Greater New York to respond to affected communities throughout the five boroughs.

New York City experienced widespread flash flooding through Wednesday into early Thursday morning. According to the National Weather Service, Central Park broke its all-time 1-hour rainfall rate with 3.15 inches of rain recorded between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday. Central Park also received 7.19 inches of rain by Thursday morning, making it the fifth-largest daily rainfall in the past 150 years. It also marked the first time the National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Emergency for New York City. New York City has declared a local state of emergency due to the weather.

Last night's storm was unlike anything New York City has ever faced. Our city mourns the loss of at least 13 New Yorkers who tragically lost their lives during this storm.

### **SAFETY TIPS**

- New Yorkers are encouraged to report damage to their property by calling 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115) or by accessing the Damage Assessment Tool online. The [Damage Assessment Tool](#) allows the City to immediately collect damage information from New Yorkers to assess the impact upon affected areas. (Note: Reporting damage with this form is for tracking purposes only. You will not be provided a confirmation number.);
- New Yorkers are advised to stay off the roads and avoid traveling as much as possible so responders can clear areas affected by flooding. Further, New Yorkers should expect continued delays and suspensions in MTA train service. Consider alternate routes and allow for additional travel time. If you must travel, New Yorkers are advised to exercise caution;
- If your car has been relocated, call 311;
- New Yorkers are encouraged to sign up for Notify NYC, the City's free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can receive phone calls, text messages, and/or emails alerts about traffic and transit disruptions and other emergencies. To sign up for Notify NYC, call 311, visit [NYC.gov/NotifyNYC](https://nyc.gov/NotifyNYC), or follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter;

## **CITY AGENCY & PARTNER ACTIONS**

### **NYC DOT**

- New Yorkers are advised to stay off the roads and avoid traveling as much as possible so responders can clear areas affected by flooding;
- Alternate Side Parking is suspended through Wednesday, September 8;
- Staten Island Ferry operating as normal;
- Crews are clearing arterial highways and storm drains as needed;

### **FDNY**

- FDNY conducted hundreds of rescues overnight, rescuing more than 500 New Yorkers from flooded roadways, buildings, and subway stations;
- FDNY members are continuing dewatering operations;
- FDNY is assisting with clearing downed trees and supporting other task forces as needed;

### **NYCHA**

- NYCHA has activated its emergency command center;
- Staff are assessing damage, especially downed trees;
- NYCHA continues to address complaints of water conditions inside apartments, especially in the South Bronx;

### **NYC PARKS**

- Maintenance and operation teams have been addressing storm impacts, and noted significant flooding at Van Cortlandt, Flushing-Meadows, and Prospect Parks;
- There are closures and delayed openings of some outdoor pools, etc.;
- NYC Parks reports about 400 downed trees citywide;

### **NYPD**

- The NYPD is surveying areas reporting the greatest effects from the storm, and is working with its aviation unit to canvas the city;
- The Department safely evacuated 714 straphangers during the storm;
- The Department has 44 tow trucks operating with assistance from the State Police; there are stranded vehicles throughout the city that need to be removed;

### **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)**

- Crews on the ground 24/7 to alleviate ponding and flooding, and are recording any sinkholes and fallen trees;

- Crews are providing drinking water and removing waste water;
- DEP's customer service borough offices are currently closed due to Wednesday night's storm. New Yorkers looking to get in touch with DEP's customer service team online can use the following form: <https://on.nyc.gov/3hUh5Ij>;

#### **DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS (DOB)**

- There are approximately 27 teams in the field conducting inspections and are coordinating efforts with the City's Damage Assessment Task Force;
- Crews are inspecting locations of fatalities. A number of them are being investigated as potential illegally-converted properties;
- DOB Customer Service Windows are scheduled to reopen on Friday, September 3, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.;

#### **NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- The New York City Emergency Management Department activated the City's Emergency Operations Center in response to the flash flooding event and continues to coordinate the interagency response on scene. City agencies continue to operate throughout the five boroughs, especially neighborhoods most impacted by flooding;
- The agency continues to hold interagency calls with local, state, and federal agency partners, elected officials, as well as nonprofit and private-sector partners;

#### **CON EDISON**

- Con Edison crews are responding and restoring power to any customers affected by outages;
- There are multiple feeder contingencies throughout the electric system. They are not causing outages at this time;
- Voltage reductions have been made in some areas of the city to help conserve energy;
- Con Edison reminds communities to stay clear of downed wires and flooded structures;

#### **AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK**

- American Red Cross in Greater New York is providing temporary shelter for those affected by the storm;
- The organization is also providing health, emotional support and casework assistance to displaced residents;
- Additionally, Red Cross teams are assessing damage across NYC to identify additional households in need of help and to deliver flood cleanup supplies;

**DOB Reported:** The Department of Buildings is advising building owners and property managers to take added precautions when surveying damage at their properties, after historic and deadly floods inundated neighborhoods across the city overnight. Heavy flooding conditions have the potential to cause structural damage, undermining concerns, hazardous mold, and deterioration of building electrical and gas plumbing systems, which can all pose a serious hazard to New Yorkers entering flood-damaged buildings.

Building owners and property managers are advised:

- Check your property for any structural stability issues or unsafe conditions due to flooding, and contact the Department of Buildings by calling 311 if there are concerns. For building-related emergencies call 911;
- When surveying flood damage in a building look out for mold, any newly formed cracks along the wall, and signs of foundation damage including bulging walls;
- Heavy flooding can have a significant effect on the structural stability of outdoor structures such as decks, porches and retaining walls. Take extra precaution near these outdoor structures, due to the potential for collapse;
- Flooding can also cause the soil around buildings to shift. Be cautious of sink holes forming on your property, especially near septic systems. Avoid areas around large trees if the surrounding soil is soft;
- Do not wade into standing flood water in basements and cellars to survey damage. The water may be contaminated, contain hazardous debris, or be electrically charged;
- Floods can cause damage to electrical wiring and gas plumbing systems inside of a building, creating an imminent hazard to anyone inside of the building. Extreme caution should be taken if there are concerns that standing water in a building may be electrified. Never attempt to turn off power or operate a circuit breaker while standing in water;
- When investigating and cleaning flood damage in your building, wear gloves, boots, a mask and other protective clothing, to protect yourself from mold and other contaminants;
- If your basement or cellar is flooded, use caution when pumping out the water. Pumping out flood water from a building too quickly could cause serious structural damage. The water must be drained slowly to equalize pressure on both sides of building walls;
- If you need to use a gas-powered generator, never use it indoors. Keep generators outside, away from open windows, and always follow the user instructions in the owner's manual;
- Concerns about drinking water contamination in a building should be reported to 311;
- Extensive repair work in a building may require the services of a registered contractor as well as DOB-issued work permits. Electrical Wiring repairs will require the services of a licensed electrician. Gas plumbing system repairs will

require the services of a licensed plumber. [Check the license status of these construction professionals here](#);

- Licensed Master Plumbers performing emergency work to address a hazardous situation, restore essential services, and maintain sanitary conditions, have the ability to file an [Emergency Work Notifications](#) with the Department online, allowing them to start repairs immediately with no wait time from DOB. The plumber can then submit the paperwork for any required permits with the Department after the job is already completed;
- Before starting any major repairs at your building, contact a construction professional or the Department of Buildings;

**Department of Education (DOE) Reported: Department of Education Vaccine Mandate for All Staff.** Monday, September 13 is the first day of school for New York City students. All Department of Education employees are required to have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine by Sept. 27, without an option for weekly testing.

The DOE recently created a [COVID-19 Vaccination Portal](#) for all staff to log their vaccination status. Staff can upload proof of vaccination into the portal, which can be an image of a

vaccination card, NYS Excelsior Pass, or other government record. [Learn more about school reopening here.](#)

**DOHMH Reported:** New York City's [Key to NYC](#) mandate is now in effect! People 12 and older must now show proof that they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter indoor dining, fitness and entertainment venues:

- Indoor dining: includes restaurants, catering halls, event spaces, hotel banquet rooms, bars, nightclubs, cafeterias, grocery stores with indoor dining, coffee shops and fast food or quick service with indoor dining


- Indoor fitness: includes gyms, fitness centers, fitness classes, pools, indoor studios and dance studios

- Indoor entertainment: includes movie theaters, music and concert venues, museums and galleries, aquariums and zoos, professional sports arenas, indoor stadiums, convention centers, exhibition halls, performing arts theaters, bowling alleys, arcades, pool and billiard halls, recreational game centers, adult entertainment and indoor play areas

The Key to NYC mandate extends to staff at these locations too. Affected small businesses with questions can call the NYC Department of Small Business Services hotline at 888-SBS-4NYC (888-727-4692), 311, or go online to [nyc.gov/keytonyc](http://nyc.gov/keytonyc).

## NYS COVID-19 Guidelines

New incentives to get vaccinated are being announced by New York State and City. Check out details [here](#) and [here](#).

**MTA Reported:** The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced that security cameras have been installed at all 472 subway stations. Cameras were deployed Sept. 11 at the 472nd Station, Broadway station on the  line. Thousands of cameras have now been deployed system wide.

The initiative to expand security camera coverage was accelerated last year by Interim President of New York City Transit Sarah Feinberg, who identified a new class of cameras that could be deployed more quickly and at much lower cost than traditional cameras. As a result, 200 stations of the 472 in the system have gained security camera coverage within the past year.

Feinberg accelerated the pre-existing camera installation program to ensure that all subway stations have cameras by the end of summer 2021.

Security cameras used in the subway system come in two forms: Those that broadcast in real time to the subway's security center, and those that record locally and provide material that can be retrieved quickly and used in the investigation of crimes. Similar to the NYPD's post-9/11 Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, some of the live cameras give New York City Transit the ability to spot suspicious packages and other activities that require response.

The latest statistics provided by the NYPD show a decline in major felonies of 20.6% in 2021 through August 31 and a 28.6% increase in arrests over the same time period.

The MTA will continue to expand the placement of cameras throughout the system, with a goal of optimizing coverage of stations.

## **Upcoming Events and Announcements:**

### **EVENTS:**

**The Uptown Night Market** is the place to be in West Harlem every **second Thursday** of the month from **NOW until November** 2021. Each evening (4 pm-10 pm) will feature a curated selection of NYC and locally-based food & beverage concepts, arts & crafts, packaged goods, and performers! Be sure to visit and partake in all of the festivities at the **Riverside Drive Viaduct** (between 136th and 138th Streets on 12th Avenue).

RSVP HERE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uptown-night-market-tickets-155683289911>

**Every Voice Choir (EVC)** is pleased to share their plan for a safe return to in-person singing this fall: EVC Outdoors! EVC's in-person choirs will start off the season at the beautiful Sakura Park, an idyllic spot nestled between International House and The Riverside Church on 122nd Street. They will also offer online and hybrid classes. Email [programs@everyvoicechoirs.org](mailto:programs@everyvoicechoirs.org) to request the link.

**WEACT: September Meeting** will be held on Saturday, September 11th at 11:00am via zoom. WEACT will have staff presentations and member discussion on Redistricting in NYC, NYCHA RAD & PACT and Electric Buses for NYC. **Please register here:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucu6hpz4oGtCcZIR\\_k8-QCMCyMhaotlw](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucu6hpz4oGtCcZIR_k8-QCMCyMhaotlw)

**When: Sep 11, 2021 11:00 AM**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT(S):**

##### **NYS Eviction Protections for Tenants – Update**

On September 2, 2021, Governor Hochul signed state legislation that extended legal protections from eviction for most tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through January 15, 2022. The new law follows recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court that found the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nationwide restriction on evictions and the earlier NYS COVID-19 eviction protection laws (CEEFPFA) to be unlawful.

The new law provides that tenants who have submitted completed Hardship Declarations attesting to their financial hardship affecting their ability to pay rent or find new housing during the pandemic are protected from eviction until January 15, 2022, and that their eviction cases are stayed (paused) until that date. Tenants who have not yet submitted Hardship Declarations can do so now and likewise be protected until January 15, 2022. To address legal issues addressed in the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling, the new law gives a landlord the ability to challenge a tenant's Hardship Declaration if the landlord believes that the hardship does not exist. The landlord can file a motion in Housing Court for a hearing to determine whether a hardship exists (in which case the stay remains in place until January 15, 2022) or not (in which case the eviction case can move forward in Housing Court). Tenants who have submitted Hardship Declarations should respond to any court notices they receive that their case is scheduled for a hearing.

In addition, the new law extends the coverage period of the NYS Tenant Safe Harbor Act until January 15, 2022, meaning that tenants who can prove that they had financial hardship between the start of the State COVID-19 emergency period on March 7, 2020 through January 15, 2022 may have a defense in court to eviction for non-payment of rent owed during that period. Also, the new law clarifies that tenants who file applications for the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will have their eviction case stayed (paused) until their application is reviewed and decided by NYS, regardless of when the case was originally filed against them.

The waiver of the State requirement that applicants for the State Family Homelessness Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS) have a pending court action is also extended through January 15, 2022; the parallel requirement for CityFHEPS is also extended through January 15, 2022.

Tenants who are scheduled for appearance in eviction proceedings in Housing Court, including for hearings about Hardship Declarations, have access to free eviction defense legal services provided by HRA's Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) under the City's right-to-counsel law, regardless of ZIP code. Tenants with questions about their protections from eviction can get free legal advice and other assistance provided by OCJ. For more information on how to access free legal services for tenants in NYC, call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline, call nonprofit Housing Court Answers at (718) 557-1379, or visit HRA's Office of Civil Justice online at [www.nyc.gov/civiljustice](http://www.nyc.gov/civiljustice).

Respectfully Submitted,

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9/16/21