

## MOBILE DISTRICT HOURS

My office is your office, and we are here to serve your needs. Please stop by **244 East 93rd Street**, call **(212) 860-1950**, visit us at **BenKallos.com** or email **BKallos@council.nyc.gov** should you want assistance for any reason, whether you'd like to know your rights as a tenant or need help applying for city services. But that's not enough—I'll also be bringing my office to you. **My staff will be at the following locations from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to assist you:**

**Roosevelt Island** (RISA, 546 Main Street): **Fourth Wednesday** of the month

**Lexington Houses** (1536 Lexington Avenue): **Second Wednesday** of the month

**Lenox Hill Neighborhood House**: (331 East 70th Street): **Second Tuesday** of the month

**Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center** (415 E. 93rd Street): **Fourth Tuesday** of the month

## FIRST FRIDAY

Join me for **First Friday** every month from **8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.** at my District Office on **244 East 93rd Street**. This is a chance for us to meet informally, to discuss what's important to you and how to make our neighborhood a better place to live. Contact our office to RSVP.



## POLICY NIGHT

If you are looking to meet neighbors and become more involved in your community, please consider joining a District Five Policy Committee. Residents looking to improve our neighborhood and city and promote innovation are encouraged to join us. Committees will meet on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** and will include education, senior services, environment and more. For more information or to join a committee, please contact our office.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL • 250 BROADWAY • 30TH FLOOR • NY, NY 10007



FALL/WINTER 2014 BULLETIN: NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

# BEN KALLOS

5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW YORK CITY  
COUNCIL

### 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

244 East 93rd Street  
New York, NY 10128

**Phone:** (212) 860-1950

**Fax:** (212) 980-1828

**BKallos@council.nyc.gov**

## INTERNSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

If you or someone you know is a student with a desire to gain experience in city government, please consider joining my team. Interns and Fellows will work closely with senior staff, assisting in community outreach and engagement; attending community meetings, hearings and press conferences; drafting correspondence; doing legislative research; and assisting with communications. They will also be encouraged to pursue a project of their own choosing. Please email **BKallos@council.nyc.gov** with a resume and cover letter to apply.



## IN THE COMMUNITY

This year, I had the honor of speaking at graduation ceremonies, taking students on tours of City Hall and awarding distinguished members of our community such as retiring Principal Sharon Hill, Dances Patrelle, Roosevelt Island seniors, and many others. If you have an event you would like me to attend or know of a community member who should be commended, please email [scheduler@benkallos.com](mailto:scheduler@benkallos.com).



FALL/WINTER 2014 BULLETIN: NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

# BEN KALLOS

5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## DEAR NEIGHBORS,

It has been my pleasure to represent you in the City Council since January. Over the past nine months, my favorite moments have been the ones spent together in the community, such as inauguration, First Fridays, policy nights, cooking demonstrations at the Green Market and community events. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please send over an invitation. I will try my best to be there.

Since the New Year, we have taken great strides towards greater opportunities for all New Yorkers with:

- 50,000 universal pre-k seats, and more to come;
- Paid sick leave;
- More affordable apartments;
- \$35 million in funds for the East River Esplanade;
- Steps to make streets safer through Vision Zero; and
- A stronger fight against the Marine Transfer Station.

There is more to do, but the progress is encouraging. Please contact me with any thoughts, questions, requests for assistance or ideas for a better city. Here are just a few ways you can reach me:

- Phone:** (212) 860-1950  
**Email:** [BKallos@council.nyc.gov](mailto:BKallos@council.nyc.gov)  
**Website:** [www.BenKallos.com](http://www.BenKallos.com)  
**Twitter:** @BenKallos  
**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/BenKallos](https://www.facebook.com/BenKallos)  
**In person:** 244 East 93rd Street

I look forward to working together. As always, I am at your service.

Sincerely,

**Council Member Ben Kallos**  
**District Five:** *Upper East Side, Midtown East, El Barrio and Roosevelt Island*

## EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for two changes to your rent benefits that may make life easier: the maximum salary eligibility for **Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)** and **Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)** have both been raised to \$50,000. To learn more about eligibility requirements, please visit [nyc.gov/SCRIE](http://nyc.gov/SCRIE) or [nyc.gov/DRIE](http://nyc.gov/DRIE). Please don't forget to spread the word about the change to friends who might be affected by the news. **My office can help you apply. Email [BKallos@council.nyc.gov](mailto:BKallos@council.nyc.gov) or call (212) 860-1950 for assistance.**

## HOW WOULD YOU SPEND 1 MILLION DOLLARS?

You can decide how one million taxpayer dollars get spent in our neighborhood and propose creative projects to receive city funds. Last time we did participatory budgeting, we funded bus clocks, senior centers, parks, and technology in schools. This time, you will be empowered to develop ideas at public Neighborhood Assemblies that could receive city funds—and become reality. Please join us:

### 2014 Official Ballot

**Participatory Budgeting in New York City**  
Council Member  
Ben Kallos

**District 5**  
Midtown East  
Upper East Side  
El Barrio  
Roosevelt Island

**Voting instructions:**  
• Mark the box to the left of the name of the candidate you wish to vote for.  
• If you wish to vote for more than one candidate, mark the boxes to the left of each candidate's name.  
• If you wish to vote for a party, mark the box to the left of the party name.  
• If you wish to vote for a ballot question, mark the box to the left of the question number.  
• If you wish to vote for a ballot question, mark the box to the left of the question number.



- SUNDAY, 09/21** (1 p.m.) **Stanley Isaacs Senior Center**, 415 East 93rd Street  
**MONDAY, 09/29** (6 p.m.) **Lenox Hill House**, 311 East 70th Street  
**TUESDAY, 10/07** (6 p.m.) **Roosevelt Island Senior Center**, 546 Main Street  
**SATURDAY, 10/18** (1 p.m.) **Knickerbocker Plaza**, 1763 2nd Avenue  
**THURSDAY, 10/30** (5 p.m.) **Lexington Houses**, 1536 Lexington Avenue

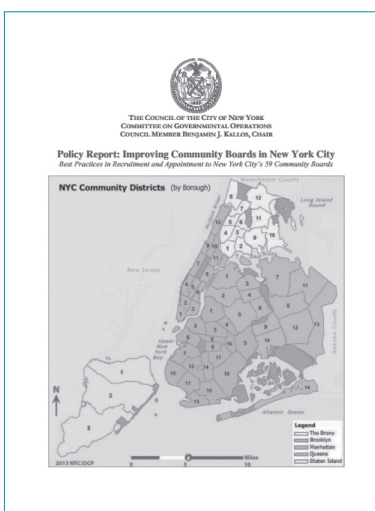
For updates and to learn more, please visit [BenKallos.com/PB](http://BenKallos.com/PB)

## MILLIONS SECURED FOR THE EAST RIVER ESPLANADE



In this year's budget, I secured \$35 million for the East River Esplanade, together with my Co-Chair of the East River Esplanade Task Force, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, generously provided by Mayor de Blasio. That money will start to repair the seawall and restore the crumbling surface. In addition, as part of Rockefeller University's renovation process, we negotiated a remarkably generous trust that will fund repairs to their section of the Esplanade forever— a gift that will last for generations.

## COMMUNITY BOARD: REFORM AND APPLY



Following a hearing on best practices in recruitment and appointment to New York City Community Boards, my office released a report entitled "Improving Community Boards in New York City: Best Practices in Recruitment and Appointment to New York City's 59 Community Boards." Recommendations include creating standardized online applications for those who wish to join boards and doing comprehensive outreach so New Yorkers know they can apply.

The boards are vital community centers, and they are a great way to get involved in the neighborhood and learn more about

city government. You can apply to be part of your local community board. Members serve in staggered two-year terms. If you are interested in learning more about openings or applying, please visit [BenKallos.com/CB](http://BenKallos.com/CB)

# UPDATE: THE FIGHT AGAINST THE MARINE TRANSFER STATION

## FIGHTING HIGH COSTS

When I learned that the projected cost of the Marine Transfer Station has nearly quintupled, from \$44 to \$215 million, I issued an urgent call for a pause to investigate the costs, together with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Liz Krueger, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Assembly Member Dan Quart and Council Member Dan Garodnick.

### DAILY NEWS

Jennifer Fermino May 22, 2014

“Budget for proposed Upper East Side dump jumps from \$44M to \$215M”

I have demanded that the Independent Budget Office review the Marine Transfer Station's high costs. The last such review, produced for my predecessor, Council Member Jessica Lappin, showed the price of disposing of a ton of trash through the Marine Transfer Station skyrocketing from \$90/ton to \$238/ton.

### THE HUFFINGTON POST

Matthew Chapman March 24, 2014

“In Control Ben Kallos Attacks Out of Control Trash Plan”

At several public hearings, I have cross-examined Department of Sanitation officials, forcing the Sanitation Commissioner to admit that the 91st Street Waste Transfer Station would make trash disposal more expensive. The money being spent on this outdated, disastrous plan could be better spent on health programs, education, safer streets and improving our environment.

## RALLYING TOGETHER



Activists, NYCHA residents, children who use Asphalt Green athletic facilities and many other New Yorkers have come together to oppose the Waste Transfer Station on 91st Street. I promised you I would bring new energy to the eight-year fight against the Marine

Transfer Station—and since I was elected, we have taken it to a new level together. Working with community group Pledge 2 Protect, which authored the “Talking Trash” report that showed the path to a more sustainable city, we have moved the dialogue on the Marine Transfer Station towards lasting solutions. Our community has rallied together in protest at the site where the Waste Transfer Station would be built on Asphalt Green. Day in and day out, we are exercising our right to free speech and making our voices heard. Soon, I will be introducing legislation to improve our city's environment and combat our city's outdated waste management plan. To learn more, sign my petition and get more frequent updates on the fight, please visit [BenKallos.com/MTS](http://BenKallos.com/MTS).

## STOPPING THE DEC PERMIT

Together with my colleagues, we asked for the State Department of Environmental Conservation to hold a public hearing on the permit for the Marine Transfer Station. Many circumstances have changed since it was approved, particularly new information about poor air quality in our area and the apparent danger to the community in the event of another major storm. The state should review—and not reissue—the permit.

## TOURING TRANSFER STATIONS



WATCH THE VIDEO AT [BenKallos.com/MTS](http://BenKallos.com/MTS)

I spent a day on a 12-hour citywide tour of sanitation stations with Department of Sanitation Commissioner Garcia, organized by Pledge 2 Protect and Asphalt Green. We started the day at the Staten Island Transfer Station, visited the Hamilton Avenue Marine Transfer Station in Brooklyn, toured Asphalt Green, stopped at a commercial rail transfer station in the Bronx, and concluded the day in South Brooklyn. We shared our strong opposition to the city's plan with the Commissioner. What we learned and saw made it clear that

this site would be like no other waste transfer station in New York City—most of which are located in industrial zones—and we came away more committed than ever to the fight.

## ORGANIZING A CITYWIDE COALITION



I helped organize a coalition of elected officials and activists from Brooklyn and Staten Island, who are also facing, to protest the impact of these misguided parts of the solid waste management plan. New Yorkers in any borough should feel safe from having trash disposal stations near their homes, communities and parks.

## JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE MARINE TRANSFER STATION

Join the fight by filling out and mailing this form or by visiting [BenKallos.com/MTS](http://BenKallos.com/MTS)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

- I request that the DEC hold a public hearing
- I am adding my name to Council Member Ben Kallos' petition against the dump
- Add me to the MTS mailing list for more regular updates

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL BACK TO: Council Member Kallos  
244 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128 or email back to [bkallos@council.nyc.gov](mailto:bkallos@council.nyc.gov)

## SAFER STREETS



Office of City Council Member  
**Benjamin J. Kallos**



### Livable Streets Dangerous Intersections

244 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10028 • (212) 860-1950 • [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)

In my last newsletter, I asked you to fill out and send in information on how to improve street safety and quality in our neighborhood. That information became a “Livable Streets” report, compiling information on neighborhood concerns to submit to City agencies. We will work with those agencies to create necessary changes. You can read the report at [BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets](http://BenKallos.com/Livable-Streets)

#### Forum series to improve safety so far:

- ➔ Bike lanes;
- ➔ Commercial biking rules;
- ➔ Vision Zero; and
- ➔ Safety along the Second Avenue Subway Construction.

Join us for an upcoming bike enforcement forum with the NYPD on October 22nd at 6 p.m. at Stanley Isaacs Senior Center.

Please check [BenKallos.com/Events](http://BenKallos.com/Events) for upcoming forums. Thanks to the Department of Transportation, the NYPD, and neighborhood residents for partnering with us. You can still share your feedback or concerns on your neighborhood streets at [BenKallos.com/livable-streets](http://BenKallos.com/livable-streets).

## COMMERCIAL BIKE SAFETY

Please join our pilot program to improve the safety of commercial cyclists and protect residents. We started with a forum to educate businesses on the rules of the road and provide them with free safety vests, lights, and bells. The next steps are:

- ➔ **MORE SAFETY VESTS** If you see or receive a bike delivery from a person with NO safety vest displaying business name and ID number, report it to the business, 311 and my office.
- ➔ **REPORT UNSAFE BIKING** If you see wrong way or unsafe biking, remember the business name and identification number from the safety vest, then report it to the store, 311 and my office. Tell the store that you can wait longer for deliveries so bikes can be slower and safer for everyone.
- ➔ **ENFORCEMENT** When you call 311, DOT and NYPD will be notified and will take the appropriate steps to resolve the issue.

## HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOODS



All New Yorkers deserve access to fresh, locally sourced and healthy food. Because of this, I have introduced legislation to create a Food Policy Council of food experts, advocates and nonprofits to advise the City on how to keep New Yorkers healthy and well-fed. I am also hoping to create a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) at my office. In the meantime, you can find a Fresh Food Box distribution, which I expanded to Stanley Isaacs at 415 East 93rd St. on Tuesday from 3:30-6:30 p.m. after seeing its success at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House (same time). In warmer months, you can find me at the Green Market, performing public cooking demonstrations on simple, healthy meals. If you support these goals and want to get involved, please contact my office.

## PASSING LAWS



You deserve open, accountable government. That is how I run my office, and why I am focused on making our city more transparent and effective. Two of my bills and two resolutions with this aim have already become law:

**City Record Online:** All key city information in the paper City Record, including public hearings on transportation and land use decisions, will now be included online.

**Voter Guide Bill:** This law provides a common-sense fix that uses technology to save the city up to \$3 million in a year and empowers the Campaign Finance Board to carry out its important work.

**National Women’s History Museum:** My resolution in support of Congresswoman Maloney’s push to build a National Women’s History Museum in DC passed, adding New York City’s official voice to call for a museum where young women and men can go to be inspired.

**Youth on Community Boards:** My resolution with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer calling on the state to allow 16 and 17 year olds to join Community Boards passed, spurring action in Albany. This has become law, and now civic-minded teenagers can join their local boards.

**Open Law:** I was also a co-prime sponsor on Open Law, which makes our city’s law easily accessible online at [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov), where it belongs—updated continuously, so you can see all city rules.

#### Here are a few pieces of legislation I have introduced:

**Healthy Happy Meals:** Kids’ meals that include toys as incentives would meet specific nutritional standards under the Healthy Happy Meals Bill. According to The New York City Department of Health, half of elementary school children are overweight. It’s hard enough for parents to make healthy choices for their kids without the fast food industry spending \$714 million in a year on advertising for children, with nearly half on toys, according to a 2012 Federal Trade Commission report. The money has a clear effect: the report confirms so-called “pester power”—the ability children have to direct family food choices. Let’s incentivize our children to eat healthy instead.

**Construction Safety Act:** These two bills will ensure that New York City maintains the most stringent construction safety regulations in the nation. The Cranes Bill specifies that operators have local experience and government continues to administer licensing exams rather than private companies. The Rigging Bill updates safety standards to ensure experts are handling heavy machinery.

**Open FOIL:** This bill would create a centralized, searchable database of Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests sent to City agencies. Ten percent of city FOIL requests are ignored, according to a 2013 report by then-Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, and response time varies dramatically between agencies. A single tracker would help tackle that problem.

**Learn more at [BenKallos.com/legislation](http://BenKallos.com/legislation)**