

October 2024 Newsletter

Calendar

You can find a list of upcoming CB 3 meetings here:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/manhattan3/calendar/calendar.page>

For Constituents

Upcoming Opportunities

Rep. Goldman + LES Ready Emergency Preparedness Event

The office of Congressman Dan Goldman will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness Event with LES Ready on October 29th 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Boys & Girls Republic, 888 E 6th Street, NY NY 10009. This event would mark the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. NYC Office of Emergency Management will be presenting on “How to prepare for an emergency disaster”.

Election Dates

Here are some key dates to keep in mind ahead of the upcoming election:

- **Saturday, October 26th to Sunday, November 3rd:** During this period, you can vote early. [Find your early voting site and hours.](#)
- **Saturday, October 26th:** This is the last day for the Board of Elections to receive an application for an early mail ballot, absentee ballot, and voter registration form by mail, online portal, email, or fax. This is also the last day you can have a voter registration application received by the Board of Elections by mail or in person. [Find your borough Board of Elections office.](#)
- **Monday, November 4th:** This is the last day to apply in person at your Board of Elections office for Early Mail Ballots and Absentee Ballots.
- **Tuesday, November 5th:** Election Day! Polls are open from 6am to 9pm that day. Find your poll site [here.](#)
- **Tuesday, November 5th:** This is the last day to postmark your early mail ballot and absentee ballot return envelope. It is also the last day to deliver a ballot in person at the Board of Elections or drop it off at a poll site.

Doula Volunteer Training

Join a wonderful community of volunteers who visit people during their end stage of life. The Doula Program’s mission is to minimize the isolation and loneliness of people with life-

limiting illnesses. We extensively train, carefully match and supervise Doula Volunteers who visit one individual each week at their home, nursing home, or hospital. Our volunteers find their lives as enriched as the lives of those they visit.

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours visiting per week. You set your own schedule
Applications are being accepted now!

To Learn More: <http://www.doulaprogram.org/become-a-doula.php>

To Apply: Contact Alix Towler, atowler@doulaprogram.org

Volunteer with Asylum Seekers

As part of a pilot initiative with the NYC Office of Asylum Seeker Operations, Educational Alliance is recruiting volunteers to help asylum seekers complete their work authorization applications. This is a crucial pathway to asylum seekers' independence and financial stability. You, or anyone you know, can go to this [site](http://www.edalliance.org/volunteer) for more information and to indicate interest in a particular date or time: www.edalliance.org/volunteer.

Resources

Housing Information Classes

Tenants – know your rights! Learn how to push back against harassment; eliminate pesky pests; apply for affordable housing; and deal with landlords avoiding repairs.

Homeowners – we got you! Learn about violations & summons; navigate all the City agencies you need; get resources for repairs, contractors, and financing; avoid deed theft and other scams.

Visit nyc.gov/hpd for more information and a full list of classes.

Housing Information Classes

NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

We have your housing answers!

Tenants - Know your rights!

- Push back against harassment
- Eliminate pesky pests
- Landlord avoiding repairs
- Apply for affordable housing

Homeowners - We got you too!

- Learn about violations and summonses
- Navigate all the City agencies you need
- Resources for repairs, contractors, and financing
- Avoiding deed theft and other scams

Register Here!

Full List of Classes

Visit nyc.gov/hpd for more information.
FREE Zoom classes with City agencies and Community Based Organizations!

NYC Public Restroom Map

Click [here](#) to watch a short video on the new restroom map. Visit on.nyc.gov/restroom to see the map.

NYC DOT Online Information on Parking Regulations

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) has created a new program on their website that allows the public to enter an intersection or cross streets to find out its current parking regulations. [View the parking regulations of your interest.](#)

NYCStreets Permit Management System

The Department of Transportation grants permits for street construction and has provided a website where people can find out who is responsible for the construction and the duration of the permits. [Learn more here.](#)

Expanded EmPower+ Program



EmPower+ helps low- and moderate-income households save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their primary residence. No-cost direct install improvements identified during the assessment can be installed by participating program contractors.

Funding toward the cost of energy efficiency improvements, including air sealing, insulation, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and electrical service and wiring upgrades is possible. Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

NYC's Cooling Assistance Program

NYC's Cooling Assistance program helps eligible New Yorkers afford air conditioning and fans during the hot summer months by covering costs of up to \$1,000 for new units or repairs to existing units. Many New Yorkers don't realize they qualify. Learn more [HERE!](#)

How to Tell Legal Cannabis Shops from Illegal Ones

1. All licensed dispensaries are issued a Dispensary Verification Tool which is posted in the storefront. Scan the QR code to be directed to OCM's website with a list of all licensed adult-use cannabis dispensaries.



2. When buying cannabis products, locate the Universal Symbol, which is pictured below. Every regulated adult-use cannabis product sold will also include the below New York State "universal symbol" designating it as a tested, regulated product. Consumers should check both the storefront for the Dispensary Verification Tool and the product label to ensure they're purchasing a regulated product. More examples of the "universal symbol" can be found [here](#).



3. Check for a QR code or link to your product's "Certificate of Analysis" or CoA. All regulated products will have a QR code or link to that product's lab testing results called a Certificate of Analysis (CoA). All cannabis products must pass lab testing before being sold at licensed adult-use or medical dispensaries. Lab testing ensures cannabis products available are safer to consume and are accurately labeled with potency.

If you visit a cannabis shop that does not have all three of these, report the shop to Community Board 3.

For Local Organizations

Upcoming Opportunities

BID Formation Grants

Who should apply: Community-based organizations who are already working toward BID formation; have a formal steering committee and have conducted a needs assessment survey; have been engaged with SBS already

BID Formation Grants are available to place-based community-based development organizations (CBDOs) that are currently working with a formal steering committee that has completed and analyzed needs assessment survey data.

- Applicants may be in the planning, outreach, or legislative phases of the BID formation process [outlined here](#)
- **Up to \$100,000 per year per neighborhood will be awarded to grantees for the staffing, planning, and implementation of a BID formation proposal.**

Read the [BID Formation Grant program guidelines](#) for more information.

Applications Open for Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program Risk Assessment and Grant Program

If your business is at risk of flooding from storms, you may be eligible for the City's Risk Assessment and Grant Program. Through this program, eligible businesses can get a review of their physical location, business operations, and insurance needs so that they can get personalized recommendations on how to protect the business in the event of disasters. Furthermore, eligible participants can get grants of up to \$5,000 to help cover the costs of implementing recommendations.

Learn more about the program, including how to apply, on the NYC Department of Small Business Services website:

<https://nyc-business.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/emergency-preparedness/business-preparedness-and-resiliency-program/risk-assessment-and-preparedness-grant>

Resources

Residential Trash Containerization Requirements Will Take Effect November 12th

The Department of Sanitation is advising property owners and managers that beginning November 12, 2024, all trash must be set out in a bin (55 gallons or less) with a secure lid. This Rule will apply to:

- single-family homes
- two-family homes
- buildings with up to 9 apartments

Initially you may use a compliant bin (55 gallons or less with a secure lid) that you already have, but starting June 2026, you **MUST** use an Official NYC Bin. To learn more, please download the flyer [here](#) or visit the DSNY website [here](#).

Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program



The NYC Department of Small Business Services has launched the Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program (BPREP) Risk Assessment and Grant Program for eligible small business or commercial properties.

This program offers a free on-site, one-on-one risk assessment and \$5,000 grant to buy recommended resiliency equipment, such as flood barriers, generators, and fireproof storage containers. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Crossing the Finish Line to Open Your Business

Start your business with one-on-one support from the NYC Department Small Business Services (SBS). These sessions will go over rules and regulations, licenses and permits, accessing capital, commercial lease assistance and much more. Sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/crossing-the-finish-line-to-open-your-business-3118899>

FastTrac® Program

FastTrac® is a series of free multiple-session entrepreneurship bootcamps offered by the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) for aspiring and established entrepreneurs throughout New York City. Sign up here: <https://nyc-business.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/business-services/education-programs/fasttrac>

Commercial Lease Assistance Program

NYC's Commercial Lease Assistance Program with Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (also known as BKA) offers free legal help with:

- Reviewing and signing new lease
- Amending, renewing, or terminating a current lease
- Drafting/negotiating lease terms
- Rent arrears
- Repair issues
- Any other commercial-lease-related issues



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If a business is in litigation, we can provide them with advice and guidance but not represent them in court. In such cases, we advise them on the next steps to be taken, and if necessary, we can provide them with a list of low-fee attorneys.



All of our legal services are completely FREE to all who own small businesses and qualify except for representing them in court. Feel free to contact me at 718-321-9797 or via email at jbyun@rhakimlaw.com if you have any questions or need more details.

NYC BEST

Time is money. Save both with NYC BEST's one-on-one help – at no cost! Through NYC BEST, you will be connected to a single point person to help you with:

Get Licenses and Permits Faster

- Understand City rules and requirements
- Work with City agencies to get licenses and permits faster
- Avoid/Reduce Fines and Violations

Prepare for inspections

- Fix issues before an inspector walks through the door
- Understand violations you've received and help address them

More information available here:

<https://nyc-business.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/business-services/regulatory-assistance/nyc-business-express-service-team-best>