

Dear DID Members,

I am writing to ask for your support for re-election as District Leader for New York Assembly District 66, Part B.

I was honored to be elected your District Leader for the first time in 2019 and hope to continue to serve our community.

As a long-time education and park advocate, I have become keenly focused on how rezonings and city and state land use policies significantly impact the communities where we live, particularly as our city recovers from the pandemic.

Since 2014, I have chaired the Schools and Education Committee for Community Board 2. During the pandemic, I have pushed for more live instruction for our students, reached out to the NYC's Independent Budget Office to understand pandemic-related school budget deficits, and led student forums on remote learning and high school admissions, filling an information vacuum in our community due to the new public high school admissions process. I continue to coordinate with community members to ensure that DOE food distribution sites, particularly those in Chinatown, provide enough meals to meet significant demand and post signs in multiple languages, so that our food insecure neighbors, particularly seniors, receive the meals they need. I also am working with education leaders to help families navigate the complex and costly process for identifying and addressing learning disabilities, particularly, dyslexia.

I am the PTA co-President and a member of the Student Leadership Team at PS/IS 276, Battery Park City. I also am working with a team of educators to launch the first DOE public school for dyslexic students in Manhattan, so that evidenced-based literacy interventions will be available to students who struggle to read, interventions currently only available at private special education schools or through private tutoring.

During this pandemic, access to public park space has never been more critical. I serve as president of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden, one of the organizations leading the effort to permanently save the Garden as a NYC Park; am a founding board member of Green Below 14, a non-profit dedicated to improving parks, playgrounds and open spaces below 14th Street; and volunteer with Champions, an initiative created by youth sports organizations in downtown Manhattan to improve and expand field space, including the upgrade and expansion of field space on Governors Island and addressing short and long term needs resulting from planned changes to East River Park. In 2019, Champions successfully advocated for new athletic on Gansevoort Peninsula and urged Governor Cuomo to oppose any reduction in field space at Pier 40.

Locally, my immediate priorities are:

- **Calling for amnesty for public schools that have pandemic-related deficits** due to enrollment drops, so that our schools can emerge from this pandemic financially sound and best positioned to meet the learning needs of our city's students. Hit hardest are elementary schools in both high and low poverty communities, transfer high schools and schools that serve international students.
- **Advocating for more public school funding** to prioritize closing the digital divide, with both immediate and long-term solutions, funding school-based staff to address the social-emotional needs of students, increasing funding so our schools can reopen safely;

and, investing in screening, professional development and curricula to address the needs of students with dyslexia and struggling readers, one area of education where DOE leadership and neuroscientists agree that with the right instruction, 95% of all students can be taught to read fluently.

- **Holding NYU to its promises** and ensuring that the city's option to build a new public school in Greenwich Village does not expire on December 31, 2021. This option was NYU's main community giveback as part of its 2012 upzoning, and unless the city funds the school or NYU extends the option, \$65 million of value will transfer from NYC taxpayers to NYU.
- **Ensuring Public School and Recreation Space Commitments in Hudson Square are built** by pushing and coordinating with Trinity Real Estate and the NYC School Construction Authority on development plans and timetables. I was instrumental in focusing attention on open space as part of the Hudson Square rezoning in 2012 and as a result, CB 2 secured a commitment from Trinity to construct 12,000 sq. ft. of indoor recreation space and the core and shell for a new public elementary school.
- **Saving Elizabeth Street Garden and Building More Affordable Housing**, supporting the local community board's Win-Win solution to build up to five times as much senior affordable housing on a vacant lot at 388 Hudson Street, but only if the Garden is saved in its entirety.
- **Ensuring that developments** – including preliminary proposals to rezone SoHo and NoHo – respect the historical context our neighborhoods, preserve and build affordable housing, incentivize small businesses not big box stores, and include the expansion of needed city infrastructure, public schools and park spaces.

Thank you.

Jeannine Kiely
District Leader, AD 66 Part B