



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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In the News – New York State

UNITE HERE Local 100 Celebrates Port Authority's New Wage Proposal – Finally Members Will Earn a Living Wage

Governor Cuomo Delivers Wage Parity for Airport Workers

"New York proudly set an example for the nation by raising the minimum wage to \$15, yet the fight for economic justice for our working families continues, and we won't stop until every New Yorker is paid the fair wages they deserve. This action is about decency and respect, and by raising the minimum wage for the dedicated men and women who fuel our regional economy, New York will continue to serve as a beacon of progress and opportunity for all." – Governor Andrew Cuomo

Bill Granfield, President, UNITE HERE Local 100, announced his support for the Port Authority's new wage resolution for airport workers, which would steadily increase workers base wages to \$19 per hour by 2023.

"This is a great day for UNITE HERE Local 100," Mr. Granfield said. "Thank you Governor Cuomo for your unwavering support of organized labor in New York State! I would also like to thank Governor Phil Murphy, Port Authority Executive Director Richard Cotton, and the Port Authority Commissioners."



The Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which oversees the airports, voted unanimously on Thursday to raise the wages for these workers, many of which were making minimum wage.

Under the plan, wages at New York airports will hit \$13.60 in September and wages at New Jersey airports will hit \$12.45 at the same time. The wages would rise again, to \$15.60 in 2019, \$16.20 in 2020, \$17 in 2021, \$18 in 2022 and finally \$19 in 2023.

The wage schedule will apply to all airport workers, including groups that had been cut out of previous minimum wages. The policy, which is subject to a 60-day comment period, will force private companies that contract with the Port Authority to pay employees more.

“We enthusiastically support the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s new wage resolution, which was unanimously approved at today’s Board of Commissioners meeting. Service workers at LaGuardia, JFK and Newark Liberty, are key to the success and security of our region’s airports. The new wage floor of \$19 per hour by 2023 shows tens of thousands of workers that they are valued by the people of New York and New Jersey and will allow hard working men and women to finally support themselves and their families with their airport job. Crucially, we were happy to see that the Port Authority’s resolution covers all airport service workers. This remedies an oversight in the previous policy, passed in 2014, which did not include airline catering workers. We applaud the Port Authority for approving this resolution unanimously,” according to a Joint Statement from Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), Bill Granfield, President, UNITE HERE Local 100, Alvin Ramnarain, President of Local 1102 of the RWDSU

RWDSU and Unite HERE represent over 7,600 workers across the New York area airports who work in airline catering and airport concessions, but implementation of the proposal could impact tens of thousands of workers at area airports.



State Pension Fund Will Vote Against Board Members at Corporations with no Women Directors

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli this week announced that the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund) plans to vote against all board directors standing for re-election at companies that have no women on their boards. In situations where a company has just one woman on its board, the Fund will vote against members of the board's governance committee standing for re-election.

"It is unconscionable that hundreds of publicly-held U.S. companies have no women directors," Comptroller DiNapoli said. "We're putting all-male boardrooms on notice – diversify your boards to improve your performance. There is ample research that board diversity benefits companies. We will continue to urge our portfolio companies to adopt inclusive policies to diversify their boards, but we're also going to be speaking loudly with our board votes."

The Fund holds shares in more than 400 public companies that have no women on their boards and more than 700 companies that have just one woman on their board. Comptroller DiNapoli and the Fund are members of the Thirty Percent Coalition, which seeks greater gender diversity in public company boardrooms and has a goal of 30 percent female representation on publicly-held corporate boards.

Since 2013, Comptroller DiNapoli and the Fund have filed 29 shareholder proposals calling on portfolio companies to enhance board diversity. To date, the Fund's shareholder actions have yielded 20 agreements with portfolio companies, and the companies with which the Fund has successfully engaged on the issue have added 24 diverse members to their boards.

The New York State Common Retirement Fund is the third largest public pension fund in the United States with estimated assets of \$209.1 billion as of Dec. 31, 2017. The Fund holds and invests the assets of the New York State and Local Retirement System on behalf of more than one million state and local government employees and retirees and their beneficiaries.



Legislature & Governor Gear Up for the Final Week of Budget Negotiations



On the surface, the penultimate week of the FY2018-2019 budget negotiations was relatively quiet. The Senate and Assembly met each day, passing 164 primarily one-house bills. The first budget bill of the season – Debt Service - was passed with little fanfare by both houses.

In addition, the Budget conference committees were given their respective table targets. Totalling \$400 million, the targets represent a small portion of the State's spending plan which will cost over \$160 billion. Each committee met briefly on Thursday to acknowledge their funding, wish they had more, and profess that everyone is working very hard to meet the April 1st deadline.

Behind the scenes, the Legislative leaders and the Governor are meeting to hash out the major budget items. Legislative staff members are drafting language and circulating it to stakeholders for comment. The goal is to close down and draft as much of the budget as possible over the weekend and begin printing the final documents.

Governor Andrew Cuomo drew a line in stone regarding funding for New York City's housing. "This hand will not sign the state budget," Governor Cuomo asserted, if there is not a plan to remedy the living conditions in NYCHA properties. The fate of other initiatives, including the much-publicized congestion pricing plan, is not as clear-cut.

The legislature returns Monday with the intent on finalizing the budget by Thursday. Friday marks the beginning of Passover and the State's new fiscal year begins Easter Sunday, April 1st.

In the News – New York City



HealingNYC: \$22 Million Expansion of City's Plan to Combat Opioid Epidemic

The de Blasio Administration this week announced a \$22 million annual investment to expand HealingNYC, the citywide plan to combat the opioid epidemic.

According to Mayor de Blasio, this new investment will create peer intervention programs at more hospitals across the City, increase naloxone distribution and training, and connect more New Yorkers to treatment. With this new investment, the City will spend a total of \$60 million annually to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

The City launched HealingNYC in March 2017 to reverse a surge in overdose deaths. While the 2017 opioid overdose data is still provisional, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is seeing a flattening in the overdose death rate compared to 2016. The City predicts that this expanded HealingNYC could help save as many as 400 lives by 2022.

This new funding will start in Fiscal Year 2019 and “be at full ramp up” in Fiscal 2020. With this additional \$22 million annual investment, the City will implement the following strategies:

- **Expand Emergency Department Peer-Based Interventions:** New York City Health + Hospitals will expand its peer advocate program from three to all 11 of its emergency departments by the end of 2018. DOHMH will complete expansion of the Relay peer intervention program to 15 private hospitals by June 2020, up from the 10 sites currently slated for funding.
- **Expand Inpatient Hospital Interventions at Health + Hospitals:** NYC Health + Hospitals will expand plans for its Consult for Addiction Treatment and Care in Hospitals (CATCH) program from four to six sites, with four to be launched in Fall 2018 and the other two by the end of 2019. The six sites will be NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, /Lincoln, /Metropolitan, /Coney Island, /Elmhurst, and /Woodhull. These sites were chosen because their neighborhoods are some of the hardest hit by the opioid epidemic.
- **Launch “Leave Behind” Naloxone Program:** FDNY EMS will distribute 5,000 naloxone kits annually at homes they visit in response to an overdose call. The leave behind program will launch by the end of summer 2018.
- **Establish End Overdose Training Institute:** DOHMH will launch the End Overdose Training Institute by spring 2018 to teach 25,000 New Yorkers annually how to administer and distribute naloxone.

- **Expand HOPE Program:** The City will expand the HOPE program which diverts people arrested on low-level drug offenses into treatment rather than the criminal justice system. The City will fund peer workers in Staten Island, and launch a new HOPE program in the Bronx. This new investment will divert 1,400 people annually from the criminal justice system and connect them to medication-assisted treatment and other resources.
- **Expand Crisis Response Services:** The City will hire 29 additional staff to expand the capacity of the Health and Engagement Assessment Team, and Rapid Assessment Response Team which help to respond to overdose calls and connect New Yorkers to care. This additional staff will help to enhance the DOHMH and NYPD 24/7 Triage Desk to coordinate the City's response to opioid overdoses.



New York City Welcomed Record 62.8 Million Visitors in 2017

2017 saw an increase of 2.3 million visitors over 2016, marking the eighth consecutive year of tourism growth

NYC & Company announced that 2017 was the eighth consecutive year for record-breaking tourism, with the City welcoming an estimated 62.8 million visitors last year, an increase of 2.3 million visitors over 2016.

Overall, tourism last year grew 3.8 percent compared to 2016, when NYC welcomed 60.5 million visitors. Domestic visitation grew 3.9 percent, from 47.8 million visitors in 2016 to 49.7 million in 2017. International travel increased by 3.4 percent, from 12.7 million visitors in 2016 to 13.1 million in 2017.

According to NYC & Company, New York City has the “most active hotel development pipeline in the United States.” Even with the 4,000 new rooms added to the City’s hotel inventory last year—bringing the total to nearly 116,500 rooms—demand remained strong. Last year, the City sold a record 36.4 million hotel room nights, a 4.5 percent growth from 2016.

In 2017, 6.2 million meetings and conventions delegates visited the City’s five boroughs, contributing to the total 13 million business travelers that came to New York City.

NYC & Company also signed more international City-to-City tourism partnerships than any other year including new partnerships with Cape Town, South Africa; Toronto, Canada; Tokyo, Japan; and renewals with Mexico City, Mexico; and Seoul, South Korea. These partnerships included media exchanges to further promote New York City abroad.

NYC & Company’s 2018 forecast anticipate another year of growth, with a 3.7 percent increase to 65.1 million visitors.

Bill Passed by the Council

Introduction 262, sponsored by Council Member Donovan Richards, would require the DOE to report on the number of students in each school who have an individualized education program (IEP).

Introduction 600-A, sponsored by Speaker Corey Johnson, would extend the finding that a housing emergency exists in New York City, requiring the extension of rent regulation laws.

Introduction 605-A, sponsored by Council Member Stephen Levin, would require the NYPD to report on a quarterly basis the number of arrests and summonses issued for low-level marijuana possession, disaggregated by the offense charged, race of the offender, gender of the offender, age of the offender, borough in which the offense took place.

Briefs

Governor Cuomo Backs Union Campaign To Organize JetBlue Flight Attendants

Governor Andrew Cuomo took to *Twitter* this week to express his support of JetBlue Flight Attendants' fight to unionize. In a tweet released Monday afternoon, Governor Cuomo said, "JetBlue Inflight Crewmembers deserve the protection of a trade union. Good luck with the vote." The tweet was linked to a *New York Daily News* article detailing Transit Workers Union's organizing drive for JetBlue's 5,000 flight attendants. Voting began Monday and runs through April 17th.

According to published reports, other officials have announced their support including Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie; NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson; NYC Public Advocate Leticia James; and US Representatives Joseph Crowley and Dan Donovan.

In a prepared statement, JetBlue said it encourages its flight attendants to vote against the union. "We believe that working together, not through a third party, results in faster, better outcomes for our crewmembers," the JetBlue said. "We are a small player in an industry dominated by four large carriers, and [we] want everyone at JetBlue united on fighting the competition, not each other.

Alexis Confer as Executive Director of ThriveNYC

The de Blasio Administration announced this week that Alexis Confer will serve as the first-ever Executive Director of ThriveNYC, the City's \$850 million plan to address mental illness and substance misuse. Ms. Confer has served in the de Blasio Administration since 2014, first as the head of the Pre-K for All Outreach Team and then as Chief of Staff to former Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery. Before joining the Administration, Ms. Confer served as the Pennsylvania Deputy Field Director for Obama for America 2012 and as the first National Field Director for Everytown for Gun Safety.

PA James: NYC Government Agencies Guilty of Pay Disparities

Hiring, training, promotion, and retention of female staff are significant weaknesses within the City workforce, Public Advocate Letitia James found in a recent report revealing wage and hiring disparities in New York City government agencies. The report, which analyzes payroll data over four years for every City agency, found that although women lead roughly half of all City agencies, the foundation of the City's gender wage gap is the overwhelming number of women workers who hold the lowest paying jobs throughout agencies.

According to the Public Advocate, there is a \$10,000 difference in what women are paid on average at the top ten agencies where they most tend to work and what men are paid on average where they most tend to work. Compensating women less for the work they traditionally perform suggests women's work is valued less than men's work.

Public Advocate James made several recommendations to combat the wage and hiring disparities in City agencies including requiring the City's Equal Employment Practices Commission (EEPC) should conduct thorough and regularly-occurring payroll reviews for City agencies.

Corrections Officers Union Sues Mayor Over Corrections Board

The New York City Corrections Officers' Benevolent Association (COBA) and its President Elias Husamudeen filed a lawsuit this week charging that Mayor Bill de Blasio has put city correction officers in danger by failing to remove unqualified and biased members of the New York City Board of Corrections (BOC).

According to the lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, eight of the nine board members have no law-enforcement experience, and some are biased because they work for firms that do business with the City.

"The out of control nature of jailing in the New York City Department of Corrections ("DOC") is a direct result of the incompetence, bias, lack of qualification and apathy from the Board of Corrections," COBA asserted.

"COBA, the Correction Officers' labor union has, for years, desperately tried to raise the issue of officer safety with the BOC only to be insulted and ignored. Having been unable to clear the BOC's hurdles, COBA recently pleaded for help in a letter to the Mayor begging him to exercise his charter power to remove BOC members. This letter was ignored and the Mayor has taken no action, whatsoever, to address the atrocious performance by BOC members and the skyrocketing dangers faced by officers," according to court papers.

COBA and its President Husamudeen are challenging the determination of the Mayor to not pursue removal proceedings against BOC members.

Coming Up

New York State

The Legislature is in session Monday March 26th through Thursday March 29th

Tuesday March 27th

To evaluate the reason behind widespread power outages and slow restoration of power in the Hudson Valley over the past two weeks

Joint Senate Standing Committee on Investigations and Governments Operations, Senate Standing Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, and Senate Standing Committee on Aging; Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, 9 a.m.

New York City

Monday March 26th

Committee on Immigration, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Committee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee Room, 14th Floor – 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Committee on Education, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Tuesday March 27th

Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, Committee Room, 16th Floor – 250 Broadway, 10 a.m.

Committee on Contracts, Committee Room – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Committee on General Welfare, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitting and Maritime Uses, Committee Room, 16 Floor – 250 Broadway, 12 p.m.

Committee on Parks and Recreation, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Subcommittee on Capital Budget, Committee Room – City Hall, 1 p.m.
Preliminary Budget Hearing

Committee on Juvenile Justice, Council Chambers – City Hall, 1:30 p.m.
Preliminary Budget Hearing

Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions, Committee Room, 16th Floor – 250
Broadway, 2 p.m.

Wednesday March 21th

Committee on Land Use, Council Chambers – City Hall, 11 a.m.

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