



# This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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*“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”*  
-George Orwell, 1984-

## *In the News – New York State*



### Supreme Court Overturns Roe v. Wade & NY’s Concealed Carry Gun Law

In a pair of 6-3 decisions, the Supreme Court this week overturned both Roe v. Wade and New York state’s system for issuing concealed weapons permits.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote the [decision](#), released today, overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that established the constitutional right to abortion. The court’s ruling gives individual states the power to set their own abortion laws.

“The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now chiefly rely — the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment,” Justice Alito wrote. “... That provision has been held to guarantee some rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but any such right must be ‘deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition’ and ‘implicit in the concept of ordered liberty,’” Alito wrote.

“It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives,” Alito wrote.

Joining Justices Alito’s opinion were Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. Chief Justice Roberts concurred in the judgment only. Dissenting were Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Kagan.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court struck down New York state’s system for issuing concealed-weapons permits, ruling that the century-old law requiring that applicants demonstrate “proper cause” and “good moral character” violates the Second Amendment.

The [decision](#) in the case, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen, written by Justice Thomas asserted "We know of no other constitutional right that an individual may exercise only after demonstrating to government officers some special need."

Joining Justice Thomas' Opinion were Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett. Dissenting were Justices Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan.

Governor Kathy Hochul said she would call a special legislative session as soon as July to address legislation to restrict gun laws in light of the decision. Democratic leaders in the Legislature promised to work with the Governor.



## **Governor Hochul Announces Major Progress Toward Advancing Equity in NY's Cannabis Industry**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced next steps toward advancing equity in New York's growing cannabis industry, including the selection of Social Equity Impact Ventures, LLC, a minority-led investment team, to sponsor and manage the \$200 million New York Social Equity Cannabis Investment Fund.

In addition, the Governor announced the appointment of new members to New York's Cannabis Advisory Board, which will serve together with the Office of Cannabis Management to establish an equitable and inclusive legal cannabis industry in New York.

Impact Ventures is a joint venture between an entity led by NBA Hall of Famer Chris Webber and entrepreneur Lavetta Willis and a firm affiliated with Siebert Williams Shank (SWS). SWS is one of the nation's leading minority- and women-owned investment banking firms, that will be led by SWS CEO Suzanne Shank and SWS Chief Administrative Officer William Thompson, the former New York City Comptroller.

The Social Equity Cannabis Investment Fund, which was authorized as part of the 2022-2023 Budget, is a public-private limited partnership that will be formed to position social equity entrepreneurs to succeed in New York's adult use cannabis industry. It will allow the state to invest in a private fund to finance the leasing and equipping of up to 150 conditional adult-use retail dispensaries in the State to be operated by individuals who have been impacted by the inequitable enforcement of marijuana laws.

The Fund will help those who have a Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary License (CAURD) meet the costs of establishing adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries, including the identification and leasing of suitable retail locations and design, construction, and fit-out of the spaces. It is supported by up to \$50 million in licensing fees and revenue from the adult-use cannabis industry and up to \$150 million from the private sector that will be raised by the fund manager.

Governor Hochul also announced the appointment of new members to New York's Cannabis Advisory Board. As outlined in the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act, the Cannabis Advisory Board will assist in creating the social and economic equity plan and will support the Cannabis Control Board in the development of regulations for the broader program.

The Board's primary purpose, however, is to oversee the disbursement of the New York State Community Grants Reinvestment Fund, a separate fund that will support communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition. This locally focused programming will include job training and placement, reentry services for justice-involved New Yorkers, system navigation services, youth-serving programs, financial literacy services. The Fund will also be utilized to support the State's equity goals.

### **Members of New York's Cannabis Advisory Board**

- *Alejandro Alvarez*, Chief Executive Officer/Co-Founder of Soulful Synergy
- *Joe Belluck*, Partner at Belluck & Fox, LLC
- *Dr. Junella Chin, MD*, Integrative Medical Cannabis Physician
- *Allan Clear, MD*, Director at Office of Drug User Health at New York State Department of Health\*
- *Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, MD*, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Addiction Services & Supports\*
- *Ibrahim Jamil Darden*, Ebro In the Morning
- *Kathleen DeCataldo*, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services at the New York State Department of Education\*
- *TheArthur A. Duncan II, Esq.*, Counselor and Attorney at Law at the Law Office of TheArthur Duncan
- *Alan Gandelman*, President of New York Cannabis Growers & Processors Association
- *Dareth Glance*, Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation\*
- *Ruth Hassell-Thompson*, Special Advisor for Policy and Community Affairs at the New York State Division of Homes & Community Renewal\*
- *Garry Johnson*, Chair of the NAACP New York State Economic Development
- *Nikki Kateman*, Political & Communications Director at Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW
- *Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Esq.*, Executive Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Office of Children & Family Services\*
- *Russell Oliver*, Director of the Division of Employment & Workforce Solutions at the New York State Department of Labor\*
- *Sarah Ravenhall*, Executive Director of the New York State Association of County Health Officials
- *Chandra Redfern*, Chief Executive Officer at the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers Inc.
- *Armando Rosado*, Private Investigator at AR Investigations, Inc.
- *Peter Shafer*, Owner at Nanticoke Gardens
- *Scott Wyner, Esq.*, General Counsel at the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets\*

(\*) Non-voting member

Under the Cannabis Law, funds raised through taxes on cannabis products and from licensing fees are to be directed back to communities across New York:

- 40% of those funds will go to the New York State Community Grants Reinvestment Fund, which will be disbursed by the Cannabis Advisory Board.
- 40% will go directly to school districts in municipalities that did not opt-out of cannabis sales; and,
- 20% will be targeted for drug treatment programs.

## *In the News – New York City*



### **Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Expanding Use of New York City School Zone Speed Cameras**

*Legislation (Chapter 229) Renews Authorization Until July 1, 2025 and  
Expands Use of Cameras to 24/7 Hours of Operation*

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation to reauthorize and expand the use of New York City school zone speed cameras to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Governor signed the bill alongside New York City Mayor Eric Adams, State Senator Andrew Gounardes, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, and safe streets advocates.

"My number one priority as Governor is to keep New Yorkers safe, and that starts with ensuring our kids can make their way to and from school without being harmed," Governor Hochul said. "I want to thank all the lawmakers who have worked so hard to make this possible, because New Yorkers don't just deserve safe streets at certain hours of the day. We need to use every tool at our disposal, and far too many of our children have been killed by cars to not reauthorize and expand this life-saving program."

Currently, the Vehicle and Traffic Law limits the hours of operation for New York City school zone speed cameras from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays. This legislation renews authorization for the use of these cameras until July 1, 2025 and amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law to eliminate the limitation on hours of operation.

In 2013, a five-year demonstration program allowed a small amount of speed safety cameras to be used near schools in New York City at certain hours of the day. This law was renewed and expanded in 2019, and the current extension is set to expire on July 1, 2022.

"Tonight at 10:01pm, for the first time since speed cameras were authorized in New York City nine years ago, the cameras will be operational during weekends and for 24 hours a day," State Senator Andrew Gounardes said. "This will undoubtedly save lives in New York City."

According to the Governor, New York City has seen a tragic rise in traffic deaths, and it is clear that reckless driving is not limited to weekday daylight hours.

"... By allowing this data-backed proven technology to encourage safe driving at all hours of the day, the streets around our schools will be safer and lives will be saved," Assemblymember Deborah Glick said. "This is a major victory for street safety, and could not have been realized without the fierce advocacy of Families for Safe Streets, Transportation Alternatives, and many others. I thank Governor Hochul for signing this critical bill into law."

## *Briefs*

### **NY State Cannabis Control Board Approves Damian Fagon As Chief Equity Officer For the Office Of Cannabis Management**

The Cannabis Control Board yesterday approved Damian Fagon to become the Chief Equity Officer for the Office of Cannabis Management.

Fagon is a 3rd-generation farmer with a background in international development and agriculture. He has led development initiatives with castor farmers in Jamaica, rice growers in Sierra Leone, and coffee exporters in Guatemala. Since 2017, he has launched and advised commercial cannabis operations in South Carolina, New York, and the Caribbean.

As Chief Equity Officer, Fagon will oversee the social and economic equity initiatives for the Office of Cannabis Management. The role will help fulfill the goals of New York's Cannabis Law to distribute 50% of adult-use cannabis industry licenses to equity applicants, which includes New Yorkers from communities highly impacted by the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis prohibition, distressed farmers, minority and women-owned businesses, and veteran-owned businesses.

### **Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Requiring Schools to Consider Silent Panic Alarm Systems as Part of Safety Plans**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week signed Alyssa's Law (Chapter 227), requiring schools to consider the use of silent panic alarm systems when conducting review and development of their school safety plans.

This bill requires that schools consider their usefulness when developing their district-level school safety plans, and expressly authorize their inclusion within building level safety plans. According to proponents, the panic alarm systems can cost a "few thousand dollars" to purchase, and can be implemented in the classroom as a smartphone app.

## **State Institutes Pay Increases for State Lifeguards to Address Shortage**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week directed a pay increase for state lifeguards to help address a staffing shortage at New York State Park beaches and pools and Department of Environmental Conservation campgrounds and day use areas beaches. Starting pay rates for lifeguards at upstate facilities will increase 34 percent, from \$14.95 per hour to \$20 per hour, and 21 percent for lifeguards at downstate facilities, from \$18.15 per hour to \$22 per hour.

Pay rates will also increase for lifeguards with more than two seasons of experience, ranging from five percent to 30 percent, depending on location and experience.

The new pay rates will go into effect immediately for lifeguards at swimming facilities operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). State Parks provides lifeguards at swimming pools and beaches at 70 parks across the state. DEC operates 17 beaches with more than 40 lifeguards needed. This will also include lifeguards employed by SUNY and CUNY.

## **MTA and Accessibility Advocates Agree on Plan for Expanding Accessibility in the New York City Subway System**

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and accessibility advocates reached a class action settlement agreement that affirms the MTA's commitment towards accessibility in the subway system.

The agreement will resolve two class action lawsuits (Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, et al. v. Metropolitan Transportation Authority, et al. No. 153765/2017 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. N.Y. Co.) and De La Rosa et al. v. Metropolitan Transportation Authority et al. No. 19-cv-04406 (ER) (S.D.N.Y.)), and is subject to court approval, a notice period where class members will have the opportunity to comment, and a fairness hearing. Under the terms of the agreement, the MTA will add elevators or ramps to create a stair-free path of travel at 95 percent of the currently inaccessible subway stations by 2055.

As part of the agreement reached with accessibility advocates, the MTA has committed, subject to extensions of time based on funding commitment caps and other contingencies, to procure contracts to make accessible 81 stations by 2025, another 85 stations by 2035, another 90 stations by 2045, and the last 90 stations by 2055.

According to the MTA, the Authority has 472 subway stations and 21 Staten Island Railway (SIR) stations in the transit system. Of those, 131 are fully accessible to customers with disabilities, via elevators and ramps, including five Staten Island Railway stations.

## NYC Rent Guidelines Board Releases 2022-2023 Rates

The New York City Rent Guidelines Board this week released the 2022-2023 rent adjustment guidelines, approving a 3.25% increase for one-year leases and 5% increase for two-year leases on or after October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Rent Guidelines Board adopted the lease guidelines for rent stabilized apartments and lofts on June 21, 2022.

### Rent Stabilized Apartment Guidelines

Together with such further adjustments as may be authorized by law, the annual adjustment for leases for apartments shall be:

- For a **one-year** lease commencing on or after **October 1, 2022** and on or before **September 30, 2023: 3.25%.**
- For a **two-year** lease commencing on or after **October 1, 2022** and on or before **September 30, 2023: 5%.**

### Rent Stabilized Loft Guidelines

- For **one-year** increase periods commencing on or after **October 1, 2022** and on or before **September 30, 2023: 3.25%.**
- For **two-year** increase periods commencing on or after **October 1, 2022** and on or before **September 30, 2023: 5%.**

## Amtrak Awards Contract to Arup for Design of Railroad Infrastructure to Support NY Penn Station Expansion

In partnership with NJ Transit and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Amtrak has contracted with design firm Arup to begin designing options for the first new tracks, platforms, and concourses connected to New York Penn Station.

“Today’s announcement marks an important step toward the transformative redevelopment of Penn Station and a significant step forward for the Gateway project,” said Governor Kathy Hochul. “This project will help to bring station service into the 21st century and enhance the customer experience for commuters across the region. I look forward to a continued partnership with Amtrak, as well with Governor Murphy, NJ TRANSIT and the Gateway Development Corporation, to bring our shared vision for a reimagined Penn Station to life.”

The preliminary design effort begins immediately and will produce railroad concepts to be analyzed as part of the Federal environmental review for Penn Station expansion. The design will focus on development of new tracks and platforms, escalators and other vertical circulation elements, pedestrian concourses, and connections to existing and future facilities.

The design team will coordinate closely with Amtrak's partners and the various planners and designers of other projects taking place throughout the Penn Station complex. The design is expected to take approximately two years and cost approximately \$73 million.

## **Congratulations to the NY & NJ Sandy Hook Pilots Association on the Christening of the Pilot Boat New York**

The New York & New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association christened their new pilot boat, the *New York*, this week at a ceremony held at the Pilot Station on Staten Island.

State Senator Diane Savino, long-time supporter of the Pilots Association, served as the "Godmother" for the event. In addition, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Staten Island DA Thomas McMahon, and Coast Guard Captain Zeita Merchant, Commander, Sector New York and Captain of the Port of New York were on hand to celebrate with the Pilots Association.

The new *New York* pilot boat replaces the *New York* which will be decommissioned following 50 years of service in the Ports of New York and New Jersey.



## **Coming Up**

### ***New York State***

*No Scheduled Hearings*

### ***New York City***

***Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>***

***Joint - Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Housing and Buildings, & Environmental Protection, Hybrid Hearing – Council Chambers - City Hall, 10 a.m.***  
***Oversight – Local Law 97 Green Workforce Pipeline.***

***Joint - Committee on Hospitals & Subcommittee on COVID Recovery and Resiliency, Hybrid Hearing - Council Committee Room – 250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor - City Hall, 10 a.m.***  
***Oversight – Long-Term COVID Treatment in New York City Hospitals.***

***Joint - Committee on Contacts, Economic Development, & Oversight and Investigations, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 1 p.m.***  
***Oversight–A Good Food Purchasing Program for Citywide Food Procurement & Developing Preferred Vendor Lists for Community-Based Translation Services.***



***Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Economic Development, Consumer and Worker Protection & State and Federal Legislation***, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Recreational Cannabis Regulatory and Licensing Processes.

***Committee on Criminal Justice***, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Rikers Island Interagency Task Force.

***Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure***, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 2 p.m.

Oversight – Managing the City’s Public Space.

***Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>***

***Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions***, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 10 a.m.

***Committee on Fire and Emergency Management***, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Evaluating Diversity and Inclusion in the FDNY.

***Joint - Committee on Health & Hospitals***, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Maternal Health, Mortality, and Morbidity.

***Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises***, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 11 a.m.

***Committee on Land Use***, Remote Hearing–Virtual Room 2, 12 p.m.

***Committee on Women and Gender Equity***, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 1 p.m.

***Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Civil and Human Rights***, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Enforcement of the City’s Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities Law.

***Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction***, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Tracking the Opioid Settlement Fund and its Related Programs.

***Committee on Higher Education***, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor–City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Examining Antisemitism on College Campuses.

***Joint – Committee on Governmental Operations, Technology, & Public Housing***, Hybrid Hearing – Council Chambers - City Hall, 1 p.m.

Oversight–Ensuring Equal Access to 311–Reviewing the Experience of Limited-English Proficient New Yorkers and NYCHA Residents.

**Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection**, Hybrid Hearing–Committee Room–City Hall, 1 p.m.  
Oversight – Con Edison Price Increases.

**Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Committee on Housing and Buildings**, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 10 a.m.  
Oversight – “Housing Our Neighbors.”: A First Look at the Mayor’s Housing Plan.

**Committee on Women and Gender Equity**, Hybrid Hearing–Council Chambers–City Hall, 1 p.m.  
Oversight – Reproductive Rights.

**“No man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover the bare cost of living, and hours of labor short enough so after his day’s work is done he will have time and energy to bear his share in the management of the community, to help in carrying the general load.”**

**-Theodore Roosevelt-**

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