



# This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

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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



### Governor Hochul Announces \$450 Million "Bring Back Tourism, Bring Back Jobs" Recovery Package

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced the \$450 million "Bring Back Tourism, Bring Back Jobs" recovery package to support New York State's tourism sector workers, revitalize the state's tourism industry, and support businesses started just prior to or during the pandemic. This package of programs includes assistance for workers, investments in small businesses, and consumer-focused marketing.

According to Governor Hochul, the economic impact of COVID-19 on New York State's tourism economy has been severe. In 2019, this industry supported one out of ten jobs and generated more than \$100 billion in economic impact. Last year, international visitation was down 86% from 2019, and domestic visitation fell by 37%, generating a nearly 55% loss in direct spending and an almost 50% drop in economic impact.

Key components of the package include:

#### **\$100 Million Tourism Worker Recovery Fund**

The first part of this package supports New Yorkers in the tourism and hospitality industry sectors who were on extended federal unemployment insurance the last week before those benefits ended and have yet to see their earnings fully recover. The New York State Department of Labor will issue one-time payments of \$2,750 to as many as 36,000 qualified workers in tourism sector industries. New Yorkers who are eligible will be contacted directly via text or email.

#### **\$100 Million Tourism Return-to-Work Grant Program**

The second piece of this package is designed to encourage tourism businesses that suffered job and revenue losses to rehire workers, while providing financial relief. Qualifying tourism businesses will be eligible for grants of up to \$5,000 per net new full-time employee, or \$2,500 per net new part-time employee, hired to offset their labor costs.

To receive the full benefit, employers will have to maintain employment increases over six months. Employment increases will be based on total employment rather than specific individual employees, and businesses that can demonstrate the greatest workforce losses resulting from COVID-19 will be a priority. More information, including a sign-up for program-related email alerts, is available [here](#).

### **\$25 Million Meet in New York Grant Program**

The Meet in New York program will provide grants to help convention centers and conference spaces bring more events, traveler spending, and jobs back to New York State. Qualifying venues and their partnering event hotels can offer meeting organizers discounts on booking fees or room blocks to entice business, with grants reimbursing a portion of such discounts. More information on qualifying businesses and events can be found [here](#).

### **\$25 Million I LOVE NY Global Marketing Campaign**

I LOVE NY will expand its current marketing efforts into additional domestic and international markets.

### **\$200 Million Program for Businesses Started Just Prior to or During the Pandemic**

Governor Hochul will introduce legislation in January 2022 to create a \$200 million program designed to support businesses started just prior to or during the pandemic. This initiative will use existing funding in the state's \$800 million COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program to support younger businesses that were otherwise ineligible for relief through existing state and federal programs.



## **Chapters of the Laws of 2021**

**Chapter 580 -- Sponsored by Senator Skoufis/M of A Zebrowski** -- Prohibits retail dealers of secondhand motor vehicles from selling a motor vehicle without a functioning airbag restraint system.

**Chapter 582 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Cooney** -- Allows telecommunication companies to block robocalls from certain numbers, including calls originating from the following numbers: (i) a number that is not a valid North American numbering plan number; (ii) a valid North American numbering plan number that is not allocated to a provider by the North American numbering plan administrator or the pooling administrator; and (iii) a valid North American numbering plan number that is allocated to a provider by the North American number plan administrator or pooling administrator, but is unused.

**Chapter 583 -- Sponsored by M of A Rosenthal L/Senator Sanders** -- Requires prior written notice upon hiring and once annually to all employees, informing them of the types of electronic monitoring which may occur.

**Chapter 584 -- Sponsored by M of A Rozic/Senator Ryan** -- Requires Public Service Commissioners to have education and training and 3 or more years of experience in one or more of the following fields: economics, engineering, law, accounting, business management, utility regulation, public policy, consumer advocacy or environmental management.

**Chapter 585 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Kaminsky** -- Requires providers of voice service to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework in the internet protocol networks of voice service providers.

**Chapter 587 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Kaplan** -- Requires that minutes of meetings of a public body be posted on its website.

**Chapter 588 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Benjamin** -- Provides for the remote conduct of certain practices and procedures relating to board meetings.

**Chapter 590 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Comrie** -- Prohibits utility companies from harassing any residential customer in connection with the handling of a complaint or unpaid balance.

**Chapter 591 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Kaminsky** -- Relates to prohibiting the use of certain grades of fuel oil.

**Chapter 592 -- Sponsored by M of A Paulin/Senator Parker** -- Directs the commission to establish standards and safeguards for providers of lifeline services.

**Chapter 593 -- Sponsored by Senator Thomas/M of A Weinstein** -- Enacts the "consumer credit fairness act reducing the statute of limitations on consumer credit actions from six years to three years and requiring creditors to provide specific information to consumers.

**Chapter 594 -- Sponsored by Senator Gianaris/M of A Cruz** -- Requires that at least one commissioner of the public service commission have experience in utility consumer advocacy.

**Chapter 595 -- Sponsored by Senator Persaud/M of A Simon** -- Creates a Firearm Violence Research Institute.

**Chapter 596 -- Sponsored by Senator Sander/M of A Rosenthal L** -- Prohibits the sale and use of pavement products containing coal tar; prohibits the use of oil pavement products containing coal tar.



## **Governor Hochul Announces Administration Appointments, Nominations, and Recommendations**

**Dr. Chinazo O. Cunningham** will be nominated as **Commissioner, Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)**. Most recently, she served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She joined the agency from Montefiore Health System and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where she is a Professor of Medicine, Family and Social Medicine, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Cunningham received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and completed her residency in primary care internal medicine at UCSF and New York University (NYU). She spent a year as chief of residency at NYU.

She also holds a master's degree in clinical research methods that she completed during her time at Einstein. Dr. Cunningham will serve as Acting Commissioner until confirmation by the Senate.

**Reverend Viviana DeCohen** has been appointed **Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Services**. Reverend DeCohen is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and most recently served the City of Mt. Vernon as its Commissioner of Veterans Services. Previously she served as Director of Military & Veteran Affairs and Adjunct Professor at Concordia College. Reverend DeCohen was the Veterans Advisor at Mercy College where she began as a student. Her military service allowed her to earn a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science, a Master of Science, in Health Service Management, both from Mercy College, and her current pursuit of a Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Gerontology, at Concordia University, Chicago.

**Kylah Hynes** has been appointed **Director of Federal Affairs**. Most recently she served as the Director of Federal Affairs for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Ms. Hynes has worked for the State of New York for more than ten years on state and federal transportation policy. Prior to her state service, Ms. Hynes began her transit career with the American Public Transportation Association. Ms. Hynes received her B.A. in Political Science and Government from St. Catherine University and an MPP in Transportation Policy from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

## *In the News – City*

### **Governor Hochul Urges NYC Companies to Bring Their Workers Back**

Governor Kathy Hochul this week urged New York City employers to bring their workers back to their offices now to aid both the State and City recovery efforts and the employees themselves.



"It is very safe here and we want people to come back. They're missing the vitality, the energy and the innovation that is spurred by the connections of human beings," Governor Hochul explained, according to published reports.

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The Partnership for New York City this week released the results of its survey assessing the impact of remote work on City employment and office demand. The survey showed that currently 28% of Manhattan office workers are in the office on an average weekday, while 54% remain fully remote. Employers expect that 49% of workers will be in the office on an average weekday by January 30, 2022, with 57% in the office at least three days a week while 21% remain fully remote.

The survey of major employers was conducted during the period of October 19 and October 29, 2021. A third of employers expect that their office space needs will decline over the next five years and 13% anticipate a reduction in jobs located in New York City, with the greatest job losses in the financial services industry.

Currently, on an average weekday, 28% of Manhattan office workers are in the workplace as of late October 2021.

- 8% of Manhattan office workers are in the office full time (five days a week)
- 10% are in four days per week
- 12% are in three days per week
- 8% are in two days per week
- 8% are in one day per week
- 54% of Manhattan office workers are still fully remote

The real estate industry has the highest average daily attendance (77%) as of late October, followed by financial services (27%) and law firms (27%).

By the end of January 2022, 49% of Manhattan office workers are expected to be in the workplace on an average weekday by the end of January 2022.

- 13% of Manhattan office workers are expected to be in the workplace five days per week
- 11% will be in four days per week
- 33% will be in three days per week
- 15% will be in two days per week
- 7% will be in one day per week
- 21% of Manhattan office workers will still be fully remote

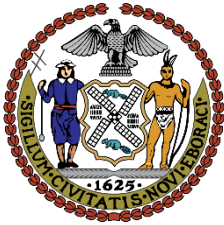
Real estate firms expect 80% average daily attendance of Manhattan office employees; law firms expect 61%; financial services firms expect 47% by the end of January 2022.

Industries with the lowest projected return to the office include accounting (36% daily attendance), consulting (30%), and tech (24%).

Larger firms project the slowest pace of return to offices:

- Among firms with fewer than 500 employees, 39% of employees have returned to the office on the average weekday. Average daily attendance is expected to increase to 58% by the end of January 2022.
- Among firms with more than 5,000 employees, 28% of employees are currently in the office on the average weekday and 46% are expected back by the end of January 2022.

Governor Hochul said although she will not ban Zoom, people need to get back to work.



## Bills Approved by the Council

**Int. No. 957-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Joseph Borelli --** Limits the number of replacement trees that are required to be planted by the Department of Park and Recreation (DPR), by individuals and by entities that lawfully remove trees during construction projects in certain lower density residential districts.

**Int. No. 1232-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Stephen Levin --** Requires the Department of Homeless Services to develop signage to inform residents of homeless shelters of various rights related to shelter transfers.

**Int. No. 1233-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Stephen Levin --** Require the Department of Homeless Services to provide written notification to shelter residents at least 48 hours prior to any non-emergency shelter transfer.

**Int. No. 1894-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Laurie Cumbo --** Requires that a bias audit be conducted on automated employment decision tools prior to the use of these tools.

**Int. No. 2168-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Justin Brannan --** Requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to create a searchable online database relating to water meters with the exception of 1 to 3 family homes.

**Int. No. 2262-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Robert Cornegy --** Eliminates the final inspection requirement for temporary construction equipment and prohibits the installation and use of stand-off brackets.

**Int. No. 2263-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Robert Cornegy --** Lowers the threshold for a major building construction site, subjecting more construction sites to DOB's heightened safety requirements.

**Int. No. 2264-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Robert Cornegy --** Creates new requirements for cold-formed steel light-frame construction, for the installation of decking on cold-formed steel light-frame construction, and for the use of this framing and decking during construction or demolition operations.

**Int. No. 2276-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Francisco Moya --** Requires additional site safety supervision at major building construction sites.

**Int. No. 2318-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Diana Ayala --** Requires the licensure of construction businesses that employs workers for the performance of construction work or manual labor; supplies these workers to perform construction jobs for third party clients; on a construction site in the City and for compensation. Construction contractors and subcontractors and other, related employment models licensed by the State would not be subject to this bill.



**Int. No. 2410-A -- Sponsored by Selvena Brooks-Powers** -- Ensures the City's local data breach notification law is consistent with State law.

**Int. 2426-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Mark Treyger** -- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to publicly post, daily, on their website attendance data aggregated citywide and disaggregated by school for the previous day and previous week.

**Int. No. 2427-A -- Sponsored by Council Member Mark Treyger** -- Requires the Department of Education to report on its website, every two weeks, positive COVID-19 cases among administrators, teachers, students and other school staff in every DOE school.

## **Briefs**

### **New York, New Jersey, & Connecticut Governors Agree on Federal Funding for Region's Transportation System**

Governors Kathy Hochul, Phil Murphy, and Ned Lamont this week announced an agreement on the allocation of federal emergency relief funding apportioned to the region by Congress to mitigate the pandemic-related losses in transit system ridership and revenues.

After negotiations, the states agreed that approximately \$10.85 billion of the funding will be for New York, \$2.66 billion will be for New Jersey, and \$474 million will be for Connecticut.

### **New York Gaming Commission Approves Licensure of Nine Mobile Sports Betting Operators**

The New York State Gaming Commission this week recommended that nine mobile sports betting operators be licensed. The FanDuel Sportsbook will include Bally Bet, Bet MGM, and DraftKings Sportsbook. The Kambi Sportsbook will include Caesars Sportsbook, PointsBet, Resorts World, Rush Street Interactive, and WynnBet.

All the licenses will be for 10 years. Under New York's mobile sports betting rules which were advocated by former Governor Andrew Cuomo, gross sports betting will be taxed at 51%.

Advocates are hopeful that mobile sports betting in New York will be online in time for the Superbowl on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **City Offers Parents Sick Leave for Children's Vaccinations**

City workers and contractors will get additional paid sick time to get their children vaccinated against Covid-19, Mayor Bill de Blasio said this week.

According to the Mayor, his Administration is also moving to enact legislation that would require private sector employers to give their workers the extra sick time.

Public employees will get four hours of extra time off per child for each of the two required shots. If passed, the proposed legislation will give the same benefit to private sector workers, retroactive to November 2nd, the day the City began its immunization program for children ages 5 to 11.

In addition, the City has promised a \$100 payment to children who are immunized at public schools or other city-run sites.

## **Mayor-Elect Adams Announces Transition Team**

The chairs of Mayor-Elect Eric Adams' transition team were officially announced on Wednesday, including CEOs, union leaders, and business executives.

Sheena Wright, President and CEO of United Way of New York City, will serve as head of the transition chairs. Co-chairs include:

- Kyle Bragg, President of 32BJ SEIU
- Steven Choi, Executive Director of One for Democracy
- Sharon Greenberger, President and CEO of YMCA of Greater New York
- David Lee, Chair of the League of Asian Americans of New York
- Rich Maroko, President of the New York Hotel and Gaming Trades Council
- Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, Chancellor of The City University of New York
- Charles Phillips, Infor CEO
- Stephen Scherr, Goldman Sachs CFO
- Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation

Katie Moore, Mayor-elect Adams' campaign manager will serve as executive director of the transition, and United Way of New York City's Executive Vice President Meaghan Brown will serve as chief operating officer, according to published reports.

Transition officials also announced the launch of a [website](#). A full list of its members will be announced soon.

Ms. Wright arranged each co-chair to manage different committees based upon their expertise and interests. These committees include an economic development committee, a corporate engagement committee, a workforce development committee and committees on technology, healthcare, public safety, education, and housing.

# ***Coming Up***

## ***New York State***

***Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>***

### ***Employment Trends from the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Assembly Committee on Labor, Women's Issues Task Force, & Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce  
Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, 10 a.m.



***Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>***

***Maintaining Quality, Equity, and Affordability in Public Higher Education Throughout the Pandemic and Beyond***

Senate Standing Committee on Higher Education  
York College, 9-20 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, 11 a.m.

***Oversight of the SFT 2021-2022 State Budget as it Relates to Assisting Small and Medium-Sized Farms and Related Small Businesses to Compete in the State, National and International Marketplace***

Assembly Committee on Agriculture & Small Business; Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy; and Subcommittee on Agricultural Production and Technology, Agriculture Economic Development, and Farmland Protection, & Micro Business  
Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, 10 a.m.

***Adaptation and Recovery of Libraries Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology  
Hamilton Hearing Room B, Legislative Office Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, 10 a.m.

***Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>***

***A Follow Up to an 8City Tour and to Learn How the Committee can Better Address Municipal Needs***

Senate Standing Committee on Cities  
Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, 10 a.m.

***Availability of Services for Individuals with a Substance-Use-Disorder in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond***

Assembly Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Albany, 10:30 a.m.

***New York City***

***Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations & Economic Development***, Remote Hearing Room 1, 10 a.m.

Oversight – NYC’s Tourism Industry and the COVID-19 Crisis – Update.

***Committee on Public Housing & Subcommittee on Capital Budget***, Remote Hearing Room 2, 10:30 a.m.

Oversight – NYCHA’s Capital Spending of City Funds.

***Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing***, Remote Hearing Room 2, 10 a.m.

***Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management***, Remote Hearing Room 1, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Advancements in Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Management Systems.

***Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, &Addiction & Veterans***, Remote Hearing Room 1, 9:30 a.m.  
Oversight – Mental Health Services for Veterans in Response to COVID-19, and Alternative Treatments for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

***Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions***, Remote Hearing Room 3, 10 a.m.

***Committee on Environmental Protection***, Remote Hearing Room 2, 12 p.m.  
Oversight – Building Electrification.

***Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Education***, Remote Hearing Room 1, 10 a.m.  
Oversight – Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities in the COVID Era.

***Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises***, Remote Hearing Room – Virtual Room 4, 10 a.m.

***Committee on Youth Services***, Remote Hearing Room – Virtual Room 2, 1 p.m.  
Oversight – Non-Profit Contracting.

***Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>***

***Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts & Housing and Buildings***, Remote Hearing Room 2, 10 a.m.  
Oversight – State of Housing Resiliency Along the Waterfront.

***Committee on Aging***, Remote Hearing Room 3, 11 a.m.  
Oversight – Home Care and Caregiving Strategy.

***Committee on Parks and Recreation***, Remote Hearing Room 1, 1 p.m.  
Oversight – The Parks Inspection Program and Increasing Park Resources.

**“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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