

Although it's been a long time since we've sent out a newsletter, your Civic has been hard at work for you. There's been a lot going on in the community of which we will bring you up to date.

COVID-19 has impacted us all, and we hope that you and your family are doing well. There is free testing which will be touched upon later. We are currently in Phase 2, which includes outdoor dining, reopening of offices, in-store retail hair salons and barbershops, real estate services, houses of worship, as well as car sales and rentals—all with social distancing and hygiene guidelines. There have been many in our neighborhood walking around without a mask. You are not only risking your health, but those around you. It is not only unhealthy, but disrespectful. *Please* be considerate to your neighbors and wear a mask when out and about. In addition, remember to social distance—keeping at least 6 feet away from others.

New York City has begun installing **Bioswales** otherwise known as **Rain gardens** in our area. Rain gardens collect and absorb storm water before it has a chance to enter and overwhelm the sewer system, which is important in reducing the amount of combined sewer overflows that enters the local waterways. One block can be closed for parking from 1--2 weeks depending on the number of Rain gardens planned on each particular block. If you see markings on the sidewalk in front of your home, there's a good chance one will be installed there. If you receive a notice that a Rain garden will be about to be installed in front of your home and you have in ground sprinkler system, you must advise the New York City Department of Design and Construction (NYCDDC) that they cannot install it. This project is costing New York City \$22.8 million. One of the major reasons this has proven necessary is the fact that when property owners pave over their land, they prevent rain water from being absorbed causing all of the excess into the streets, and therefore into the sewers. If property owners would follow the land use regulations, perhaps this need would not be as great. We could develop better ways to be spending this money when our city is running at such a deficit.

We have seen the peaceful **Black Lives Matter** protesters in our Civic. I attended a Round-Table meeting held by the 107th Police Precinct on June 25th. The discussion was led by Deputy Commander Scott Henry who was reaching out to community leaders looking for ways in which to find how the police could better connect to the community. He was happy to report how our precinct has a very good rapport with our community and how people from the neighborhood of all colors have been stopping by the precinct and thanking the officers for the good relationship they have. You can find a video of the meeting on the NYPD 107th Precinct Twitter or Facebook page.

There is an issue with the **Wyndham Hotel**, located on 186th Street and Horace Harding Expressway. They have been housing up to 170 former inmates, all of which were released from either a NYC jail (Riker's Island) or a NYS prison. They are being supervised by Exodus, which is a transitional program which assists recently released inmates in finding a job and permanent housing. Exodus has been contracted by the NYC Mayor's office. These inmates have been released early from jails and prisons due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Of the 170 former inmates, some may have to go back to prison or jail at the end of the program, and some are on parole (meaning their release is supervised by a NYS Parole Officer, and do not have to return to prison unless they violate the terms of their release). Our local Councilmen, Rory Lancman and Barry Grodenchik are looking into how the Mayor's office shoved this population into our residential neighborhood with no advance notice.