



ESTABLISHED 2017

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Hell's Kitchen Democrats is an open, diverse, and inclusive political home and Democratic club for Hell's Kitchen Democrats to become informed, stay connected, and be empowered to take action. The primary geographic area of the organization is Part B of the 75th Assembly District and any postal ZIP code area that overlaps any portion of that Part. We advocate for progressive issues and to elect strong Democratic candidates to public and party office and work to influence social and economic policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

HK DEMS DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 5th, 2017

Dear Hell's Kitchen Democrats,

Welcome to the first edition of the HK Dems Community Newsletter! Enclosed you will find a holiday address from HK Dems President Marti Allen-Cummings, a message from Democratic District Leaders Marisa Redanty and Tom Shanahan, and this month's *District Leaders Report*.

Stay up to date with club news during your holiday travels by joining our mailing list or visiting our website: hkdemns.org

Thank you for your continued involvement in our community!

Message from Marti Allen-Cummings, President of HK Democrats

Happy holidays! Welcome to the first edition of the HK Dems Community Newsletter!

After the 2016 election, people across the country have been getting involved to fight back and build a progressive inclusive movement. In our neighborhood, in January 2017, we formed a new Democratic club called HK Dems (because it began in the Hell's Kitchen part of the district). We went out on the street to tell people about our new club, distributed "Safe Space" posters to local businesses, and had our first monthly meeting in April of 2017 where we elected an interim Board and ratified an interim constitution. We held community forums and events, petitioned to get our candidates on the ballot, registered voters, phone banked for Democrats all around the country and went door-to-door in other areas to work for local Democrats in tough races against Republicans.

In the September primary this fall, we elected 2 new Democratic district leaders – Marisa Redanty and Tom Shanahan – defeating a century-old Tammany club.

HK Dems works closely with our elected leaders – Congressman Jerry Nadler, Borough President Gale Brewer, State Sen. Brad Hoylman, Assembly Members Dick Gottfried and Linda Rosenthal, and Councilmember Corey Johnson.

We are very proud to send to you this first report and update on our work. HK Dems is gearing up for the 2018 elections to work to end Republican control of Congress and the New York State Senate.

Join the movement! Build our community voice! Contact HK Dems at HKDemsNYC@gmail.com and visit us at HKDems.org

- Marti

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Message from District Leaders Marisa Redanty & Tom Shanahan

Happy holidays to all our constituents, your families and loved ones. We thank you again for your vote and entrusting us to work on your behalf as Democratic District Leaders. This newsletter updates you on our work since we were elected on September 12, 2017. We are very excited about 2018 and very proud that we will be launching our community law clinic later in the year.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and 2018.

- Marisa and Tom

District Leader's Report

We were sworn in the Saturday after our election and hit the ground running. We have been laying the foundation for numerous projects and programs that you'll be hearing about in 2018 and 2019. City Councilmember Corey Johnson, Assembly Members Richard Gottfried and Linda Rosenthal, State Senator Brad Hoylman, and Congressman Jerry Nadler and their staffs have been extremely supportive and are helping to make these projects a reality. We couldn't do much at all without the support of our incredible elected officials.

- We have been speaking at local block and tenant association meetings, meeting with tenant association executive committee meetings. We have helped a brand-new tenants' association connect with its local elected officials, to work on the resolution of longtime issues.
- We are launching a community law clinic to provide free legal consultations to the community, jointly with our Chelsea neighbors, the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club. The clinic will launch in early 2018 (stay tuned!) and be held periodically. We have many highly experienced lawyers who have agreed to participate on a volunteer basis.
- There is no bus shelter or bench on Ninth Avenue between W.42nd and W. 43rd Streets – where the M11 and M34-A Select stop. We have been working with NYC DOT. They say a shelter is not feasible given the grating on the sidewalk, but we are applying for a passenger waiting bench.

- We have begun a process to remove the old phone booths on Ninth Avenue, starting with the one on W. 43rd Street. Although the City has a schedule to replace the booths with charging stations, it is very slow. Our sidewalks are so crowded that Community Board #4 has asked that a study be commissioned concerning "pedestrian congestion" in Hell's Kitchen. We feel the phone booth removal process needs to be accelerated. These eyesores are taking up needed sidewalk space.
- During the campaign, we were approached by tenants at a building adjacent to the Aladdin hotel, which houses homeless couples and is a facility known as "last chance housing." The constituents who approached us raised complaints about behavior on the sidewalk and areas surrounding the Aladdin. We are working with the local elected officials to help maintain the balance between providing housing for the less fortunate and the quality of life of their neighbors.
- Section 8 paperwork problems at Manhattan Plaza have been a concern for tenants at the development. We are working with management and the Manhattan Plaza TA to make procedures more efficient. We established late office hours once per month, so residents can submit interim recertifications after they get off work. We were also successful in loosening resident restrictions for use of the freight elevators.
- Trader Joes. We've had preliminary discussions with the company to establish a store in Hell's Kitchen. Next steps would be to help find a location which can accommodate Trader Joe's needs.
- Given the impact of the drug epidemic, we are in the initial phases of working with local elected officials and organizations on initiatives to educate the community about the issue and to bring cutting edge organizations to our community. If you are interested in working with us, email us at: HKdistrictleaders@gmail.com.
- On January 5, 2018, we are meeting with the New York City Board of Elections to review the current voting locations in our district. We want to work with the Board and our elected officials to make sure voting locations are accessible and convenient. We are also looking to appoint local residents to positions as poll site coordinators and poll workers. There are a large number of vacancies and we would like to identify local civic-minded residents who are interested in these **paying** positions. If you are interested in serving, email us at:

HKdistrictleaders@gmail.com.