



CID-NY

Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
347/561-4883 Fax
347/905-5088 VP

June 2019

Disability Rights Advocates Sue MTA for Accessibility



[Image description: Three-quarters of New York City subway stations still are inaccessible for wheelchair users. (Tdorante10 [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)])]]

A federal class-action lawsuit claims New York City's subway system has broken the law by failing to make stations wheelchair accessible. The lawsuit was filed by the group Disability Rights Advocates on behalf of individual plaintiffs and a coalition of disability organizations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires transit systems to make older facilities accessible when major renovations are done. But according to Emily Seelenfreund, an attorney with DRA, almost 30 years after the ADA became law, three-quarters of the 472 New York City subway stations still are inaccessible to wheelchair users, the elderly, parents with strollers and travelers with luggage.

"The MTA has blatantly ignored that mandate and it just continues to shut down station after station to make the station better for people without disabilities but totally ignoring the needs of the riders with disabilities," Seelenfreund said.

Earlier this year, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it would allocate almost \$3 billion for accessibility improvements in the five-year capital plan starting in 2020, up from just \$248 million in the 2010 plan.

Susan Dooha is executive director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled New York, a plaintiff in the case. She pointed out that in the past, the MTA issued a report saying it would make many more stations accessible, but promises are not enough.

"The plan is only as good as their ongoing will to carry it out," Dooha said. "And we think at this point we need a binding agreement."

She noted the MTA is still working to fulfill its obligations under a 1994 court settlement called the "key stations agreement."

In March of this year, a federal court ruled that the renovation of a subway station in the Bronx triggered a requirement under the ADA to install elevators, which was not done. Seelenfreund said [the new lawsuit](#) seeks to build on that ruling.

"Our lawsuit is taking that lawsuit and asking the federal courts to apply it broadly to all the stations in which the MTA has ignored their customers with disabilities just like at the Middleton Road station," Seelenfreund said.

The lawsuit seeks an order requiring the MTA to install elevators or other means of stair-free access in all renovated stations.

A Forum on Disabilities

*Improving Access for People with
Disabilities Living with HIV*



FREE!

Open to the Public!

We Want Your Experience
& Recommendations to Inform
How Services are Delivered!



**Thursday June 20th
9:00am - 2:00pm**

FREE!

**NYC College of Technology
285 Jay St, Brooklyn, NY 11201**

A light breakfast & full lunch provided
2-trip MetroCards available for all consumers



The NY HIV Health & Human Services Planning Council funds a wide range of support services for people living with HIV. We recognize that people with disabilities may not be accessing our services in a fair and equitable way—

WE WANT YOUR HELP TO CHANGE THIS!

Help us Improve Access, Service Delivery & Provider Preparedness To Identify and Offer Appropriate & Reasonable Accommodations to PLWH with Disabilities

Questions? Need More Info? Contact Melanie: mlawrence1@health.nyc.gov or 347-396-7356





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Call to Action to Promote the All of Us Research Program to People with Disabilities

We're partnering with AAHD to challenge the disability community to learn about the *All of Us* Research Program and consider participation with a [Call to Action](#). The *All of Us* Research Program is seeking to improve precision medicine and the future of health. AAHD has issued this [Call to Action](#) to highlight the importance and impact that *All of Us* can have on the disability community. We are working to encourage people with disabilities to get involved in this research program that includes historically under-represented populations in biomedical research, including people with disabilities. If you are interested in enrolling in the *All of Us* Research program, please visit <https://www.JoinAllofUs.org/together>.

We're Hiring!

CIDNY is hiring for multiple positions. Please check our website at <https://www.cidny.org/jobs/> for the latest postings.

MTA Board Meeting Recap



[Image description: CIDNY peer advocate Tashia and her dad.]

CIDNY advocates and other AARRG! coalition members from Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, Mobilization for Justice, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest joined together at the NYCT & MTA Bus Committee Meeting on Monday, May 20th. Activists carried pillows to show that they weren't sure if they'd have to sleep at the meeting due to poor Access-A-Ride (paratransit) service.

Advocates were calling for an expansion and return of the e-Hail pilot program, which gave users the flexibility to order taxis in real time like people without disabilities. In a move which is highly confusing to users and advocates alike, in March, the MTA started an "enhanced

Join the conversation: online at www.cidny.org; on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc), on Twitter (@CID_NY) and IG (@cid_ny)

broker service" that limits the number of rides per day, pays drivers a flat rate for trips (including trips between boroughs, leading drivers to refuse trips), no clear avenue for feedback, and long waits for users.

If you have a story to share about your experience with Access-A-Ride or you are interested in joining our advocates to give testimony or protest, please contact Shain Anderson, Community Organizer for Access-A-Ride, at sanderson@cidny.org or 646-368-8031.

Hurricane Season Starts This Month

The City has made some changes in emergency preparedness for people with disabilities since we won our [court case](#) in 2014. Their website has more information to address some issues for New Yorkers with disabilities; the plan for canvassing buildings now includes training for canvassers on working with people with disabilities; more evacuation centers and shelters are accessible (see link below) and more accessible transportation options should be available during a City-ordered evacuation.

The [City's website](#) includes tips on preparing for emergencies or disasters. We would encourage you to review this information – some tips may be helpful for your planning.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can contact 311 and ask for printed versions. If that doesn't work, please call us at 212-674-2300 and tell us you couldn't get a print copy of the City's E-prep information online.

Continue reading at: <https://www.cidny.org/get-prepared/>.

Hurricane Season: Copy your Documents

Wednesday, June 12, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

You can bring in key documents including your NYC or NYS ID, health coverage ID, prescription information, etc., and copy them so you have copies to take with you in case you have to evacuate. We'll have zip lock bags and tote bags available for you. We have forms you can use to write up your important information. Get an update on what's happening with NYC emergency preparedness. Staff will be available to help you and to answer questions you may have.

Please RSVP by calling 212-674-2300 by Monday, June 10.



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NEED HELP?

Walk-in/drop-in to get the help you need. Staff will be available during these times for housing and benefits-related help.



Walk-In Days—Manhattan

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Important Dates

June 9 – Paula Wolff Memorial

June 16 – Father's Day

June 19 – Juneteenth

Please join us on June 9th from 2 – 5 p.m. at 135 West 23rd St to honor the passing of Paula Wolff.

Save the Date: Sunday, July 14th at 10 a.m. is the Disability Pride Parade

CIDNY's Writer's Group

Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

A facilitated, non-judgmental writing group that promotes individual expression and creativity in a supportive atmosphere.

An Afternoon at the Queens Botanical Garden

June 18 at 1 pm – 2:30 pm

Meet CIDNY Staff at the Main Garden Entrance
43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Join us for a walk/roll through at the Queens Botanical Garden. We'll meet at the Main Entrance and enjoy exploring the garden together. For information on the Garden, you can go to <https://queensbotanical.org> or contact us at 212-674-2300 and we'll send more information to your email.

You must RSVP by Friday, June 7th by calling 212-674-2300. Please let the receptionist know if you are a wheelchair user – the Garden staff requested that information to ensure they can accommodate everyone. If you need another type of accommodations, like ASL interpretation, please let us know as soon as possible.

BY BUS

Take Q44SBS or Q20A/B from the Bronx or Jamaica, or in Flushing.

BY TRAIN

Take the no. 7 subway or Long Island Rail Road (Port Washington line) to Main Street/Flushing. Then, take the

Q44SBS or Q20A/B bus, or walk eight blocks south to QBG along Main Street.

Housing Workshops

Wednesday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Manhattan

Wednesday, June 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Queens

CIDNY's housing workshop covers housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report. CIDNY is a full-service center and other benefits will be discussed; we don't offer housing, but can provide information and assist with applications.

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Location to be determined.

Come Join Us to Hear About:

Congratulations! We have completed an amazing State legislative session. Come hear our updates. Now let's plan our visits to the District (local) offices in July.

Ven y únete a nosotros para escuchar acerca de:

¡Felicidades! Hemos completado una sesión legislativa estatal increíble. Ven a escuchar nuestras últimas noticias. Ahora planifiquemos nuestras visitas a las oficinas del Distrito (locales) en julio.



Speak Out about Public Transit

NYCT & MTA Bus Committee Meeting

Monday, June 24th, 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

MTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 26th, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at

MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway.

Please arrive 45 minutes early and bring a photo ID. Upon arrival, people can choose to sign up to speak during the meeting. There is a two-minute limit for speakers. Join with us and other advocates as we make our voices heard. RSVP required.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003, unless otherwise noted. To RSVP, contact Laurette at 212/674-2300 or lhamilton@cidny.org. For events in Queens or if you speak Spanish, RSVP to Jose at 646/442-1520 or jmera@cidny.org. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, let us know as soon as possible.

Join the conversation: online at www.cidny.org; on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc), on Twitter (@CID_NY) and IG (@cid_ny)

JUNE 2019 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	5	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	7	8
9 Paula Wolff Memorial 2 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	12 Hurricane Season: Copy your Documents 1 p.m.  Housing Workshop – Manhattan 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	14	15
16 Father's Day	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	18 Queens Botanical Garden  Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	19 Juneteenth CIDNY Action Network Meeting – Location to be determined. 1-4 p.m. 	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	21	22
23 30	 Walk-in Day – Manhattan and Queens 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  NYCT & MTA Bus Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	 Housing Workshop – Queens 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  MTA Board Meeting 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	 Walk-in Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 p.m.	28	29  CID-NY Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY