



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan,  
in Partnership with  
the New York Jewish Agenda and the *Forward*,  
Announce Virtual Series  
JUSTICE IN ACTION: THE FUTURE OF NYC  
Featuring New York City's Newly Elected Officials**

**Series to feature conversations with newly elected officials: NY County DA  
Alvin Bragg, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander,  
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, and NYC Public Advocate  
Jumaane Williams**

**New York, NY** (December 2, 2021) – The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM), in partnership with the New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA) and the *Forward*, announce a virtual conversation series, **JUSTICE IN ACTION: THE FUTURE OF NYC**. Hosted by **Ruth Messinger** (MMJCCM) and **Matt Nosanchuk** (NYJA) on select Thursday evenings December through January, NYC's newly elected officials will discuss their vision and plans. Speakers for the virtual pay-what-you-wish series include **New York County District Attorney-Elect Alvin Bragg, NYC Comptroller-Elect Brad Lander, Manhattan Borough President-Elect Mark Levine, and NYC Public Advocate-Elect Jumaane Williams**.

After the November 2021 general election, New York City government is now on the cusp of major change. Just who are the people who got elected? What can we learn about them and their views? What does the future of the city hold under their leadership? And what will its likely impact be on our community? **Ruth Messinger**, MMJCCM Social Justice Activist-in-Residence, and **Matt Nosanchuk**, NYJA President and Co-Founder, host this virtual conversation series with NYC's newly elected officials focusing on each leader's vision and plans.

"A city election with new people in charge of the key areas of our lives from schools to roads, from subways to hospitals. This is a chance to get an idea of who these individuals are, how they see the city, where they hope to take us," shares **Ruth Messinger, MMJCCM Social Justice Activist-in-Residence**. "This is our opportunity to interact with those newly in charge."

"NYJA is proud to partner with the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan to provide an opportunity for New Yorkers to hear from the people we've elected to lead our city for the next four years," says **Matt Nosanchuk, NYJA President and Co-Founder**. "In these conversations, New Yorkers will hear the city's incoming leaders address urgent issues facing our community and our

city, from racial justice and public safety to public health and climate change resiliency, among many others. We want to thank all of our partners and the elected officials who are joining us, and we encourage everyone in the community to participate."

The schedule of speakers includes Manhattan Borough President-Elect Mark Levine on Thursday, December 9 at 7pm; New York City Comptroller-Elect Brad Lander on Thursday, December 16 at 7pm; New York County District Attorney-Elect Alvin Bragg on Thursday, January 20 at 7pm; and New York City Public Advocate-Elect Jumaane Williams on Thursday, January 27 at 7pm. Additional events in this series will be announced at a later date.

**JUSTICE IN ACTION: THE FUTURE OF NYC** is presented in partnership with the New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA) and the *Forward*, and is co-sponsored by Avodah, Base MNHTN, B'nai Jeshurun, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Jews For Racial & Economic Justice, Lab/Shul, Manny Cantor Center, National Council of Jewish Women New York, Romemu, SAJ — Judaism That Stands For All, and The Wechsler Center for Modern Aging.

All sessions will take place online over Zoom. Closed Captioning is available on Zoom to increase the accessibility of this program. For further details about the schedule and to register, please visit: [mmjccm.org/future-of-nyc](http://mmjccm.org/future-of-nyc).

## **SPEAKER & HOST BIOS**

**ALVIN BRAGG** was overwhelmingly elected Manhattan District Attorney, becoming only the fourth person elected to this office in 80 years. A son of Central Harlem, Alvin has spent the better part of two decades standing up to the powerful and fighting to get justice -serving as Chief Deputy Attorney General in New York State, the first Chief of a special unit that investigated police-involved killings, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, and as a Visiting Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Racial Justice Project at New York Law School where he represented the family of Eric Garner in a case against the mayor seeking key details about Eric's killing.

**BRAD LANDER** is a member of the New York City Council, representing the 39th District in Brooklyn. He serves as the Council's Deputy Leader for Policy, and was a co-founder of the Council's Progressive Caucus. His hard-hitting policy reports and innovative legislation have helped win protections against unfair firings, combat wage theft for independent contractors, and hold reckless drivers accountable. Brad's background in community organizing and urban planning informs his work to make government work better for all New Yorkers.

**MARK D. LEVINE** is a member of the New York City Council representing District 7 in Northern Manhattan. He is Chair of the City Council's Health Committee and the Manhattan Borough President-elect. Councilmember Levine began his career as a bilingual math and science teacher at JHS149 in the South Bronx. He went on to found a community development credit union in Washington Heights which has helped thousands of local families gain access to financial services. Mr. Levine joined the City Council in 2014, chairing the Parks Committee and the Jewish Caucus in his first term. In 2017 he passed landmark legislation making New York City the first place in America to guarantee the right to counsel for tenants facing eviction in housing court. He has chaired the City Council's Health Committee since 2018, and has emerged as a national leader on public health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Levine received a B.A. in physics from Haverford College, and an M.A. in Public Policy from Harvard University. He lives with his family in Washington Heights.

**JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS** is a first-generation Brooklynite of Grenadian heritage. He overcame the challenges of Tourette's and ADHD to earn a Master's from Brooklyn College. In the NYC Council, Jumaane championed legislation that fundamentally transformed policing, fought for new

approaches to reduce gun violence, and worked to end workplace and housing discrimination. Jumaane has led the fight for better policing and safer streets, affordable housing, and transparency and accountability in City government. As Public Advocate, he continues to be an activist-elected official who brings the voices of everyday New Yorkers to City government and makes New York a truly progressive beacon for all.

**RUTH MESSINGER** is the Social Justice Activist-in-Residence at the Stern Center for Social Responsibility at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. She is Global Ambassador for American Jewish World Service, an organization she previously ran; a social justice consultant at The Jewish Theological Seminary and the NY Jewish Women's Foundation; and recently completed curricula in social justice and racial justice. Previously, she was in city elected office for twenty years. Ruth holds an MSW from the University of Oklahoma, is an active member of her synagogue, is married and has three children, eight grand-children and three great grandchildren.

**MATT NOSANCHUK** is President and Co-Founder of the New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA), a non-profit organization founded in 2020. He previously held senior roles in the Obama Administration, including as Liaison to the American Jewish Community and on the National Security Council staff. An experienced attorney, Matt also worked at the Departments of State, Homeland Security, and Justice, in Congress, at the DNC and as a Skadden Fellow. For his work advancing LGBTQ+ equality, he received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award and the American Bar Association's inaugural Stonewall Award. Matt graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School, where he was a Truman Scholar.

The **New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)**, founded in 2020, unites liberal, mainstream Jews in New York City and State whose positions on key issues are informed by shared Jewish and democratic values. NYJA advocates and educates on key priorities in New York City and State, in support of a democratic Israel and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and to combat antisemitism.

**The Forward**, founded in 1897, is the most significant Jewish voice in American journalism. Its reporting on cultural, social and political issues inspires readers of all ages and animates conversation across generations and different segments of the community. The *Forward's* English and Yiddish platforms build on a century-old legacy maintained in their archives and lead to a deeper understanding of what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century.

## **ABOUT THE MARLENE MEYERSON JCC MANHATTAN**

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Throughout COVID-19, the JCC has pivoted to meet the community online, exceeding 102,000 registrations to over 3,000 virtual classes and programs in the earliest part of the pandemic. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that extend beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at [mmjccm.org](http://mmjccm.org)

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