

CITY HALL

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History

- ▶ City hall, one of the city's landmarks is one of the country's oldest continuously used city halls
- ▶ Constructed from 1803-1812
- ▶ Known as one of the finest architectural achievements of its time.
- ▶ Designed by Joseph Francois Mangin and John McComb Jr.
- ▶ Located in Lower Manhattan between Broadway, Chamber St. and Park Row



Inside City Hall

- ▶ Inside City Hall you will find other governmental functions like the Mayor's Office and City Council Chamber.
- ▶ -The Rotunda-(the center of City Hall)
- ▶ -Blue Room (used for mayoral press conferences, meetings, and receptions.)
- ▶ - Governor's Room (used as a museum for visitors and for receptions)



Functions



The overall purpose for City Hall is to provide a place for political figures as well as *US* (the people) to go somewhere to voice our concerns and opinions about where and how we live

Its where the mayor makes his legislature.

Want to Propose A Law? City Hall is the Answer!

- ▶ Great place if you wanted to Protest hence that's where all the city laws and business is handled.
- ▶ According to nyc.gov bills are passed accordingly : A bill (proposed legislation) is filed by a Council Member with the Council's law clerk. If the Mayor wishes to put forth legislation for consideration, he/she must file it with the Speaker's Office. The Speaker's Office then assigns the bill a sponsor to bring the proposed local law before the Council, The bill is then introduced into the Council during a "Stated Meeting" and referred to the appropriate committee.
- ▶ A public hearing is held
- ▶ After the committee debates and there is a public testimony, the bill may be amended, The committee meets to vote on the final version of the bill.
- ▶ If passed in committee, the bill is sent to the full Council for more debate and a final vote at a subsequent Stated Meeting. If passed by an affirmative vote by a majority of Council Members (at least 26 members) the bill is then sent to the Mayor, who holds a public hearing.
- ▶ The Mayor then chooses to sign or veto (rejects) the bill.
- ▶ If the Mayor signs the bill, it immediately becomes a local law and is entered into the City's, if not. Council votes again. If the Council does re-pass the bill by a vote of two-thirds of all Council Members (at least 34), it is then considered adopted and becomes local law.

Right to Know Act/ MTA Rally / Personal Connection

- ▶ The **Right to Know Act** would require cops to let people know that they have the **right** to refuse to be searched without probable cause & to identify themselves with business cards.
- ▶ New Yorkers Rally to cut costs of NYC MetroCard's which would help lower income residents save \$700 a year
- ▶ Laws such as these **DIRECTLY** affect **US!!** (and it all goes down in the City Hall)
- ▶ *Important to me because I have brothers and loved ones who have dealt with unpleasant police interactions. I am also a lower income resident who pays out of pocket for transportation. Laws such as these may or may not be passed at City Hall one day which will directly affect us as well as you and your loved ones.*



References

- ▶ City Hall Facts: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/designcommission/public-programs/city-hall/about-city-hall.page>
- ▶ City Hall Tour
- ▶ Right to know act information
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/19/nyregion/new-york-city-council-police-reform.html>
- ▶ MTA Rally Information: <http://www.fox5ny.com/news/new-yorkers-rally-to-subsidize-mta-fare-for-low-income-residents>

Summary

- ▶ For my observation report I decided to go to City Hall. As a Native New Yorker, I never really appreciated or understood the importance of City Hall until I went to visit it. It had so much history inside of it. Once you get outside of City Hall, around the train station, you can immediately tell that this is a very important place because of the busy high energy area. Lots of people and a lot of traffic. Once you're inside, the tour takes you throughout a number of rooms such as the Blue Room, Governor's Room, and The City Council Chambers and so on. I got to see an allegory of New York as well as artwork and paintings of George Washington and his desk which he used to sign important documents and as well as the ceiling designs up close and personal. There was so much history inside of City Hall dating back to the 19th century which really emphasized how important this place was. One of the most important parts of City Hall is the Mayor's Office. I believe it is one of the most important rooms because that's where the mayor signs and/or vetoes potential laws which end up affected the communities that we live in. City Hall consists of so many governmental functions in regards to New York City. The meetings, public hearings held in City Hall directly affect us as New Yorkers because this is where all the voting for laws take place. Which brings me to the next important room inside the building which is the City Council Chambers. Inside the City Council Chambers, the Committee votes for or against laws and the Mayor has the right to veto or pass it. This is super important because the laws that get voted on in that room have a huge impact on us as a whole. Important topics like police reform like The Right to Know Act and the many attempts that the city has made to decrease the MTA fare get discussed there and are super important to everyone. As tax paying citizens, we have the right to be able to vote and voice our concerns for our city regardless of what they may be (housing, schooling, safety, taxes, policing) especially ones in our favor. We also have the ability to vote those people in and out of their positions if we vote in our local city and state elections. Due to all the functions that take place in City Hall, it is the perfect place to go to in order to exercise your rights and it is very important to learn about these places so that we ensure we are making the most of our rights as American citizens.. We are able to congregate in one common area, City Hall, to not only voice our concerns but participate in what is going on around us to make sure the present is good but that the future is better for our kids.