By Tom Acitelli

1. **Manhattan landlord concessions spike**
   The share of Manhattan tenants receiving some sort of concession from their landlord in their new lease reached a record high last month of 31%, according to an analysis by appraiser Miller Samuel and brokerage Douglas Elliman. Most incentives went to renters of two-bedroom apartments. [DNAinfo]

2. **City spends more on STD prevention as rates surge**
   New York City's rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis have reached 30-year highs and have outpaced the rise in sexually transmitted diseases nationwide over the past decade, according to a report from the city's Independent Budget Office. The report examined spending on STD prevention, which grew 63%, to $25.5 million, in the fiscal 2017 budget. [Crain's Health Pulse]

3. **Pace to revamp downtown Manhattan flagship**
   Pace University plans to spend $190 million renovating its flagship campus complex in downtown Manhattan to better connect it with the neighborhood and to accentuate the school's growth. The student count at 1 Pace Plaza has risen by more than 500% since 2000. The university says it will start construction before 2018. [Crain's New York Business]
4 Interest rate fears spur refinancing wave
Expectations of higher interest rates led U.S. companies to refinance $100 billion in loans in January, according to S&P Global. That is the largest monthly total in at least 10 years. Such refinancing has allowed borrowers to save more than $1 billion in annual interest costs in recent months. [The Wall Street Journal]

5 Senate confirms Sessions as attorney general
The U.S. Senate confirmed Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general 52-47 after a debate involving allegations of racial bias on the part of Sessions, a close ally of President Donald Trump. Sessions’ ascension is expected to lead to profound shifts in immigration, local policing and voting rights. [The Wall Street Journal]

Plus: Neil Gorsuch, Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, described the president’s repeated criticism of the judiciary as “demoralizing” and “disheartening.” [The New York Times]

6 State hits brakes on prison site conversion
State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has rejected the sale of the state-owned site of Staten Island’s former Arthur Kill Correctional Facility to Broadway Stages, a company that planned to convert it into a 69-acre television and film studio. The company’s owner, Gina Argento, is a prominent donor to Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose fundraising efforts are under investigation. [New York Post]
7 Snow day for city schools
Mayor Bill de Blasio has canceled classes today for New York public schools because of a winter storm expected to bring high winds and up to a foot of snow. The flakes follow a springlike Wednesday that saw Central Park’s temperature reach 62 degrees, breaking the previous record of 61 set in 1965. [The New York Times]

8 State’s electric grid ready for transformation
Audrey Zibelman, the New York Public Service Commission’s outgoing chair, has laid the foundation for the most significant transformation in the state’s electric power system in two decades. That’s according to a Crain’s op-ed by Lisa Frantzis, an executive at business group Advanced Energy Economy, and Stuart Nachmias, a vice president at Con Edison. [Crain’s New York Business]

9 NYPD to beef up Bronx detective ranks
The New York Police Department is sending 75 additional investigators to the Bronx to ease the caseload of detectives there. A longtime investigator shortage in the city’s most violent borough has led to a backlog of unsolved cases, which can contribute to a cycle of street crime. [The New York Times]

10 Major League Baseball flirts with big rule change
Major League Baseball plans this season to test automatically placing a runner on second base at the start of extra innings. The move, to be tried first in Manhattan-based MLB’s Gulf Coast and Arizona minor leagues, is aimed at speeding up games. The trial has the support of top officials. [Yahoo Sports]