



Assemblymember
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Celebrating July 4th, Celebrating New Citizens

In such tumultuous times, it's more important than ever to remember that New York is a city of immigrants. On July 1st, I was proud to attend a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in the heart of Midtown. With other elected officials and loved ones looking on, 225 immigrants took their Oath of Allegiance and became American citizens.

Before the ceremony, every one of these new Americans was required to take tests in English and Civics, answering questions like, "when is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?" or "who signs bills to become laws?" Study materials for this test, along with countless other resources for immigrants and new citizens are provided at no cost by the NYPL year-round, ensuring that every new American is well-versed in the laws of our land.

At the July 1st ceremony, individuals from 55 countries from Italy to Mexico completed the naturalization process, joining the six in ten New Yorkers who are immigrants or children of immigrants. One woman, Sow, originally from Ghana, said that she's "excited that [she's] going to be able to vote." I am grateful that she reminded us of the amazing rights and responsibilities of every citizen, new or old. There is no better way to celebrate the birth of our nation than by welcoming new Americans.

"Most of these cases don't go to trial, but the arrest itself, and the following entanglement with the justice system, can wreak havoc on a person's life..."

[Read more on gravity knives:](#)

[New York Times Opinion Page](#)

Constituent Services Spotlight

RiverSpring at Night

800-56-SENIOR (73-6467)

Offers medical-model overnight care for seniors with dementia-related sleep disturbances. Open to residents of all parts of Manhattan, accepts a variety of payment plans. Call for more information.



Assemblymember Quart and Councilmember Dan Garodnick

Legislative Update: Gravity Knives

I am proud to report that my bill to clarify the definition of a gravity knife passed both houses of the New York State Legislature this session. The current statute, written in the 1950s, has been used to target law-abiding citizens carrying simple pocketknives. Over 60,000 New Yorkers were stopped, frisked, arrested, and prosecuted over a 10 year period. 86% of those targeted were either Black or Hispanic. I am proud to have worked to protect New Yorkers from this outdated law and to continue working to make New York a safer state for all New Yorkers.

Poses Park, Queensboro Oval, and More

Anyone who looks at a map of Manhattan can clearly see the lack of green space on the East Side. This is why I have continued to fight for public access to parks, from Poses Park in the heart of Midtown all the way to the East River. Poses Park, at 68th Street



between Lexington and Third Avenues, is open again to the public, as it has been for the last two summers. I am grateful to Hunter College President Jennifer Raab for making this space available to all, and I am excited to continue working with her to ensure that everyone in the area is able to enjoy this outdoor space.

Moving east from Poses Park, I am proud to support Community Board 8's work to open Queensboro Oval Park. At a recent rally, I stood with community members who asked

for a multi-use space that was open to all. Every child in our neighborhood deserves park space to play. As CB 8 Parks Chair Peggy Price put it, "The public pays taxes on this park, but doesn't have access to it most of the year." I'll keep working to open Queensboro Oval to the public year-round.