



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
LATOYA JOYNER
77TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
 ASSEMBLY.STATE.NY.US/MEM/LATOYA-JOYNER



FEBRUARY 2017 - NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

Assemblywoman Joyner Holds Medicaid Fraud Presentations with LiveON NY



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner offered Medicaid fraud presentations with the help of LiveON NY, an organization that helps New Yorkers to age with confidence, grace and vitality. Presentations were held for seniors at the Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Council, PSS Highbridge Senior Center, Forever Young and the Findlay Teller Apartments.

Assemblywoman Joyner Attends Community Meeting at JHS 145 Arturo Toscanini



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson joined parents, students, alumni, teachers and community leaders to hear their concerns regarding a new proposal from the New York City Department of Education for the future of J.H.S. 145 Arturo Toscanini. The informational meeting was widely attended by the community – including all stakeholders who might be affected by the proposal.

District Office - Constituent Service Hours

When: Monday - Thursday (10 AM-6 PM), Friday (10 AM-5 PM)
Where: 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (btwn E. 162 & 163 Streets)
Off-site hours: Schedule varies. See page 5 for details.

CONTACT US:

District Office
 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
 Bronx, NY 10451
 718-538-2000
joynerl@assembly.state.ny.us
facebook.com/AMLatoyaJoyner

LATOYA'S LINE

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's statement in support of the Rent Justice Coalition's fight to maintain New York City's rent freeze:

The rent freeze approved in 2016 was crucial for the thousands of rent-stabilized tenants in my district and builds upon the commitment made to tenants in 2015. While I supported a rent rollback, I was happy to see that the Rent Guidelines Board afforded 0% increases for rent-stabilized tenants signing one-year renewal leases and 2% for two-year renewal leases. Today, I stand firm with the Rent Justice Coalition, which includes the many hardworking tenants that make up the backbone of our communities in the Bronx and New York City. We must uphold this historic rent freeze, as it has offered some much-needed reprieve for those families that are currently forced to choose between putting food on the table or keeping the lights on.

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Bronx Officials Host Black History Month Celebration

Save the Date

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF AWARD PRESENTATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS WITH

State Senator
José M. Serrano

Council Member
Vanessa L. Gibson

Assembly Member
Latoya Joyner

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 AT 5:30PM
THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS**

1040 Grand Concourse
(corner of 165th ST.), Bronx, NY
- TO RSVP -
Contact the District Office at (718) 588-7500
or District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson and Senator Jose M. Serrano invite you to celebrate Black History Month on **Wednesday, February 15** at the Bronx Museum of the Arts (1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx NY 10456). The celebration, which will be sponsored by **HealthFirst**, will include presentations, entertainment, giveaways and refreshments.

Doors open at 5:30 P.M. To RSVP, please contact the Council Member's District Office at 718-588-7500.

Statement from Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) regarding Black History Month:

"As we fight to support our communities of color in the Bronx, we must continue to build upon a legacy of achievement that has made a real impact on the lives of our families – especially now as policy changes at the federal level have hit our door step. I am pleased to co-host this Black History Month Celebration with my colleagues, as we collectively push forward to preserve our community and offer additional investments for future generations. This celebration is about recognizing those who go above and beyond to build up our community for the better without expecting any praise or recognition. Those individuals – who selflessly fight to make a difference – will be honored this Black History Month."

Assemblywoman Joyner Offers Free Tax Prep for Community

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner & Bronx Neighborhood Housing Services CDC, INC. presents FREE Tax Preparation Services

WHERE: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451

WHEN: *Saturday, **January 28** from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
*Saturday, **February 18** from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

New York State Assemblywoman
Latoya Joyner

VITA | Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Please Bring:

- **Identification:** Social Security Card/ ITIN PICTURE ID
- **Income Forms:** W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, Interest / Dividend Forms F-1099, Self-employment
- **Refund:** Bank Routing and Account Numbers, Spouse for Joint Return
- **Expenses:** Total Paid for Daycare Provider Provider's Tax Identification

FREE Expert Tax Preparation - Call for an Appointment
Free service for those with income below \$54,000 (with children) or \$30,000 or less (no children).

For more information or to register, please call Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Bronx Neighborhood Housing Services are pleased to offer FREE tax preparation services for the community.

The next day free tax prep services will be offered is Saturday, **February 18 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.**

Please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000 or visit us at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK Bronx NY 10451 to set up your appointment.

Also, **NYC Department of Finance** will be onsite to offer information regarding the **New York City's Rent Freeze program**, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) initiative. You may qualify for the NYC Rent Freeze Program if you meet these requirements:

-Rent an apartment that is rent regulated (rent controlled, rent stabilized, hotel stabilized or Mitchell-Lama) and;

-You are a senior citizen or have a disability.

-Have a combined household income for all members of the household that is \$50,000 or less; and

-Spend more than one-third of your monthly household income on rent.



Opinion: New York Families Unable to Mourn Inmate Deaths Properly



By: Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member

First appeared in The Norwood News' Jan. 19-Feb. 1 edition

As we ring in the New Year and wish all a prosperous and healthy 2017, **hundreds of families with loved ones behind bars could face the prospect of not knowing if their mother or father, brother or sister, son or daughter has died in a New York State prison.**

For instance, Lonnie Hamilton, an inmate at Marcy Correctional Facility, died in March 2016 without his family knowing. His father said in media reports that he only realized his son had died after he decided to look for his prison address on the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's (DOCCS) website. It was listed there that Lonnie was deceased.

Leonard Strickland was a prisoner at Clinton Correctional Facility in 2010. Media reports highlight that he allegedly died after an altercation with guards. Strickland was buried in the Clinton Correctional Cemetery in October 2010. His mother, who resided in Brooklyn at the time, was not provided with any information regarding how her son died. Mrs. Strickland only learned of her son's death after a prison chaplain called a local Brooklyn, N.Y. minister who informed the family.

Hamilton was buried before an autopsy was performed or reason for his death offered. For

Strickland, his mother was told that his death was **under investigation and no cause of death could be offered.** In 2013 alone, there were 142 deaths

in New York State prisons, a 23 percent increase from the prior year. Nationally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) found that the number of state prisoner deaths actually increased by four percent in 2013 to 3,479 deaths.

Because DOCCS investigations are often not complete for some time, many family members may wait months or even years before hearing word that their loved one has died being offered a preliminary cause of death or even being notified that their family member – an inmate in custody – has died. This unfortunately happens to many families across New York State. **According to DOCCS, there were a total of 501 inmate deaths during the four year period from 2009-2012.**

In New York, DOCCS says that it is responsible for the confinement and habilitation of the 52,000 individuals under custody held at 54 state facilities. This included Lonnie Hamilton and Leonard Strickland. Their families weren't allowed the luxury to grieve their death prior to their burial.

The fact is if a family has a loved one in custody, it could take up to 12 to 18 months before any details are offered to their next of kin regarding the circumstances of their death.

Now, through a new law signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo which I have authored, DOCCS will be required to be responsive to the next of kin in the event that a loved one or family member passes away behind bars. This includes additional information regarding the circumstances surrounding their passing – including an original preliminary death certificate.

Latoya Joyner represents the 77th Assembly District in the Bronx.

Please click here to view online: <http://www.norwoodnews.org/id=22598&story=opinio-n-new-york-families-unable-to-mourn-inmate-deaths-properly/>

Assemblywoman Joyner Offers Free Immigration Screenings



Assemblywoman **Latoya Joyner** is pleased to announce FREE immigration screenings for Bronx families. Representatives from **Bronx Legal Services** and **Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families** will be available in her Community Office at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (between E. 162nd and E. 163rd Streets), Bronx, N.Y. 10451 on a monthly basis.



The next day will be Friday, February 17 from 3 pm-5 pm

Please call **718-538-2000** to set up your appointment if you require immigration assistance.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner to Host IDNYC in District Office



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is pleased to announce that the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs will offer FREE in-take services and information session for IDNYC, the new and free identification card for all New York City residents.

Representatives will be available in the Assemblywoman's Community Office on a monthly basis from 10 am -12 pm at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (between E. 162nd and E. 163rd Streets), Bronx, N.Y. 10451.

IDNYC is a government-issued photo identification card that offers everyone access to City services and free access to renowned cultural institutions. The ID is even available to those that may have difficulty obtaining other government-issued IDs regardless of immigration status, including most vulnerable communities, which encompass the homeless, youth, the elderly, undocumented immigrants and the formerly incarcerated.

For more information or to set up your appointment, please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000.

The next day will be Thursday, February 16 from 10 am-12 pm



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with New York City's Tenant Support Unit

Tenant Support Specialists every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Where: Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451

Tenant Support Specialists will be holding joint office hours to provide support to tenants that may be experiencing housing related issues such as:

- Harassment
- Purposeful denial of essential services
- Overcharges
- Possible eviction


For more information, please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Office at 718-538-2000

Every Thursday, Tenant Support Services are available in Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office

In coordination with New York City's Tenant Support Unit, tenant support specialists are on hand every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 11 AM-3 PM. This effort will focus on helping tenants with concerns and issues related to harassment, purposeful denial of essential services, overcharges and possible eviction.

Also, legal professionals from the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs are available every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 3 PM-6 PM to assist with your legal housing issues. Please call to set up an appointment.

For more information, see flyers or call the Assemblywoman's Community Office at 718-538-2000



Free Housing Legal Services!

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs to offer **FREE HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES!**

N.A.I.C.A. legal professionals will be on hand to assist your housing concerns

When: Every second and fourth Thursday from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Where: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, N.Y. 10451

For more information or to set up an appointment, please call Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000

TENANT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE:	N.A.I.C.A LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AVAILABLE:
FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9
FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 23
MARCH 2	MARCH 9
MARCH 16	MARCH 23
APRIL 6	APRIL 13
APRIL 20	APRIL 27
MAY 4	MAY 11
MAY 18	MAY 25

OFF-SITE CONSTITUENT HOURS



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner wants to make her office more accessible to families and constituents in the 77th Assembly District. Her staff will be offering off-site constituent services at local senior centers, community centers and libraries.

- Highbridge Library
78 West 168th Street
Bronx, NY, 10452
Every 3rd Monday from 10 AM-1 PM
- Davidson Community Center
2038 Davidson Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453
Every 4th Monday from 10 AM-1 PM
- New Settlement Community Center
1501 Jerome Ave
Bronx, NY 10452
*Every 3rd Wednesday from 4 PM-6 PM

AVAILABLE BRONX AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

Below listing are Subsidized Rental Opportunities lotteries, as provided by NYC Housing Preservation & Development and New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Each housing opportunity is a lottery with application deadlines.

For more information, please visit [NYC Housing Connect](#) or [HCR Affordable Rental Units](#) and [NYHousingSearch.gov](#).

ADDRESS	APTS AVAILABLE	HOW DO YOU APPLY?	DEADLINE
6469 Broadway Bronx, NY 10471	77	Applications can be downloaded from the marketing agent's website: www.BronxProgroup.com . Applications can also be requested by mail by sending a double-stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Bronx Pro Real Estate Management Inc., 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Bronx, NY 10453, ATTN: VAN CORTLANDT GREEN	No deadline
1544 Boone Ave Bronx, NY 10460	114	Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to www.nyc.gov/housingconnect . To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Compass Residences Two B, P.O. Box 580, New York, NY 10030 . Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.	February 7, 2017
1171 Clay Ave; 1183 Clay Ave; 1202 Clay Ave; 384 Grand Concourse; 1129 Morrison Ave; 1038 Rogers Place	59	Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to www.nyc.gov/housingconnect . To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: JGV Management, PO Box 740610, Bronx, NY 10474 . Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.	February 27, 2017
1825 Boston Road, Bronx, NY 10460	107	To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect . To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Crotona Terrace Building B, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 . Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.	March 15, 2017