



Assemblymember
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE
Brooklyn Democratic County Leader



COVID-19 Updates



Photo Credit: Shutterstock

APRIL 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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718-940-0428

**NYS Voters Will Automatically Receive Absentee
Ballot Application For June Primaries**

Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

NYC Mayor calls for rent freeze; New COVID-19 testing site in district; New domestic violence text program; Small business grants; Paycheck protection program application training; and more!

NYS Confirmed: 271,590
NYS Deaths: 16,162
NYC Confirmed: 150,473
Brooklyn Confirmed: 40,648

NYS: GOVERNOR CUOMO



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo

- Today, **Governor Cuomo** announced that all New York voters will **automatically** receive an **absentee ballot application** in the mail.
 - The application will also include a postage paid envelope to mail to the Board of Elections.
 - Once application is submitted, voter will receive the June 23rd election ballot by mail.
 - **Polling sites** will also **remain open** for **early voting** and on **June 23rd** if voters choose to vote in person.
- Governor indicated that research finds that there is a possibility that strains of the COVID-19 virus came to New York from Europe.

- According to the Governor, there was likely **28,000 COVID-19 cases** in the United States in February and **10,000** in New York.
- U.S. initiated a China travel ban but a number of people still arrived in the U.S. from Europe.
- Between January and March approximately **13,000** flights arrived to New York and New Jersey carrying **2.2 million** people from Europe.
- Lesson to learn: An outbreak anywhere is an outbreak everywhere.
- **How long does virus live?**
 - Up to **72 hours** on plastic and stainless steel
 - Up to **24 hours** on cardboard
 - Up to **4 hours** on materials like copper
 - Can hang as droplets in the air for up to **3 hours** before it falls.
 - Evidence shows that many who **carry and spread** the virus had **few or no symptoms at all.**
- **COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis**
 - NYS revenue will decline **\$13.3 billion.**
 - Over the financial plan period of fiscal year 2021 to 2024, there will be a **\$61 billion** decline.

NYC: MAYOR DE BLASIO



Photo Credit: Mayor De Blasio

- **\$10 million** will go towards COVID-19 awareness campaign.
 - Outreach will be through TV, radio, and digital engagement.
 - Outreach will be in **15** different languages and will target **88** hard-hit areas. Social media material will be in 24 languages.
 - Materials will be mailed to **3.4 million** New Yorkers in English, Spanish and Chinese.
 - Outreach will include bilingual robocalls to **1.1 million** people in hard-hit areas.
 - **Virtual Town halls** will be held with faith leaders, and webinars will be created with commissioners and health officials.
- The City is engaging with **over 1,000** small, community-based medical practices.

- The City will provide telemedicine training and billing support to small community health care practices.
- Working with over **250** medical practices on proactive outreach plan to follow-up with patients, especially for those with chronic conditions.
- City will make **proactive wellness calls** to most vulnerable patients.
- Mayor announces that we need a rent freeze.
 - New **tenant hotline** is active: Call 311
 - Mayor calls on State to approve and allow tenants to pay rent with their security deposit.
 - Mayor **urges** State to **extend eviction** moratorium past 60 days.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Photo Credit: Morris MacMatzen/Getty Images

Today, the President announced that the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** approved the **first at home COVID-19 test kit**. The testing kit was developed by LabCorp. The FDA Commissioner stated that the test would require a doctor's referral. The kit will include "cotton swabs, a collection tube, an insulated pouch and box to ship test back to LabCorp." The test results are then posted online to a secure company website. According to the company the test kits will be available in the coming weeks and will cost **\$119** each. For more information visit [here](#).

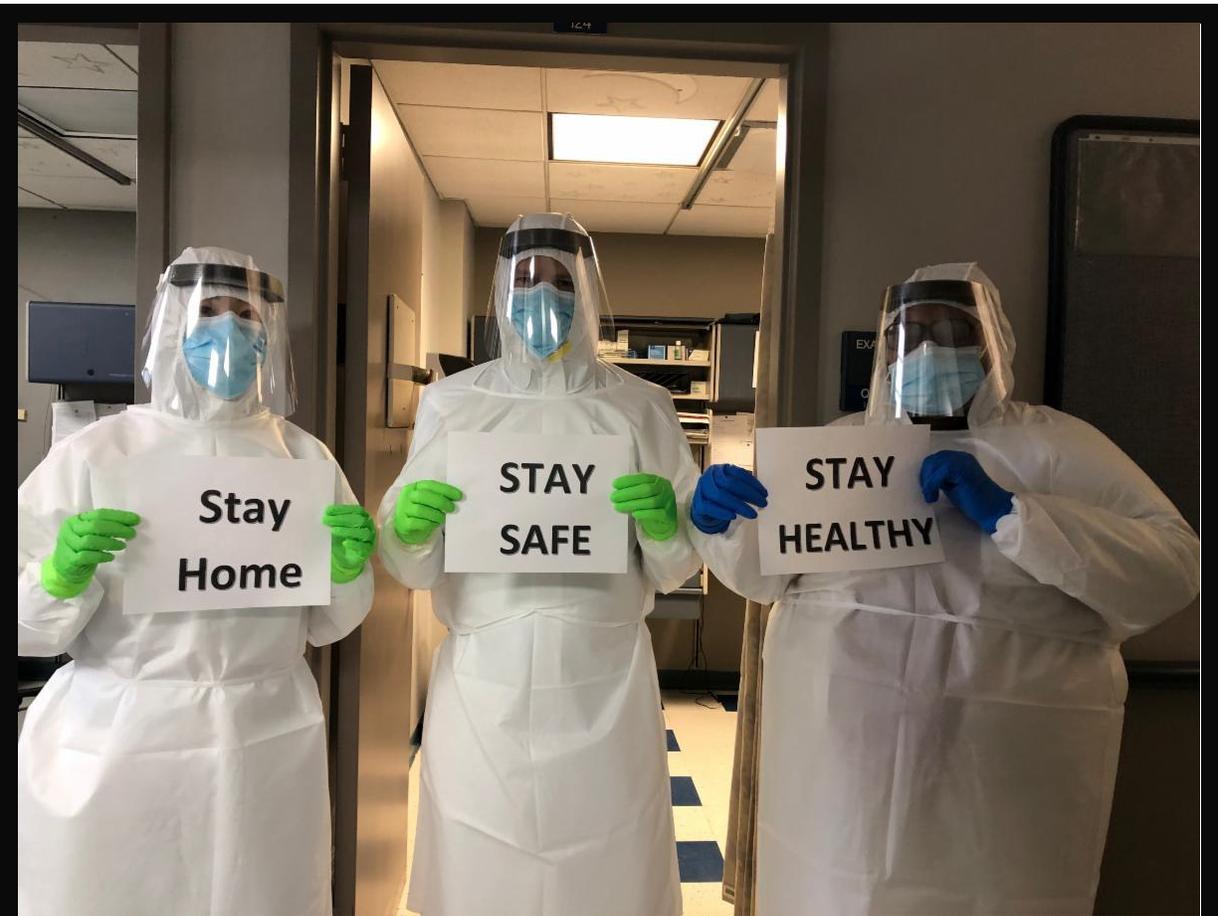
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
RODNEYSE BICHOTTE**
Introduces
**NEW WALK-IN
COVID-19 TESTING SITE IN FLATBUSH**
*A One Brooklyn and Morris Heights Health Center
Partnership*



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte at the new COVID-19 walk-in site in Flatbush



*Doctors, nurses and staff of Morris Heights at the walk-in testing site holding signs that display " **Morris Heights cares for our Brooklyn Community. Thank you for the opportunity Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte #BrooklynBeatsCOVID-19**"*



Healthcare workers at the new Flatbush walk-in site holding signs that say "Stay home, stay safe, stay healthy."

To make an appointment for the walk-in Flatbush Avenue testing sites you **must** contact the NYS Department of Health at **888-364-3065**.

**PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM
APPLICATION TRAINING**



*Senator James Sanders Jr. &
Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte*

Presents



**PPP Application Training
Line by Line**



**For All Faith-Based & Non-Profit Organizations
Monday, April 27, 2020 • 12:00 p.m.**

**Learn How to Fill Out the PPP Application Line By Line
Monday, April 27, 2020 • 4:00 p.m.**

Facebook Live

[Facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorJamesSandersJr/)

Speakers & Presenters

- **Brian Gurski**, *Vice President
TruFund Financial Services, Inc.*
- **Ricardi Calixte**, *Deputy Director,
Queens Economic Development Corporation*
- **Ed Hummel**
Economic Development Representative
- **U.S. Economic Development Administration**
- **Financial Planning Association**

Featured Panelists

- **Beth L. Goldberg**, *District Director
New York District Office of
The U.S. Small Business Administration*
- **Harry Wells**, *Director
Small Business Development Center York College*
- **Linda MacFarlane**, *Chair
NYS CDFI Coalition*
- **Financial Planning Association**

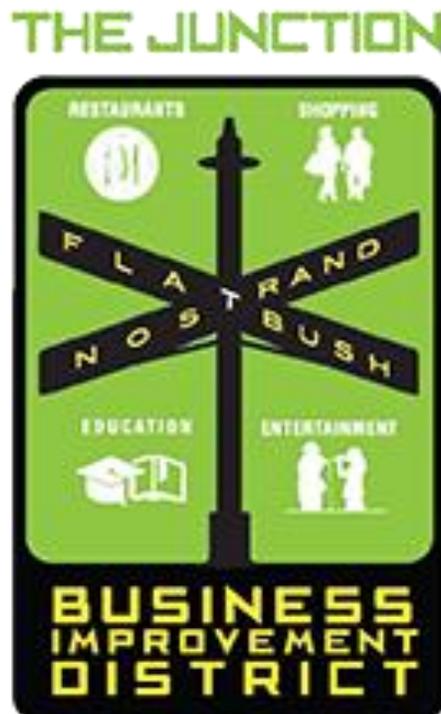
Community Partners

- Gateway JFK, Sutphin Blvd. BID • Merchant Association of Rosedale
- Laurelton & Springfield Gardens (MARLS) • REMA4US
- Blaque Resource Network • Rockaway Business Alliance

For more information about this or any state or local issue, contact
Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte's office: 1312 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210, 718-940-0428,
Email: bichotter@nyassembly.gov, www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte

Join **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** and **Senator James Sanders Jr.** on Monday, **April 27th** at **12:00 p.m** and **4:00 p.m** to learn how to fill out the Paycheck Protection Program application line by line. To view the training on Monday, visit [here](#).

BUSINESS



Below are **small business grant** applications shared by the **Flatbush Nostrand Junction Business Improvement District** :

- **SheaMoisture** is offering three separate programs, totaling \$1 million. The three programs are:
 - **100,000 Unsung Businesses**: If your business is assisting communities through COVID-19 and need funding to stay operational.

- **Black Business Relief Fund in partnership with 'We Buy Black'** If you are a Black-owned business and at-risk of losing your business due to hardships to provide for yourself or your employees at this time.
- **Women of Color Entrepreneur E-Lab:** E-learning hub for women of color who are looking to minimize financial disruptions and learn how to create a business recovery plan.
 - To apply for any of these programs, [Apply here.](#)
- **HelloAlice** is partnering with **Verizon** to offer grants of up to **\$50,000** to as many as **100,000** small businesses. [Apply here.](#)
- **Facebook** is offering **\$4,000** small business grants. The deadline to apply is **May 5th**. To qualify you must:
 - Be a for-profit company
 - Have between **2 and 50** employees
 - Have been in business for over a year
 - Have experienced challenges from COVID-19
 - Be in or near a location where Facebook operates.
 - To apply visit [here.](#)
- **The Red Backpack Fund** is offering **\$5000** emergency assistance grants to at least **1,000** majority women-owned businesses and nonprofits in the U.S. between May and September 2020. Eligibility requirements:
 - Majority women-owned businesses and nonprofits with annual revenues less than **\$5M**
 - Have fewer than **50** individuals on staff
 - Businesses must be in good standing and incorporated as a legal entity
 - Be able to demonstrate that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing hardship

- To apply visit [here](#). Application will re-open in **May 4th**.

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



Photo Credit: Global News

The Governor announced that NYS will provide **child care scholarships to essential workers**. The CARES Act provides **\$30 million** to essential workers whose income is less than **300%** of the federal poverty level or **\$78,600** for a family of four. Essential workers can use the funding to pay for their existing care arrangement.

The Governor also announced that federal funding will also be used to purchase supplies for child care providers that remain open. This includes purchasing:

- Masks
- Gloves
- Diapers and baby wipes

- Baby formula and food.

Child care agencies will receive grants of approximately **\$600** per provider. If an essential worker needs child care or child care provider needs supplies they "should contact their local child care resource and referral agency."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEXT PROGRAM



Photo Credit: Shutterstock

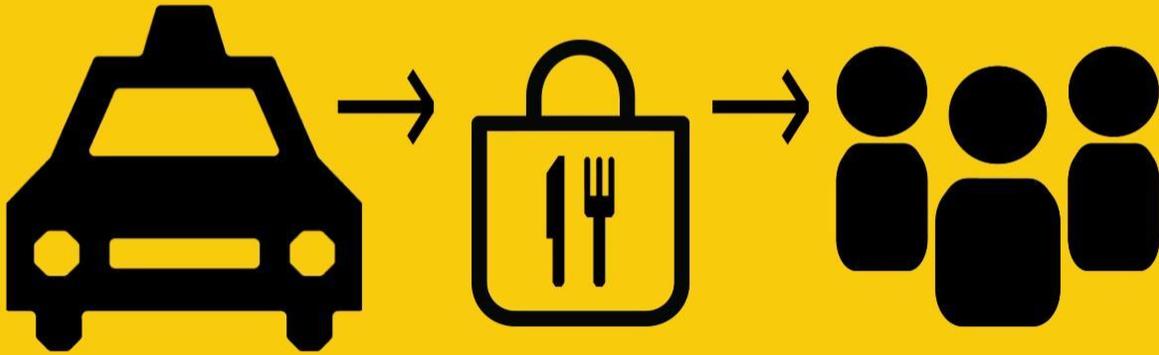
Today, Governor Cuomo announced a "**New Domestic Violence Text Program**" and a "**New Confidential Online Service**" to assist victims of abuse due to an uptick of domestic violence cases. For assistance, text **844-997-2121** or visit the new confidential website [here](#). The text and online services will be staffed **24/7** with a representative from the **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**.

TAXI FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM



Help your neighbors and make money too.

You can earn \$20/hour (\$15 base pay + \$5 for expenses) by delivering meals to New Yorkers in need.



For more information about the TLC Driver Food Delivery program, visit nyc.gov/deliverytlc.

For more information about the **Taxi and Limousine Commission** Food Deliver Program, [visit here](#).

THANK YOU ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Always there when we need them.

Thank you

first responders!

During these unprecedented and difficult times, **we thank our essential workers** who are serving on the front lines. Today, we thank our **First Responders** for rushing to answer our calls.

AVOID SCAMS

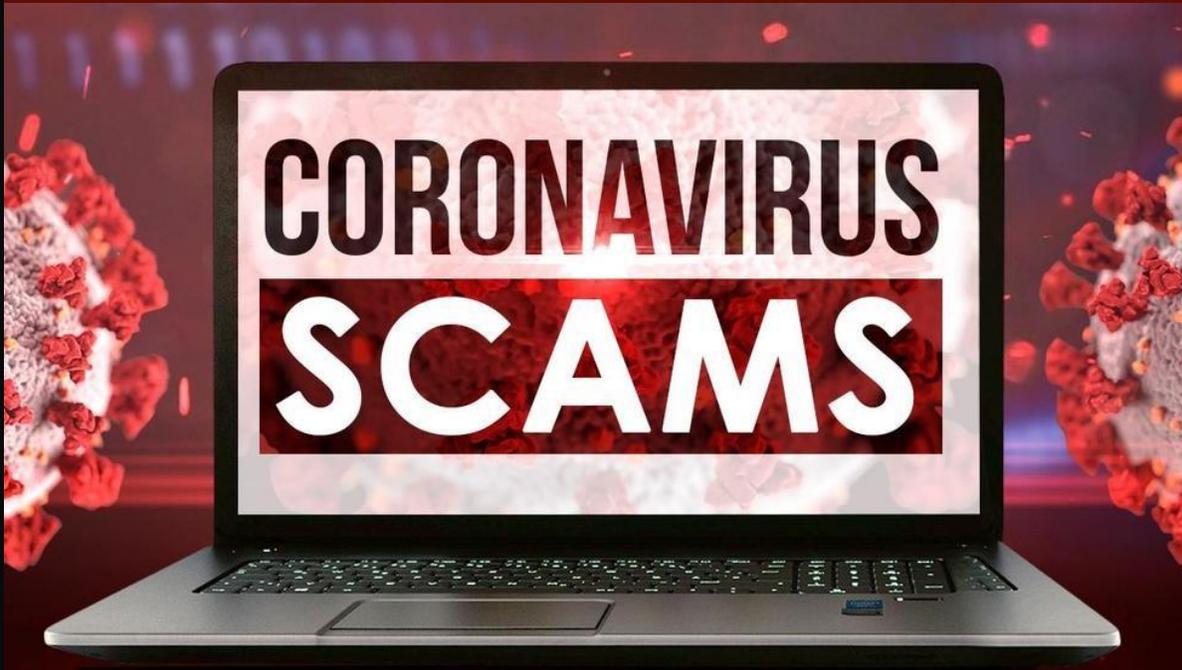


Photo Credit: Pixabay/CDC

- Notify NYC: Beware of COVID19 scams!
- Report **price gouging** to 311 or [NYC.gov/dcwp](https://www.nyc.gov/dcwp). You can also file a complaint to the Attorney General's office, fill out a [complaint form](#).
- **NYS Price Gouging Hotline: 800-697-1220.**
- CDC staff will **NOT** go door-to-door. If you experience this, call 911.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES



Photo Credit: Ansi.org

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on New York City's workforce, the City of New York has developed a list of resources for those who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 or are seeking additional assistance. The list below will be updated frequently.

It has information on the following categories:

- **Employment Resources**
- **Food Assistance**
- **Health & Medical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Rent Arrears and Public Assistance**
- **Emotional Support & Spiritual Care**
- **Other Assistance**

Visit this [website](#) for resources.

NYS Department of Health Hotline for people who want to be assessed and get appointment for test ([888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065)). NYC residents should call ([844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692)).

Volunteer to Support

Others: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/resources/covid-19-relief.page#healthcare_workers.

Free Internet Services:

Charter is offering free spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to household with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, **call 844-488-8395**. Until further notice, all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. For more information visit [here](#).

In-District Businesses open/closed : Provided by **Flatbush Avenue BID and Church Avenue BID** : Visit Flatbush Avenue Business Directory [here](#) and Church Avenue Business directory [here](#). Businesses open/closed: Provided by **Flatbush Development Corporation** : Visit Flatbush Business Corridor Directory [here](#). Includes businesses located in:

- Cortelyou Road (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Coney Island Avenue (Cortelyou Road - Foster Ave)
- Newkirk Plaza
- Newkirk Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Foster Avenue (Coney Island Ave - Ocean Ave)
- Ditmas Park

Small Businesses:

For resources on **business** grants and loans, [visit here](#).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., shortness of breath or difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments. Current information on COVID-19 is limited; home precautions are conservative and based on general recommendations for other diseases, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

STAY INFORMED

STAY INFORMED

about
coronavirus



Health officials are working tirelessly to protect public health and contain this virus. And, as your representative in Albany, I am working to ensure that our state is putting the health and safety of our families first.

Remember COVID-19 can affect any community and we must stand by one another during this time, not alienate, threaten or discriminate against others.

For questions you can also reach out to the New York State's novel coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. For continuous updates, you can visit the following websites:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

The CDC also now has the option for you to sign up for weekly updates on COVID-19.

New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Email Updates [Here](#) and Ask Questions About COVID-19 [Here](#)

New Yorkers Can Find More Information About the New COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law [Here](#)

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES)** , and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education , Banks, Health, and Higher Education** . She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.**

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her websites:
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>
and www.rodneysebichotte.net

STAY CONNECTED

