



ASSEMBLYWOMAN **Latrice Monique Walker**

Reports to the People • Winter 2020

Dear Neighbor:

I hope and pray this newsletter finds you, the citizens of District 55 doing well. First, I want to say thank you for entrusting me with another term to represent our district. We are living in unprecedented times. We were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic (coronavirus), but we are a resilient community that takes care of our own. I am fighting to ensure that all the members of our community have the state resources that they need to live healthy and successful lives. As we all have had to adjust and readjust amid a pandemic, the work must still be done to keep the State of New York moving in an upward direction. Through the pandemic, I traveled to the state capitol to pass a state budget that provided millions of dollars to our neediest communities. I have also introduced and sponsored comprehensive police reform legislation. We passed legislation that now legalizes New York bystanders to electronically tape police and civilian interactions. We also repealed rule 50A which now makes the disciplinary record of a police officer available for the public to see.

This newsletter is intended to be a helpful resource to keep you up to date on issues affecting the 55th Assembly District and our state.

Sincerely,

Latrice Monique Walker
Assemblywoman, 55th A.D.



Personal Protective Equipment Distribution in the Community

HERE ARE SOME KEY BILLS THAT I HAVE INTRODUCED AND SPONSORED

A8280C Walker -- Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process also known as Automatic Voter Registration, (AVR).

SUMM : Participating agencies will provide personal voter registration applications that have been integrated with applications for agency services. The included agencies are Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities, County and City Departments of Social Services, and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

A8337B Walker -- Relates to allowing for medical and psychiatric records of deceased inmates to be accessed by the Board of Correction of the City of New York

SUMM : Pub Health L Allows for medical and psychiatric records of deceased inmates to be accessed by the Board of Correction of the City of New York under certain circumstances.

A8674A Walker -- Relates to the use of body-worn cameras by New York state police officers

SUMM : Exec L Relates to the use of body-worn cameras by New York state police officers; establishes the New York state police body-worn cameras program; requires the division of state police to provide body-worn cameras to be worn by all officers.



ASSEMBLY SPONSORED BILLS REGARDING HOUSING:

- S8802/A10826** - Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020 - provides a universal right to relief from housing payments for renters and small homeowners during the COVID-19 public state emergency designated by the executive of New York State, and establishes protections for individuals exercising that right. This bill also authorizes financial assistance for residential co-ops, affordable housing providers, landlords that can demonstrate hardship resulting from payments canceled pursuant to this act, and for public housing authorities.
- S8667/A10827** - Extends the suspension on residential and commercial eviction proceedings to one year after the COVID-19 state of emergency has ended.
- S8865/A10901** - Limits rent payments, from March 7, 2020 through the end of the pandemic, for certain tenants that have lost income or were forced to close their business, allows non-profits or small businesses with 25 employees or fewer to pay up to 20% of their income or of their contractual rent, whichever is less.
- S8175/A10265** - Amends the 1974 Tenant Protection guidelines so that the rent guidelines board is prevented from increasing rents on one-year leases during a state disaster emergency.
- S5009/A5199** - Relates to providing counsel to those who cannot afford it in court proceedings relating to eviction and foreclosure actions. This is also Assemblywoman Walker's Gideon Act, Right to Counsel Bill.
- A5030B** - Good cause eviction aims to prevent landlords from having excessive rent increases. Unreasonable increases are defined as increases of over 3% or 1 times the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater. This will be an amendment to the real property law.

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker –

FOOD UPDATE

Food insecurity is a major concern in our community, which has been further emphasized by the pandemic. As your Assemblywoman I have made sure that half a million in financial resources have been allocated to our district to assist with the various organizations and their efforts to combat the food insecurity issue.

TAX LIEN ISSUE

New Yorkers are still facing financial burdens due to the pandemic, including hundreds of homeowners from our community. The tax lien sale will only exacerbate the economic crisis and result in homeowners — mostly in communities of color — potentially losing their homes during this time.

The buildings included in the sale every year are disproportionately located in communities of color. In fact, according to the Coalition for Affordable Homes, the city is six times more likely to sell a lien on a property in a majority Black neighborhood and two times more likely to sell a lien on a property in a majority Hispanic neighborhood than in a majority white neighborhood. Over two hundred homes on the list are properties built by affordable homeownership programs like the “Nehemiah Homes.”

The city usually conducts extensive outreach to property owners to ensure residents in debt to the city are aware that they are in jeopardy of entering the lien sale process and knowledgeable about alternative payment plans. This year because of the severe constraints that COVID-19 has placed on outreach efforts, much of this work was not done at nearly the same levels as in years past. While the tax lien sale generates approximately \$34 million in revenue for New York City, it does so on the backs of low-income earners.

As an active member of the Housing Committee in the New York State Assembly, I am strongly in support of affordable housing with a specific emphasis on affordable homeownership. This is a key reason that I proposed Bill A 2673 The Civil Gideon Act. The Civil Gideon Act provides counsel to those who cannot afford representation in court proceedings relating to civil matters, in this case eviction and foreclosure actions. It is unduly burdensome on the residents of The City of New York to be subject to daily interest that is compounding and can possibly result in individuals losing their homes.

Homeownership should be one of the basic ways to obtain generational wealth.

I have always been at the forefront advocating for the continuance and broadening of generational wealth in Black and Brown communities. For hundreds of years Black and Brown people have been denied the constitutional protections of property ownership.

I fully support the abolishment of tax lien sales.

MORATORIUM FOR FORECLOSURES, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LEASES

New York State has extended the moratorium on commercial evictions and foreclosures through January 1, 2021. Governor Andrew Cuomo’s [Executive Order 202.70](#) extends the previous deadline of November 3, 2020, in order to “align with [the] residential eviction moratorium so they are both extended to the same date.” In a statement delivered on [October 20, 2020](#), Governor Cuomo addressed the continued economic hardship on commercial tenants and mortgagors and expressed hope that the extension will provide additional time for commercial tenants to catch up on rent or renegotiate their leases and give mortgagors the opportunity to avoid foreclosure moving forward.



Rally to end Tax Lien with Attorney Walker, Scott Stringer and their children

Here Are Some Of The Organizations That Went Above And Beyond To Partner With Our Office And The Community During The Pandemic

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all the organizations that have helped our community during these trying times by offering food resources daily to the community.

The Campaign Against Hunger - (TCAH) was founded in 1998. They offer hundreds of nutrition education classes, workshops, and cooking demonstrations each year for their clients. On a weekly basis the TCAH feeds thousands of families in our district. If you need assistance, visit them here: www.tcahnyc.org/find-food/

Collective Fair - Is a culinary, teaching, and catering community organization that serves free and low-cost meals to the community with a food delivery option. If you need assistance, visit them here: <https://www.collectivefare.com/need-a-meal>

Universe City - The Universe City Farm holds the promise of creating a decentralized food port model that will lead the way for localized economies and create the smallest environmental impact within our cities. In response to COVID-19, Universe City NYC has shifted all response efforts towards rapid emergency food production and distribution in East Brooklyn. They work as a coordinated community food hub for receiving, storing, and distributing hundreds of pounds of food to the most vulnerable in our community. They are dedicated to these efforts exclusively for the foreseeable future. Visit them here: <https://www.universecity.nyc/>

Please find additional resources that have received funding to assist with our food resources:

Food Bank NYC

<https://www.foodbanknyc.org/get-help/>



Collective Fare “Cook and Chat” making Egusi Soup and Shrimp and Grits with Chef Femi Frazer

in Albany and Around the District



Medgar Evers Subway Station Renaming



Assemblywoman Latrice Walker at Restoration Plaza for Empower Her event and Be You Not Her book signing



Community Bike Ride for 2020 Census Awareness



Bookaween with Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, State Senator Zellnor Myrie, and Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel and staff.

COMMITTEES

Chair, Legislative Commission on Science and Technology: (LCST) provides leadership, planning and coordination in all areas that involve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Codes: : a senior committee that handles all of the rules and laws in all of the other various committees with an emphasis on the area of criminal justice.

Housing: responsible for legislation concerning housing development and preservation. Its purview includes rent regulation, as well as legislation that amends volumes of the New York consolidated laws such as; multiple dwelling law; multiple residence law; private housing finance law (which governs state programs like Mitchell- Lama); and public housing law.

Election law: jurisdiction over all legislation that affects elections such as ballot access, voter registration and enrollment, voter education and outreach, campaign financing and related administrative procedures.

Correction: jurisdiction over legislation affecting all aspects of the operations of both state and local correctional facilities, with 54 state correctional facilities and 62 local correctional systems, including all local jails and police lockups operated by municipalities across New York State. New York has approximately 53,000 inmates in state facilities and 27,370 inmates in local facilities.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: The Assembly Committee on Judiciary has jurisdiction over legislation affecting all aspects of both state and local courts. It has primary jurisdiction over amendments to the State Constitution, Civil Practice Law and Rules, Judiciary Law, Uniform Court Acts, Family Court Act, Surrogate's Court and Procedure Act, Domestic Relations Law, Estates Powers and Trusts Law, Uniform Commercial Code, Lien Law, Debtor-Creditor Law, General Obligations Law, Real Property Law, Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Civil Rights Law, Partnership Law, Eminent Domain Procedure Law and Indian Law. The Committee also shares budgetary oversight of the Office of Court Administration and the Department of Law with the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. In addition, all proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution are considered by the Judiciary Committee.

Vice President Elect, Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus

Member, Legislative Women's Caucus

Member, Puerto Rican/ Hispanic Task Force

55th Community Connections Listing

PLEASE VISIT RESPECTIVE WEBSITES OR CALL FOR VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Third Saturday of the Month

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

- CB 3 First Monday of the Month
- CB 4 Third Wednesday of the Month
- CB 5 Fourth Wednesday of the Month
- CB 8 Second Thursday of the Month
- CB 16 Fourth Tuesday of the Month
- CB 17 Third Wednesday of the Month



COMMUNITY PRECINCT MEETING

- 67th PCT Third Thursday of the Month
- 73rd PCT Third Thursday of the Month
- 75th PCT First Wednesday of the Month
- 77th PCT First Monday of the Month
- 81st PCT Second Tuesday of the Month
- PSA 2 Third Tuesday of the Month
- PSA 3 First Wednesday of the Month

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker – Around the District



Assemblywoman Walker at Stop the Violence Rally



Halloween at Amboy Community Gardens

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