



Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman

Reports to the People
Winter 2021

Greetings!

I hope you're having a happy start to the holiday season. Whether you'll be traveling to break bread with family and friends, hosting your favorite people at your place, or planning to take a breather to replenish from a tough year or devastating loss, I hope you do what's best for you. We know that nourishment is about more than what's on your plate, and I've long found that serving the community is nourishing to my soul. I'm honored by the opportunity to serve you and uplift your ideas for the continued development of our community.

Since beginning my first term in January, I've worked with my colleagues in the New York State Assembly and Senate to pass legislation and invest in programs and services to improve your quality of life. I've also enjoyed meeting you at indoor and outdoor events and at my State of the Streets pop-up office hours throughout our beloved Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights.

The 56th district has so much to offer and has great potential. I give thanks to the residents, organizations, and small businesses that comprise it! As you celebrate, don't forget to keep in mind the original Lenape inhabitants of this region, who with a welcoming spirit, cultivated the earth that continues to feed us. Let's all do our part to keep our air and water clean and to come to one another's aid as they modeled for us.

Have a healthy and happy holiday!



My Committee Work

Aging

Let's celebrate the near completion of the first year of The United Nations global Decade of Healthy Aging! This collaboration, focused on improving the lives of older people, their families, and communities, will set policies and make progress on sustainability goals for New York State by the year 2030.

As we continue to foster healthy aging, ensuring that people of all ages can age with dignity, we are grateful for the partnership with our Ambassadors from Age Friendly Central Brooklyn. AFCB is a senior-led



initiative that promotes active aging through wellness and social activities to keep seniors healthy, happy, and strong! I am pleased to support this initiative with a first-time grant of \$10,000 from New York State to continue their efforts to support the social, economic, cultural, and civic interests of older adults in Central Brooklyn.

I look forward to working with them and other age-friendly advocates on creating the long-term ombudsman program A6753, monitoring the investment of \$1 million for naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC) and promoting WHO's ICOPE (Integrated Care for Older People) app, offering a screening assessment for personalized care plans.

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Agriculture

The next step is working to guard against climate change, rising hunger, and current and future pandemics by deepening and broadening our local food system. To support the ongoing food justice efforts in Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, I allocated \$10,000 to implement the Central Brooklyn Food Hub.

My priority this term was listening to BIPOC and women-run farms in our district and upstate to understand the challenges to placing control of the food system in the hands of those who produce it and those who consume it. Currently, there are seven schools in District 16 that are growing food in soil or in hydroponic labs in conjunction with the NY Sun Work's Green House Project. They are Bedford Stuyvesant New Beginnings Charter School, Public Schools 21, 59, and 8, The Brooklyn Green School, Boys and Girls High School and Research and Service High School. Next, the step is to create the Carver's Lab in partnership with Brooklyn Sprouts and Tuskegee Institute and hydroponic labs who will organize to become a District 56 Future Farmer of America Chapter.



Labor

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce, I am committed to the groundwork involved in building a 21st Century workforce. I believe that intentional investments in education and training will ensure business ownership opportunities for burgeoning entrepreneurs and long-term employment and economic stability for workers. As your state representative, I made a deep investment of \$50 million with my colleagues in workforce development programs.

I am partnering with schools, organizations, and industry leaders/experts to create new career pathways for young adults, returning citizens, and those looking for encore careers. My focus is on industries (1) that are significantly understaffed like aviation and transportation, (2) where BIPOC workers are underrepresented and (3) that have emerged because of the pandemic or recent technological advances. I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Labor Committee to further examine how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting current employment trends. Please contact my office regarding your employment needs so that we can help you and your family to become or remain stable and to reach your aspirations.

People Living with Disabilities

In an effort to support district residents living with disabilities, we launched the District 56 People Living with Disabilities council in May. I am proud to work with this group that answered the call to establish this coalition, some of whom have a disability themselves and/or are parents and advocates of disabled loved ones and friends. I want to thank them for saying yes to uplifting the voices of the disabled in Brooklyn!

As a member of the New York State Committee on People with Disabilities, I am among some of the strongest advocates and legislators who have dedicated themselves to fighting systemic inequities faced by the disability community. Some of the legislation we passed this year, includes a bill to create a public awareness program to combat the stigma and stereotyping of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; providing a hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs; and establishing a process for monitoring New York's response to the COVID-19 statewide disaster emergency as it relates to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

You are invited to submit one suggestion to help make our district more accessible to people with disabilities. Please email your response to zinerma@nyassembly.gov.

Tourism, Arts, Parks and Sports Development

Considering the wealth of cultural experiences and resources we have to offer, I'm fully invested in making the 56th a global destination. Among our treasures: Weeksville Heritage Center, the Audelco and Obie award-winning Billie Holiday Theatre, Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Center, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and the upcoming Cultural Museum of African Art, for which I procured (along with Speaker Carl Heastie), a \$1 million grant.



I look forward to working with TAMA BedStuy, the Bed Stuy Gateway BID, and other merchant's associations to boost the local economy by creating more vibrant commercial corridors. Some of them now boast businesses such as Calabar, Richard Beavers, and Welancora galleries and such as the venues comprising the Nostrand, Sistas' Place, Sankofa Aban Bed and Breakfast with Brownstone Jazz. And, of course, there are our favorite places to eat and drink, such as the Nostrand Avenue Bar and Restaurant Association (NBAR), Peaches Restaurants, Bed Vyne Brew, Natural Blend Vegan Cafe & Juice Bar, The Bush Doctor Juice Bar, Basquiat's Bottle, Chez Oskar, Brooklyn Beso, Saraghina and more. Not to mention the great shopping opportunities at Peace and Riot, Moshood/Afrikan Spirit, Bed Stuy Fly, and wellness centers like Bed Stuy Fit, Life Wellness Center spa, and N-Diya Center.

With the feasibility study commissioned to reimagine the Sumner Avenue armory, Marcus Garvey Blvd. is the next jewel in the 56th crown. With Buy Better Foods, Lucky's and Zaca Cafe, the boulevard named for the visionary Marcus Mosiah Garvey will finally live up to its name.

Finally, our historic districts offer tourists and visitors beautiful architectural brownstones and Akwabaa and Stuyvesant mansions, blocks that have been awarded multiple times as Greenest Block in Brooklyn, and the streets named after our heroes such as Harriet Ross Tubman Ave., Malcolm X Blvd., Marcus Garvey Blvd., Dr. Joan Maynard Way, and the first block in the nation to be named after a film, Do the Right Thing Way.

Resource List

Federal Elected Officials:

- Congressman Hakeem Jeffries – 8th District
(718) 237-2211
- Congresswoman Yvette Clarke – 9th District
(718) 287-1142

State Elected Officials:

- Governor Kathy Hochul
(518) 474-8390
- NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli
(518) 474-4044
- NYS Attorney General Letitia James
(800) 771-7755
- NYS Senator Jabari Brisport – 25th District
(718) 643-6140
- NYS Assembly Member Stefani L. Zinerman – 56th District
(718) 399-7630

City & Local Elected Officials:

- Mayor-Elect Eric L. Adams
(212) 788-1400
- Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
(212) 669-7200
- Comptroller-Elect Brad Lander
(718) 499-1090
- Brooklyn Borough President
(718) 802-3700
- Brooklyn District Attorney
(718) 250-2001
- Council Member Chi Osse
(718) 919-0700

Local Officials:

- Community Board 3
(718) 622-6601
- Community Board 8
(718) 467-5620
- 77th Precinct
(718) 735-0611
- 79th Precinct
(718) 636-6611
- 81st Precinct
(718) 574-0411

City Services & Utilities:

- Directory of NYC Resources
311
- Citywide Administrative Services
(212) 669-4300

- Civilian Complaint Review Board
(800) 341-2272
- Con Edison
(800) 752-6633
- Department for the Aging
(212) 244-6469

Department of Buildings (DOB):

- Department of Environmental Protection
(212) 639-9675
- Department of Finance
(212) 639-9675
- Department of Health + Mental Hygiene
(212) 639-9675
- Department of Homeless Services
(212) 361-8000
- Department of Labor
(518) 457-9000
- Department of Sanitation
(212) 639-9675
- FDNY
(718) 999-2719
- Metropolitan Transit Authority
(877) 690-5116
- National Grid
(718) 643-4050
- NYC Department of Parks + Recreation
(518) 474-0456
- Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program
(718) 557-1399
- Sex/Labor Trafficking – HELP LINE
TEXT 233733 OR call (888) 373-788

Community-Based Services:

- Ancient Song Doula Services
(347) 778-3490
- Arab Family Support
(718) 643-8000
- Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation
(718) 487-2300
- Campaign Against Hunger
(718) 773-3551
- JobsFirstNYC
(917) 267-5575
- WIC – Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center
(718) 857-4375

Keeping us Safe

Despite decades of advocacy and millions of dollars spent, our community remains impacted by domestic and gun violence. This summer, we saw the sharpest rise in community violence and national protest against police violence. While rallies are effective in amplifying these important issues, we need to use all of the tools at our disposal to keep us safe. I've invested our tax dollars in a community stewardship model that focuses on youth development, access to mental health and wellness services and jobs. Our Power 56 collective is comprised of five groups: The Bro Experience, Both Sides of the Violence (BSV), Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI), Neighbors in Action (NIA), and the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, Inc., (The GodSquad) to promote safety, healing, and wellness through transformational programming that strengthens the whole person and builds stronger communities. In partnership with Bridge Street Development Corporation and Opportunity for Better tomorrow, we will provide wraparound services, employment prep and jobs to youth involved in or at risk for violent activities.

Legislation on the Move!

The Amistad Commission

I'm the proud lead sponsor of this bill to create the Amistad commission, providing a comprehensive approach to teaching Black History to all K-12 students in public and private schools statewide. Curricula developed with historians and scholars would celebrate more than the cultural, artistic, and athletic accomplishments of African Americans. It would highlight the courage and resilience of the everyday heroes of the Civil Rights Movement and other freedom struggles, and the contributions of the many military heroes, educators, inventors, etc.

Elder Parole

Bill S2144 advocates for fair and safe parole eligibility for certain incarcerated elders. Inmates aged 55 and older serving long sentences aren't automatically considered safety or flight risks, but the pandemic creates an urgency for their release. A process would be created to effectively evaluate which inmates would be recommended for parole and if they might pose an infection risk once released.

John Lewis Voting Act

Named for the Civil Rights hero and devoted congressman, this Act would protect those whose voting rights are denied or hampered and create civil liabilities for voter intimidation. Help with voting would be provided to language-minority groups and election data would be maintained by a statewide database.

Community Commission on Reparations Remedies

James Baldwin said that we cannot change what we cannot face. Assembly Bill A2619A is an act to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the city and state of New York. It will establish a commission to study reparations remedies, including compensation, and examine the institution of slavery and its historical impacts on enslaved African-Americans in New York, their lineage, and their living descendants.

Jitu Weusi Plaza

I was also delighted to present a proclamation celebrating the opening of Jitu Weusi Plaza (formerly the Putnam Triangle) in honor of the beloved educator, innovator, and leader. He founded and helmed The EAST organization that established one of the nation's first independent Black schools, as well as the International African Arts Festival and several self-sufficient businesses in Bedford-Stuyvesant, providing a model emulated nationwide.

DNA Database

A6124 requires expungement of the unauthorized NYC DNA database. The bill explicitly prohibits New York City from maintaining a separate DNA database and clarifies that the New York State DNA database is the only legally authorized DNA index in the state. Currently, they are 33,000 unauthorized DNA samples including juveniles in the database maintained by the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and used by the NYPD.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248




Assemblymember

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