



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Jaime Williams

Reports to the People



Winter 2021

5318 Avenue N, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11234 • 718-252-2124
Room 523 LOB, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5211 • williamsja@nyassembly.gov

Message from the Assembly Member

As the holiday season approaches, and we turn the page on this year, I would like to reflect on the amazing achievements we have reached in the New York State Assembly and in our community, continually ensuring the livelihood of our communities. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish the residents of the 59th Assembly District a joyous, healthy and flourishing holiday season. I hope that 2021 was an amazing year and look forward to what 2022 has in store for us all. I look excitedly toward our future as I continue to serve as your Assembly member, my office and staff remain prepared to assist you all.

*Hon. Jaime Williams
Member of Assembly
59th Assembly
District*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Over the past year, from passing groundbreaking legislation, to making critical resources available to families and small businesses, the Assembly Majority and I have remained committed to ensuring the health, safety and well being of the residents of each District during this time as we reopen our city and recover from the effects of COVID-19.

Thus, the Assembly Majority has fought tirelessly throughout the 2021 State Legislative session to enact critical legislation and invest in resources that would directly help our communities, families and small businesses recover and rebuild from the devastating economic effects of the pandemic.

In addition to providing essential relief, the Assembly also passed a record-breaking 2021-2022 State Budget that invests in our children's future, from pre-K through Graduation Days. The Assembly Majority also ensured restorative funding for child care, family, children's programs and youth programs.

This year, I have had a host of my own legislation passed surrounding Environmental Protections, Key money savings for college students on public transportation, Property Tax Law, Homeowner Protections and General Safety.

Additionally, Governor Hochul announced the beginning of Construction on a Flood Protection Project in our neighborhood of Canarsie. The State will begin construction on flood protection in one of our most vulnerable areas of Fresh Creek's shoreline, which was affected by Superstorm Sandy 9 years ago. This will help the area recover more quickly from natural disasters. It is crucial that we take our emergency preparedness seriously in the 59th Assembly District as climate change continues to increase. Our District is particularly vulnerable to storms given our location and proximity to the water, this project will allow us to be more resilient in the event of a storm or any natural disaster.



Governor Hochul signed into law a bill that has been very personal to me in my advocacy for our community. Introduced by my colleague Senator Andrew Gounardes, The Stop Loud & Excessive Exhaust Pollution Act, will decrease the amount of noisy, illegal mufflers and exhaust systems to protect public health, safety and the quality of life of New Yorkers. This act will deter drivers from installing noisy equipment to their vehicles that will emit pollutants harmful to our communities.

Governor Hochul also signed a bill into law expanding the discrimination protections of the Human Rights Law to include for-profit colleges, universities, career schools, and English as a second language schools. By declaring that the provisions of the Human Rights Law apply to these institutions, New York State will ensure that all students are afforded legal protection against discrimination. Enacting this pivotal piece of legislation will ensure that New Yorkers are able to attend any school with protections against inequity or harassment which have no place in the education system.

As we turn the corner of this year, we realize it was the compassion, resilience and strength of New Yorkers that helped us get to this point and showed all that we can accomplish if we work together. My commitment is to keep fighting and advocating for New Yorkers while putting families first, ensuring the safety and well being of all of our community.

Around the Community

Park Clean-Up and Restoration

Over the past year, mobilizing the community to come together to reinvigorate and beautify the local parks and other areas of the 59th Assembly District proved to be extremely rewarding. Hosting more than 15 community clean-ups with the help of local organizations such as, Marine Park Alliance, NYC Parks, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, and our wonderful community volunteers, we were able to make a positive fulfilling impact on our local community and wildlife. It was a beautiful sight to see both the community working together and the fruits of their labor in our beautiful Parks and local area.



National Public Lands Day

The National Public Lands Day Clean Up took place Saturday, September 25th, cleaning and beautifying Canarsie Piers shoreline which is an ever important part of our local environment. This event, sponsored by Jamaica Bay - Rockaway Parks Conservancy, United By Blue, The National Parks Service and myself, brought people from the community out in droves to support and help to make our community beautiful. Removing over 1,000 pounds of trash and debris from the shoreline of Canarsie Pier with the help of our sponsors and volunteers was a beautiful display of community togetherness and overall care for one another as we bettered our environment.



Plumb Beach Restoration

Along with the help of Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy and the youths from the NYC Cleanup Corp. we were able to collaborate in restoring the Plumb Beach main building. This photo is a testament to just how important caring for our community is. This restoration creates a more scenic environment for the members of the community to enjoy as they visit their local Plumb Beach.

Blue Fish Festival



Myself, Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service hosted the scholars of PS 272 for the 59th Assembly District's 6th Annual Bluefish Festival Celebration. The Festival celebrates the local wildlife and marine environment, while recognizing the need for the preservation and protection of the natural marine biomes of Canarsie Pier and Jamaica Bay. Together, the volunteers and young scholars collected over 500lbs of debris from our shoreline, while participating in educational workshops that fostered a newfound love, knowledge and respect for their local wildlife.

E-waste / Shredding



In the past year, in the 59th District, along with local elected officials we have hosted several Paper Shredding and E-Waste Events which have been extremely popular among constituents. People from in and out of the District come to shred their documents and utilize proper disposal of their electronics or hard to dispose of materials such as paint. It is amazing to provide such a popular service to the community and to see just how important safe disposal of documents and other materials is.

Tulip Festival

It is always a pleasure to clean and beautify our local public spaces. This year's Tulip Festival, made possible by Marine Park Alliance marks the community planting new seeds for a fruitful and beautiful future. As we move into fall, these bulbs we have planted will receive sufficient chilling to produce healthy buds in the Spring. It is a beautiful occurrence to be able to come together as a community to make our Park beautiful and learn some valuable knowledge along the way. I am so proud of the sponsors and our wonderful volunteers, especially our young Environmental Ambassador Savannah Esposito for assisting in making the beautification of our community possible. Moving forward, maintaining the integrity of our public spaces is integral to our communities' continuity.



Celebrating Caribbean Heritage Month

In celebration of Caribbean American heritage month, hosting this event brought great pride. We were able to showcase the many amazing aspects of Caribbean culture. Our collaboration with Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Assemblymember Nick Perry, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Councilmember Farah Louis along with our cosponsors, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, MetroPlus Health, Millennium Development, 63rd and 69th precincts, Auxiliary, Canarsie Lions, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, District Leaders Frank Seddio, Melba P. Brown and Sue Ann Partnow brought great success.



Highlighting the diverse cuisines from small businesses to name a few, Trini Jam, Tropical Paradise, Tamara Caribbean Kitchen, Kweyol Delights and Golden Krust, made the event especially great. Through our sponsors WIADCA, Sesame Flyers, Tropical Fete, Destination Dominica and East Flatbush Village we were able to feature the Carnival Queen, Steel Pan, drumming, Bollywood dance, a fashion show, Moko Jumbies and so much more. We were delighted in having the presence of the Consul General of Jamaica, Mrs. Alston Wilson, O.D., Consul General of Trinidad, Mr. J. Andre Laveau, Representative from the Consul General of Guyana, Ms. Neera Kukhi and Representative from the Consul General of Barbados, Ms. Linda Watson-Lorde.

This beautiful display of culture and pride conveyed the importance of unity. I hope to continue celebrating the movement of the Caribbean diaspora and I'm ecstatic to see this event grow in the years to come.

Kids On the Move

Homecoming PS 276



We welcomed our scholars back to school after several months of shutdowns. To celebrate this accomplishment, PS 276 hosted a homecoming celebration in which the scholars celebrated being back at their home schools. During this event, school supplies and PPE were distributed to aid our scholars in starting a successful school year. This Homecoming after the long shutdowns due to COVID-19 rejuvenates our scholars' love and eagerness to learn and be back in the familiar environment of the classroom.



59th Assembly District Environmental Ambassador Program

Meeting with the Principals and staff of our local schools to organize and ensure the continuation of our Environmental Student Ambassador Program was entirely fulfilling. The students will learn a plethora of knowledge on their environment and local biomes with the help of our partners Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, NYC Aquarium and Millennium Development.



Back to School Distribution

Our Back to School Distribution was an amazing success, providing over 300 local scholars with backpacks and school supplies to prepare them for a successful school year. The event was made possible by Kings Plaza Mall, School Supply Campaign Inc., Dr. Lyalin, Daniel, NYPD, Millennium Development, East Flatbush Village, Donald Cranston, Donald Cranston Jr., and many gracious donors. I was delighted to be able to facilitate the preparedness of our local students and look forward to their bright futures.

Big News

Kingsborough

Over the last several months I have spearheaded the push for Kingsborough Community College to become a certified offshore wind basic safety training facility. Through the advocacy of my colleagues in the State we were able to secure \$3 million for Kingsborough Community College with matching funds of \$1.5 million for the wind industry safety training which will go hand in hand with the new Wind Turbines to be installed off the coast of Long Island. These programs will train students to be a part of the new Wind Power industry here in our great city and will also enhance the existing maritime technology program at Kingsborough. Not only will this stimulate the economy but it will provide education and jobs for those in our community who are interested in wind power. Once installed these wind turbines will innovate our great city in increasing our clean energy usage and reduce our city's emissions. I am so excited to see this program get its start and to see the positive effect on our environment wind power will create for our great City.

Anti-Gun Violence Initiative

This year, the first-in-the-nation Anti-Gun Violence Initiative began in New York State. This initiative created the Office of Gun Violence Prevention which will work with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to compile data and pinpoint gun violence hotspots to provide resources to areas that need it most. Through the State budget and the help of the Governor and my colleagues, NYS Assembly Member N. Nick Perry and NYS Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, we secured three grants for the purpose of combating gun violence in the district in which we preside. The grants totaling over \$200,000 will assist in the prevention of youth being caught up in the recent gun violence plaguing our great State and City. The grants were awarded to East Flatbush Village, Inc., a community-based organization combating gun violence with programs geared toward the youth in the area, providing these children with recreational activities and educational tools. East Flatbush's programs enable youth ages 3 through 18 years old to express themselves in creative and positive ways while building their self-esteem. These activities provide the youths not only with resources and outlets, but also with mentors such as teachers, coaches and volunteers, who are willing and able to guide them, all the while diverting and preventing unneeded violence. It is immensely important to take the Gun Violence issue in our communities seriously. This initiative will directly combat the gun violence crisis throughout our communities.

Food Insecurity and Distribution

Over the last year it became evident that during this COVID-19 pandemic, people began experiencing severe food insecurity because of the lack of funds to purchase food and lack of access to food. To help combat this level of food insecurity in our community I have held upwards of 30 food distributions feeding over 1,000 families in and out of the 59th Assembly District. This work has been extremely fulfilling and has been incredibly helpful to the families that have benefited during these times of hardship. I would like to thank our partners, Millennium Development, Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Councilman Alan Maisel, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow and many more for helping procure and store the beautiful fresh produce for the families in our community. I look forward to continuing these amazing distributions for our community in the future creating a dependable resource for our community during times of hardship.



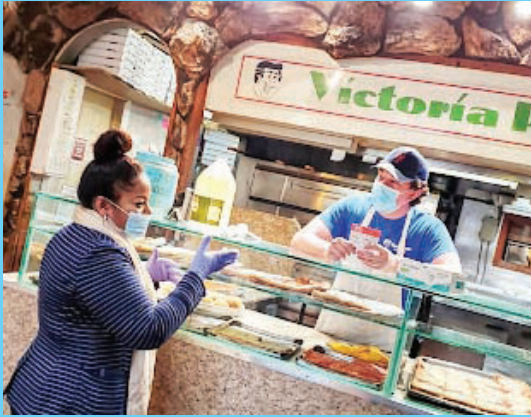
Haiti's Earthquake Relief/Fundraiser



Reeling from the devastating Earthquake in Haiti, my colleagues and I partnered with Beraca Baptist Church to spearhead a fundraiser for the victims of this horrible natural disaster. I went to Haiti myself to assess the damage and saw the level of need the people of Haiti were enduring that must be addressed. The Hope for Haiti event included inspiring words from and was in partnership with Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Councilwoman Farah Louis, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn, Assemblymember Clyde Vanel, Assemblymember Maritza Davila and many more. This event informed the community about the aftermath and severity of the earthquake inspiring them to donate to assist our brothers and sisters in Haiti. As a result of our fundraiser and several Donation Drop off points we were able to send those suffering in Haiti a plethora of goods that would aid in their recovery. I am so appreciative of Beraca Baptist Church and BCDC who have fought for Haiti and organized such amazing recovery programs.

Brooklyn Chamber on the Go

Small Business initiative with Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce PPE Distribution



Visiting local small businesses within our community along with Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and Senator Roxanne J. Persaud proved to be extremely fulfilling. Learning the stories of each store owner and providing PPE so that they can remain safe during this Pandemic is extremely important to the longevity of our community. Our small businesses are a reflection of us, we need to protect and revitalize them, as they are the backbone of our community.

Veterans Appreciation Day



Our First Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony was a beautiful display of our Veterans' dedication to serving our nation and protecting our livelihood. In partnership with several local elected officials, Marine Park Alliance, NYC Parks, Nick's Lobster House, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, Millennium Development and Senator Roxanne J. Persaud. This year was in honor of a dear friend Anthony Testaverde and the Aspromante Family. The event showcased a plethora of Veterans from our community and honored those who have risked their lives to protect our nation. These heroes bravely fought for our community and shall be celebrated continually each year during Veterans Day.

Festival of Lights Series

Diwali



Marine Park's Festival of Lights Series kicked off celebrating Diwali, sponsored by myself, Marine Park Alliance, Stephanie Samaroo, Amar Dyal, Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, Shivram's Bakery, Jo Mart Chocolates, Assemblymember Helene Weinstein, Senator Andrew Gounardes and Phillip Grand, ESQ. The Diwali Celebration commemorated the traditional Indian holiday in which people pray for health, knowledge, peace and prosperity in the year to come; whilst showcasing beautiful light shows and decorative masterpieces.

The Diwali celebration lit Marine Park's Carmine Carro Center inside and out with traditional Diyas (oil lamps), Lotuses, floral decor and sweet treats for attendees to enjoy. The Diwali observance also included an invocation by Pundit Sanjai Doobai, followed by a musical selection, traditional dance, fashion show and celebration of culture.

Attendees also included District Manager Sue Partnow, Civil Court Judge Inga O'Neale and the phenomenal NYPD Officers of the 63rd and 69th Precinct.

It was an honor and privilege to showcase the Diwali Festival of Lights Celebration, the celebration of culture is ever important to keeping our community together as one and showcasing the beautiful heritage and traditions that exist within.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Jaime Williams

Reports to the People

Winter 2021

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75

Turkey Distribution

The 59th Assembly District's Turkey Distribution was an amazing event providing a Holiday addition for the families of the community. It is increasingly important during these times of need to ensure that we are doing everything we can to ease some of the burden that the Pandemic has handed to us. This Turkey Distribution has been a showcase of community togetherness and care for one another through the holidays. During this time of need I felt truly blessed to partner with our phenomenal sponsors that made our Turnkey Distribution possible including, Mason Tenders Local 79, Kingsplaza Shopping Mall, Nicks Lobster, Met Council, Millennium Development, 63rd Pct Officers, Glen Terrace, Councilman Alan Maisel, Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow and Plaza Auto Mall.

Thank you to all of those who have dedicated their time into the wellbeing of our community this year.

