



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

July 10, 2020

District 61 News

Pakistani American Youth Society Volunteer Appreciation Day

It was wonderful to join the Pakistani American Youth Society (PAYS) for their volunteer appreciation day press conference to commend the hard work and dedication that 167 volunteers provided to New York City communities in need of food. At the peak of COVID-19, food access was a significant concern for many residents. Over 92 consecutive days, PAYS volunteers served 92,000 free hot halal meals across NYC. During the month of Ramadan, I was able to partner with PAYS and my Staten Island and city colleagues to distribute over 1,000 meals to Park Hill, West Brighton, and Stapleton on the North Shore. Thank you to the selfless volunteers and organizers that continue to work tirelessly to serve the immediate needs of residents in our city.

[Click here to watch as I address the PAYS volunteers at the appreciation day event.](#)





Youth to Power Virtual Forum

It was great to speak at the 'Youth to Power – your vote is your voice' event, hosted by Bait-ul Jamaat House of Community and NY Muslims United for Civic Engagement. Young people have historically been underrepresented in voting due to low participation, but the need for more youth participation and civic engagement is greater than ever. During this event, I spoke on the importance of young people finding ways to remain civically engaged and using their vote as their voice. In 2019, my colleagues in government and I passed a law to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote, meaning that a voter will automatically be registered on his or her 18th birthday. This bill helps to encourage our youth to exercise their right to vote and have their voice be heard. We must continue to make information more accessible for young people so they can feel empowered to vote and advocate for their communities. Thank you to the organizers of this virtual forum for continuing the conversation on civic engagement.



Updates From Albany

New York City has entered Phase III of New York Forward. This includes the re-opening of personal care services such as tattoo and piercing facilities, massage parlors, spa services, and tanning salons. However, indoor dining was excluded from phase III in NYC.

State guidelines require those open facilities:

- Limit indoor capacity to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy, exclusive of employees.
- Limit outdoor capacity to the number of tables that can be safely and appropriately arranged, such that each table is a minimum of 6 ft. away from another.
- All outdoor tables with seating for customers must be separated by a minimum of 6 ft. in all directions.
- Wherever distancing is not feasible between tables, physical barriers must be enacted between such tables. Barriers must be at least 5 ft. in height and not block emergency and/or fire exits covering.
- Patrons must always wear face coverings, except while seated; provided that the patron is over the age of 2 and able to medically tolerate such covering.
- Individuals seated at the same table must be members of the same party (but may be from different households), with a maximum of 10 people per table. Seating in bar areas and communal tables are only permitted if at least 6 ft. can be maintained between parties.
- Clearly signal 6 ft. spacing in any lines for customers waiting to order, pick-up food, be seated, or use the restroom, as well as in any pick-up or payment location.
- Designate entrances/exits for customers and separate entrances/exits for employees, where possible.
- Limit in-person employee gatherings (e.g. staff meetings) to the greatest extent possible.
- Establish designated areas for vendor pickups and/or deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.
- “Low-risk” youth sports could begin on July 6.

Helpful Phase III Resources:

- Face mask distribution site: **[Find a distribution site here.](#)**
- The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection can answer questions about reopening, health and safety guidelines for the workplace, or to report an employer that is not following reopening requirements at **311 or 1-212-436-0381 Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm.**
- **[A "Wear a Mask" Sign for Your Storefront-](#)** *courtesy of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce*

Governor Cuomo also announced that the New York State Department of Health, in consultation with the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and others, is finalizing guidance on the possible reopening of schools in September.

- New York State previously directed all school districts to develop reopening plans.
- **[New York City released a School Building Re-Opening Preliminary Plan in anticipation of schools reopening in September.](#)**
- A decision on whether to reopen schools in September has not been made yet.

New York State will make industry recommendations on the use of air filtration technology to potentially eliminate the spread of COVID-19 through air conditioning systems.

- As evidence emerges that COVID-19 spread is linked more to airborne transmission than to surface area transmission, New York State is studying filters, their compatibility with existing air systems, the expense of modifications to air conditioning systems and other factors.

Three additional states meet the metrics indicating significant community spread and qualify for the travel advisory requiring individuals who have traveled to New York from those states to quarantine for 14 days.

- The newly added states are Delaware, Kansas and Oklahoma.
- The full list of states includes Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.
- The quarantine applies to any person arriving from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day average or a state with a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average.

Here in New York, we are witnessing a positive trend in the numbers related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As states around the country experience increasing community spread, it is critically important that we continue to practice protocols set by healthcare professionals. Once again, we are in this fight together.



Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

1. **NYC childcare centers are able to reopen beginning Monday, July 13.** These facilities will have to follow strict state protocols including allowing no more than 15 children in a room following social distancing guidelines, requiring all children and staff to wear face coverings, daily health screenings, adequate cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, and limited sharing of items such as toys.
2. **All major events that require a city permit have been canceled through September 30** in an attempt to prioritize open spaces for public use. NYC will also not issue permits for any event in a location that interferes with Open Streets or Open Restaurants programs.
3. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Department of Finance (DOF) Commissioner Jacques Jiha **announced the postponement of the annual tax lien sale until September 2020**, as the city continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Property owners who are facing hardships making their property tax payments can take advantage of several existing DOF programs. **Click here for more information on those programs.**
4. **The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) application deadline has been extended to August 8.** The extension allows the Small Business Administration (SBA) to continue to provide assistance to eligible small businesses and independent contractors with the program's remaining \$130 billion for small business loans. If you are in need of help applying for a loan to cover payroll and certain expenses during the pandemic, **visit the U.S. Small Business Administration website to learn more.**
5. Mayor de Blasio and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity announced that the City will accelerate broadband deployment in all five boroughs, prioritizing public housing communities, which have suffered disproportionately during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The City will make a historic \$157 million investment in ending digital redlining and providing high-speed internet.** This investment will extend new internet service options to 600,000 underserved New Yorkers, including 200,000 NYCHA residents over the next 18 months. This approach will create a path to NYCHA-wide implementation and universal broadband across New York City.
6. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**
 - Free antibody testing are offered by appointment Monday– Friday from 12 pm-8pm or Saturday through Sunday 8 am-12 pm, through Friday, July 24. **Click here to make an appointment or by call 888-279-0967.**
 - **Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.**
 - **Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, at (844) NYC-4NYC.** New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about Coronavirus can call to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from **9 am - 9 pm.**

- **Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. Click here to learn more, or call 1-844-692-4692.**
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Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. **The application for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Summer Bridge 2020 Program is now live!** Summer Bridge 2020 will offer approximately 60-90 hours of activities over a five-week period. The program will prioritize low-income, justice-involved, foster care, runaway and homeless, NYCHA residents and young adults from communities hit hardest by the pandemic.
 - **Click here to access the application; the application deadline is July 15.**
 - For more information, call DYCD Youth Connect at **1-800-246-4646** or **1-646-343-6800**.
2. NYCHA is offering free air conditioners to seniors who are on a lease, aged 60 or above and do not have an air conditioner in their apartment.
 - **Seniors in need should click here to sign up.**
 - ACs are limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.
3. **Ready to Rent is a program through the NYC office of Housing Preservation and Development.** Ready to Rent helps New Yorkers prepare to apply for affordable housing by providing free one-on-one financial counseling and assistance with affordable housing applications.
 - The program offers potential renters with free financial counseling and free application assistance. **Click here to book a financial counseling appointment** or a **here to make an appointment with a Housing Ambassador.**
4. The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) has established a public education campaign, **Be Real About Student Loans**, to tackle the lack of clear information about student loans and debt. **Click here to access important tips before taking out loans, tips if you have loans, and more.**
5. **The Public Advocates office has established a new outlet to connect with their office. By texting us at 833-933-1NYC or 833-933-1692,** you can be connected to information and resources from the Public Advocates office and other city agencies.
 - To start using this tool, just text “HELLO” to **833-933-1692**. Click the link in the welcome message to continue receiving messages and updates from their office, or you can ask questions directly into the text message and the text tool will work to get you the information you need.
6. The MTA has resumed processing MetroCard claims, following a pause in processing because of COVID-19. These claims include refunds, balance protection claims, and applications for Reduced-Fare and EasyPayXpress MetroCards. **The MTA is working to**

quickly address claims that were filed while their operations were on pause.

7. **CAMBA HomeBase** is an organization dedicated to assisting anyone facing eviction, housing court, and rental arrears. Staten Island residents should call the **CAMBA Staten Island office, 718-226-0496, Monday- Friday from 9 am to 4pm to get answers to all questions and concerns.**
 - CAMBA also offers “Financial Wellbeing” tele-sessions- clients should contact their case managers to initiate a referral.
 - **[Click here to review the CAMBA COVI-19 Resource Guide](#)**

8. **Stay Cool this Summer:**
 - **[Cool It NYC! initiative](#)**
 - **Call (212) 331-3126 to request a Home Energy Assistance Program application by mail; a return envelope is included with an application. [Click here to download and print an application.](#)**
 - Completed applications can be returned by mail to the Richmond Job Center, 201 Bay St., Staten Island.
 - **[Access NYC](#) has released the application for the Cooling Assistance Benefit. Through this benefit, individuals and families can receive air conditioners and fans. The deadline to submit applications is August 30, 2020. [For more information and to see if you are eligible, click here](#)**

9. **The NYCHA Mold Busters Program** is required to effectively remediate mold and excessive moisture in a timely fashion. Residents with mold or active water leaks in their apartment should enter a work order by calling the **[NYCHA Customer Contact Center](#)** at (718) 707-7771. Residents can also use the **[MyNYCHA app or website.](#)**
 - If you have already contacted CCC regarding mold or leak problems in your unit and would like further assistance – contact the Ombudspersons Call Center at (888) 341-7152 for assistance, or **[click here for more information.](#)**

10. **Small Business Resources:**
 - **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce** is collaborating with Start Small Think Big to offer free legal and financial services from top professionals. **[Learn more and sign up here.](#)**
 - Emergency Grants are available for small businesses that have experienced material damage to their storefronts over the last few weeks. **[Click here for more information on the NYC Small Business Emergency Grant Program.](#)**
 - **The NYC Department of Small Business Services** has developed a **[Reopening Guide](#)**, a helpful palm card: **[NYC Means Business: Reopen & Stay Safe at Work](#)** and a dedicated **Business Restart Hotline: 888-SBS-4NYC.**

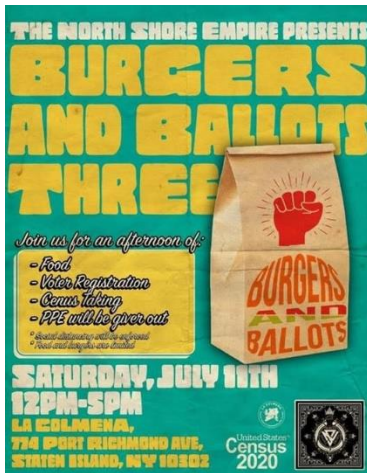
- If your organization is interested in receiving donated KN95 Masks from the SI Community Organizations Active in Disaster, **please complete this form.**
- **Staten Island Business Outreach Center (SIBOC)** is working with small businesses with any assistance they may need; small business owners can call their office **(718) 816-4775** or **info@siboc.org** to a virtual one to one business meeting.

Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

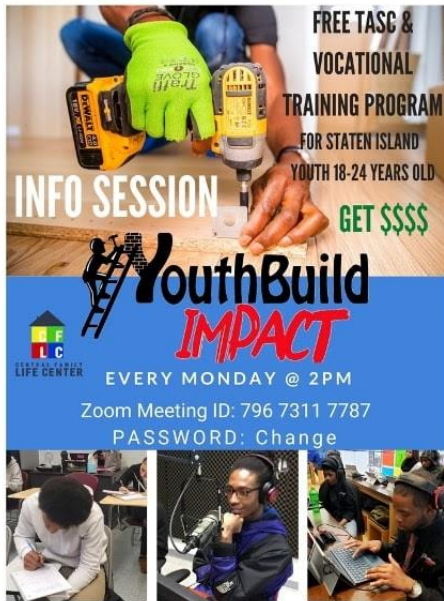
1. **Join Bait-Ul Jumaat at the Big Park this Saturday, July 11 at 4pm** for the distribution of hot halal meals to the community. Representatives from the US Census Bureau will be available to aid those in need of help completing their 2020 census. **For more information, contact Jamilah at 917-636-0346 or email info@baituljamaat.com.**



2. **Join the North Shore Empire on Saturday, July 11 for Burgers and Ballots Three from 12pm to 5pm at La Colmena, 774 Port Richmond Ave.** This will be an afternoon of food, voter registration help, census assistance, and free PPE.



3. **YouthBuild Impact** is recruiting for their next round of participants. Youth 18-24 are encouraged to join them for a virtual information session to learn more. Join them every Monday at 2pm. **Zoom Meeting ID: 7 96 7311 7787 Password: Change**



4. **The New York Knicks** is offering a free **Junior Knicks program** and the **New York Rangers** is offering a free **Junior Rangers Virtual Summer Camps** start **Monday, July 13!** These two programs will get kids active with a variety of guided drills, workouts, and other bonus features, such as Q&A's with players, alumni, and special guests.

- [Click here to register your child, ages 6-16 for the Junior Knicks](#)
- [Click here to register your child, age 7-14 for the Junior Rangers](#)



5. **File your taxes for free with NYC Free Tax Preparation.** The last date to file is July 15, 2020. [Click here to get more information on NYC Free Tax Prep and eligibility requirements.](#)

FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE

The tax filing deadline has been extended due to the public health crisis



Last Day to File: [July 15th, 2020](#)

NYC
FREE
TAX PREP

Trusted,
Professional
Filing

"If you earned \$64,000 or less last tax year, the City can help you file your taxes for free. You can file for free online or in person, depending on your individual or family income."

"Due to COVID-19, all in-person tax prep services have been suspended under the NYC Free Tax Prep program. Prepare and file your federal income tax return for free using tax preparation and filing software through IRS Free File."

Click the button below for more information on NYC Free tax prep filing software ↓

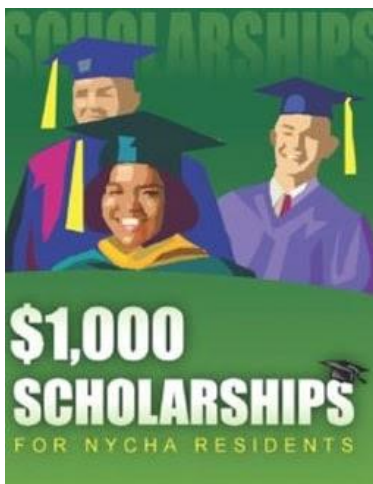
"In light of the most recent developments around COVID-19, including the new workforce restrictions shared by Governor Cuomo, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all tax services until further notice. This includes all in-person and virtual sites. The IRS has extended the federal tax filing deadline to July 15. We will resume our VITA program as soon as it is safe to do so, and plan to provide services through the extended tax season this summer."



Click the button below to get more information on the NYC Food Bank free filing effort ↓

6. **NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship Opportunity.** The NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. The program awards \$1,000 scholarships to selected NYCHA residents enrolled as undergraduates at the City University of New York (CUNY). **The deadline to apply is July 23, 2020. [For more information click here.](#)**

- **The College of Staten Island is hosting a conversation on Wednesday, July 29 at 10am about The Staten Island Equity & Belonging Project,** a survey to assess current and former Staten Island residents' experiences on equity and belonging. **[Click here to register for the event.](#)**



7. **The Police Athletic League is offering free cake decorating classes for NYC kids all summer long.** Youth interested in learning how to bake and decorate desserts are encouraged to **[sign up here!](#)**

PAL is also offering ‘Just Dance Club,’ a free dance class Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am - 11:15am and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 1pm. [Sign up here!](#)



8. **Community Health Action** provides free services to Staten Island veterans in need of assistance with insurance paperwork, determining eligibility for benefits, delivery of pantry and grocery items, connections to primary care and telemedicine. For more information, please call John at 646-623-1044.

The flyer for Veterans Services from Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI) features a yellow circle on the left with the text 'SUPPORT TO HELP VETERANS'. To the right, the title 'Veterans Services' is written in large blue letters. Below the title, it states 'CHASI offers FREE services for Staten Islanders who have served in the armed forces.' A photograph shows a man with a beard and a baseball cap sitting at a desk with a cat on the windowsill behind him. To the right of the photo, a list of services is provided: 'Insurance paperwork', 'Determining eligibility for benefits', 'Delivery of pantry and grocery items', and 'Connections to primary care and telemedicine'. At the bottom left is the Staten Island Performing Provider System logo, and at the bottom right is the contact information: 'For more information, please call John at 646.623.1044.' A footer at the very bottom contains social media icons and the text 'Find Your Rightpoint. CommunityHealthAction | RightpointNYC | HealthAction | CommunityHealthAction'.

9. To celebrate the accomplishments of Staten Island business people, **the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2021 Louis R. Miller Awards.** If you know someone that you believe is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award, **[click here to access the nomination form.](#)**
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How To Help

1. The need for blood has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, but blood supply is dangerously low. **Donors can call 800-933-2566 or [schedule an appointment online now.](#)**
2. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.** Go to **my2020census.gov**, call **(844) 330-2020**, or respond using the paper form sent to your home.

Wishing you all health and safety,



Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

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