



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

June 19, 2020

Happy Juneteenth!

Juneteenth is a celebration to commemorate the abolition of slavery in the United States. On June 19th, 1865 General Gordon Granger arrived with Union soldiers in Galveston, Texas, to free the enslaved Africans Americans. However, this was more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation which declared all people held as slaves were free. While 'Juneteenth' is a new holiday to many, it has been celebrated as Emancipation Day, or Juneteenth Independence Day among many Black communities for decades. It is wonderful to see more communities become informed of the holiday and this moment in American history. **[Click here to read more about the significance of Juneteenth](#) or [click here to watch the Juneteenth presentation and panel discussion that United Activities Unlimited hosted.](#)**



Happy Father's Day

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures in our communities. I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend sharing memories, laughter, and love. My prayers and well wishes are with those who lost a father or father-figure.



District 61 News

Virtual Town Hall

I was joined by my colleagues in the state legislature and Senator Chuck Schumer for a virtual town hall. Over 100 constituents joined the virtual event on Zoom and Facebook to receive updates on legislative bills, on the state and federal levels, as well as budget negotiations. Constituents were then given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. We discussed matters related to reopening NYC, future NYS legislation and crucial federal funding needs to support our small businesses and non-profits. We also received word from Senator Schumer that our federal representatives secured a \$30 million FEMA grant for Richmond University Medical Center, which is critical! Thank you to Congressman Max Rose for his hard work on securing these funds.

Thank you to New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Diane Savino, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, and the Staten Island residents and community leaders for your partnership and for engaging in this great dialogue.





Richmond University Medical Center PPE Delivery

It was great to join the Turkish America Steering Committee and Congressman Max Rose for a drop-off of Personal Protective Equipment to Richmond University Medical Center. Although NYC has seen a drastic decline in the number of COVID-19 positive residents and COVID-19 hospitalizations- only 1% of the New York City residents tested each day this week received positive results-, we must continue to take precautions to keep hospital staff and vulnerable patients healthy during this critical re-opening phase. Hospitals and group homes are now allowed to accept visitors at their discretion. Any facility that chooses to allow visitors must follow state guidelines, including time-limited visits and requiring visitors to wear PPE and be subject to symptom and temperature checks.



Positive Community Contributions

This week's positive community contribution is dedicated to the many Staten Island residents who devoted time to painting New York City's second 'Black Lives Matter' street mural, located on the new 'Black Lives Matter Plaza' on the North Shore! Symbolic initiatives like this have been initiated around the country to artistically express support for Black communities protesting anti-racism and marching for justice.

I was glad to join Mayor de Blasio, Councilwoman Debi Rose, and community residents to paint the impactful mural and unveil the renaming at the corner of Wall Street and Richmond Terrace. It was

certainly fitting to have the painting commence on Juneteenth. Richmond Terrace will be closed to vehicular traffic through June 26 to complete the project.

Thank you Mayor de Blasio for committing to renaming one street in each borough “Black Lives Matter”, painting a roadway to match the street name, and for establishing the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission to understand the effects of structural and institutional racism in New York City. Also, thank you to Governor Cuomo for recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday this year for state employees, and Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman for proposing legislation to make Juneteenth an official state holiday.



Updates From Albany

Introducing Two Pieces of New York State Legislation.

Bill A.10619: Amends the public health law, requiring health care professionals to prescribe opioid antagonists when prescribing an opioid.

- Antagonist is a substance that acts against and blocks a negative reaction to a prescribed medication.
- In the case of an opioid overdose, naloxone is the common remedy.
- Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, with synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine also fall into this class of medication.
- It can take a minimum of only 5 days for an individual to get addicted to an opioid medication.
- In the enacted 2020 State Budget passed this year we were able to designate certain fentanyl analogs as controlled substances in New York State. This will give police and law enforcement the authority to prosecute the manufacturing, sale and distribution
- of these drugs to the fullest extent of the law.
- The measure also gives the State Department of Health Commissioner the authority to add additional analogs to the list of controlled substances, enabling the state to stay in front of these deadly substances

During the past 10 years, the opioid crisis on Staten Island has taken the lives of hundreds of people and impacted the lives of countless family members, friends and acquaintances.

My legislation will go a step further and assure that any person who is prescribed an opioid related drug- that remain on the

market - will have the assurance of having an immediate remedy readily available that could help reduce the number of deaths by overdose.

Bill A.10648; Updates school concussion management and response protocols and increases concussion data collection and reporting.

- According to the Brain Injury Association of New York State, more than 30,000 children between the ages of 5 and 19 are seen yearly in emergency departments for possible "mild traumatic brain injuries," more commonly known as concussions.
- In 2014, 4,000 of these children were seen for sports related TBIs.
- Concussions can cause headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision, sensitivity to noise and light, concentration and memory issues, and confusion or grogginess.
- In children, concussions can be particularly serious and can create learning difficulties for an extended period, depending on the severity of the concussion.
- The Concussion Management Awareness Act of 2011 (CMAA) created important safeguards and guidance for New York's public schools to protect student who suffer concussions,
- ensuring that they do not return to athletics or other high-risk activities too soon and risk suffering an additional traumatic brain injury.
- The CMAA required public school coaches, P.E. teachers, nurses, and athletic trainers to complete a course of instruction on concussion recognition and prevention.
- It also required the immediate removal from athletic activities of any student believed to have sustained a concussion and created guidelines for their return to athletics and authorized the creation of concussion management teams for each school or school district.

As a former athlete myself, the Concussion Management Awareness Act was an important first step towards protecting students from concussions, I felt there were actions that we should take to increase health protections for students.

My bill would also expand the CMAA to cover nonpublic schools and travel youth sports teams, and require schools to establish concussion management teams, rather than simply authorizing them to do so. It would also update the CMAA to codify SED guidance that students should return to the classroom with no limitations before they resume athletic activities. Additionally, it would require

concussion management teams to report more specific information about concussions to ensure that our approach to treating and preventing concussions is informed by comprehensive data.

To find more information on these pieces of legislation or other bills, you can click [here](#) or [here](#). Please contact my legislative director, Brian Early at Earlyb@nyassembly.gov with any policy inquires or legislative requests.

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community During COVID-19

1. New York State has conducted over 65 thousand COVID-19 exams daily this week and **as of Wednesday, June 17, less than 1% of people tested positive!**
 2. **New York City is on track to enter phase 2 of the re-opening plan this coming Monday, June 22.**
- Industries including **outdoor dining, barbershops, hair salons, in-store retail, car dealerships, and real estate firms** can join construction and other phase 1 businesses that have already returned to work.
 - Mayor de Blasio announced guidance for the **City's Open Restaurants Program**, which allows qualifying restaurants and bars to expand outdoor seating on sidewalks, curb lanes, backyards, patios, plazas, and Open Streets as NYC begins Phase 2 of reopening. The City has established an expedited approval process by allowing restaurants and bars to self-certify their eligibility for curb lane and sidewalk seating using a new, streamlined application process, beginning today. **Click here to access the application.**
 - **NYC Small Business Services (SBS)** will also launch a **PPE and business reopening supplies marketplace** for easy access to wholesalers selling PPE, gloves, sneeze guards and other equipment. Business owners can call a hotline at **1-888-SBS-4NYC** to ask questions about this process.
 - **Free Face Coverings for small businesses and their employees.** There are 3 sites distributing on Staten Island: Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, SIEDC and Forest Avenue BID. **Click here to learn more.**
 - If your organization is interested in receiving donated KN95 Masks from the SI Community Organization Active in Disaster, **please complete this form.**
 - **The US Department of Health and Human Services** is offering free face coverings for community-based organizations. **Click here for more information and to order.**
 - **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.

Rules for complying with reopening include:

- Outdoor seating on sidewalks may not exceed the business' frontage width.
 - Seating cannot extend past the eight feet depth of the curb lane, and it cannot block:
 - Bus stops
 - No Standing/No Stopping Anytime zones
 - Doorways
 - FDNY access (e.g. within 15 feet of a fire hydrant)
 - There must be an eight-foot clear path free of obstructions between the seating and the curb.
 - Social distancing, hygiene and other health guidance must be followed.
 - Restaurants must provide their own tables, chairs and traffic barriers.
 - Restaurants must adhere to all local, state and federal requirements relating to accessibility for people with disabilities, including path of travel, minimum table heights, and clearance requirements.
 - Customers are not permitted to gather outside of establishments.
3. **Playgrounds are also opening during Phase 2:** Social distancing ambassadors will monitor crowding, distribute face coverings, and encourage hygiene. Team sports (such as basketball, football, softball and soccer) are not permitted during Phase 2.
 4. **The NYC Rent Guidelines Board passed a Rent Freeze** - 0% increase on one-year leases; for two-year leases, 0% increase the first year and a 1% increase the second year. This will benefit around one million Rent Stabilized apartments in New York City, more than two million renters.
 5. NYC Department of Education created a short, **anonymous survey to better understand what is most important to families when school returns in the fall**. All parents/guardians of students in grades 3-K through 12, and students in grades 6-12 are invited to take the survey: **[click here to fill out the survey](#)** or call 311.
 - The survey is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.
 6. **Early voting for the State and Federal Primary Election ends on Sunday, June 21 and election day is Tuesday, June 23. [Click here for your polling information](#)**. For voters planning to submit absentee ballots, here are some best practices to ensure their vote is counted:
 - Mail the ballot directly at the local post office so that it arrives at the Board of Elections more quickly.
 - If mailing a ballot close to the postmark deadline (June 23), ask the post office attendant to hand-cancel/ round stamp and postmark it with the date so that the Board of Elections is certain that it was mailed on time.
 - If absentee ballots reach the Board of Elections after the June 23 postmark deadline without a cancellation mark, the BOE will deem the ballot “late” and will not count the vote.
 - You should also be aware that not all post offices issue “cancellation marks” or date stamps on mail with pre-paid postage
 - If putting an absentee ballot into a blue USPS mailbox, be sure to check the collection times if it is close to the mailing deadline (June 23).
 - Ballots can also be dropped off at any early voting or election day [poll site](#).
 - Due to the high volume of absentee ballots, final election results will likely not be available for a week or more after election day.

7. **Alternate Side Parking is suspended through Sunday, June 21.** Parking meters and all other parking rules remain in effect.
 8. The City's **Test & Trace Corps initiative provides universal COVID-19 testing criteria for all New Yorkers.** The Test & Trace Corps, will allow the City to safely separate and care for those who test positive for the virus, and then rapidly track, assess, and quarantine anyone they came into contact with and may have infected.
 - **Anyone unable to safely separate at home will be offered a free hotel room; Click here to learn more, or call 1-844-692-4692.**
 - Be part of an effort to re-open our communities by joining the **NYS Contact Tracing Initiative** by applying to be a **contact tracer, team supervisor, or community support specialist.** **Click here for more information about how you can help.**
 9. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**
 - **Mobile testing units will be at NYCHA Stapleton, 77 Hill Street, SI, NY 10304, the week of Monday, June 22 from 10am to 4pm- pending good weather.**
 - **Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.**
 - Antibody Testing for New Yorkers: **Complete this survey to schedule an appointment: Antibody Testing Appointment Survey** or call 888-279-0967. Please utilize the website, to keep the hotline free for those without internet access.
 10. The NYC administration has launched a **Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, available 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.**
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Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak

1. Mayor de Blasio announced the launch of the **new NYC Housing Connect**, New Yorkers' central resource for finding and applying for affordable housing. Significant upgrades on the new portal make applying for affordable housing quicker and easier. The new system streamlines the application process, provides New Yorkers with a clear picture of the opportunities they can apply for and includes more types of housing than ever before.
 - Starting in July, all future affordable housing opportunities will appear on the new website, with nearly 2,500 affordable homes coming online this summer.
2. **National Grid reminds customers that applications are still being accepted for the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program and the Emergency (HEAP) program through June 30, 2020, while funds are available.** The programs have been extended to assist customers who are struggling to pay their energy bills during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Customers can call (212) 331-3126 to request a HEAP 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.
- 3. **Cooling Assistance Benefit.** As the weather heats up, **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.**
- 4. The State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance released a document in response to frequently asked questions about the **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits.** **Click here to find more information.**
- 5. **Small Business Resources:**
 - **Are you a small business owner with questions about reopening?** NYC Small Business Services hosts regular webinars to help businesses understand and comply with requirements and best practices to reopen. Meetings are also targeted to specific communities and continue throughout the summer. **Click here to access the ongoing webinars.**
 - **Small Business, Nonprofit COVID-19 Relief** helps provide free legal counsel and financial aid guidance from the SBLRA, an alliance of law firms and legal service providers. **Click here to find more information.**
 - **The New York Forward Loan Fund** is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. **Click here to access the application.**
 - **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.**
 - **The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)**, in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity), and the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC invites restaurants to apply for the **Restaurant Revitalization Program**. This initiative will support unemployed and underemployed restaurant workers using a \$3 million fund, focusing on the 27 communities hardest hit by COVID-19.
 - Grants of up to \$30,000 each will subsidize wages of \$20 per hour for at least 6 weeks, supporting 1,000 workers in 100 restaurants initially selected, with preference given to those who offer free or reduced cost meals to New Yorkers affected by COVID-19. Additionally, all restaurants must commit to a \$15 minimum wage on top of tips within 5 years of returning to regular business.
 - **Click here to learn more about the Restaurant Revitalization Program.**
- 6. **Free Legal Help** is available for notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more:
 - **City Bar Justice Center, click here to learn more.**

- **Lawyers Alliance.** For non-profit organizations only. Virtual consultations on SBA loans. **[Click here to register.](#)**
 - **The New York State Bar Association** helps jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits if their claim has been denied. **[Click here to find out more information and request support.](#)**
7. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** is a federal program that offers temporary unemployment assistance to those who are unemployed, partially employed, or unable to work because of COVID-19 and are not currently eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
- For more information, please refer to the NYS Department of Labor's **[PUA Fact Sheet here.](#)**
 - **[Click here to apply for PUA or Regular Unemployment Benefits and follow the instructions.](#)**
8. The **NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center** is offering free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If you know someone who is personally impacted by problem gambling and looking for help in Staten Island, **[click here for more information,](#)** call (929) 955-3062, or e-mail **newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org**.
9. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. **The Staten Island NYC Family Justice Centers is still operating virtually.** Victims and survivors in NYC can get help directly by **calling 718-697-4300 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.**
10. **Groceries and Meals:**
- The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened a Nutrition Kitchen (food pantry) to distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it.
 - The Staten Island Kitchen located at **[340 Bay Street](#)** operates **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-noon.** Call **718-876-8660** for more information.
 - **[Click here to find a location](#)** near your home distributing meals for free. Hours and locations on this map are subject to change.

Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

1. **Northfield Community LDC of Staten Island is hosting a virtual workshop for prospective homebuyers on Wednesday, June 24 at 6pm.** There will be discussions around home-buying basics, mortgage applications, resources including grants, loans, education and counseling. Email **Northfield.ldc@gmail.com** for registration information.

Do you want to buy a home?

Join us for a virtual workshop: Hear from experts and create a path to your own front door

When: June 24th at 6:00 PM
Where: Webex Virtual Meeting
How: Email Northfield.Ldc@gmail.com for registration information

Presenters: Maria Garcia, HUD-Certified Housing Counselor
Northfield Community LDC
Jaymi DiBisceglie, Home Lending Officer
Citibank, N.A.

Topics: Home buying basics
Mortgage Application
Resources (grants, loans, education & counseling)



Northfield Community LDC
360 Heberton Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10312
Email: Northfield.Ldc@gmail.com

2. **Local Civics** is an education technology platform devoted to re-imagining civic participation and engagement in our local communities. **Local Civic is hosting a virtual youth leadership series between June 22nd and June 30th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on courses like Exploring Careers in Technology and Elevating Community Organizing and Activism**, to help spark conversations about learning about career pathways, personal leadership and civic engagement. **[Click here to register middle and high school students for these free courses.](#)**

Local Civics invites you to
VIRTUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SERIES

MONDAY JUNE 22
Exploring Careers in Technology Part 3

TUESDAY JUNE 23
Elevating Community Organizing and Activism

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24
Exploring Careers in Law + Criminal Justice

TUESDAY JUNE 30
Exploring Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy


Join us for conversations and learning about career pathways, personal leadership, and civic engagement.

JUNE 22ND - JUNE 30TH, 2020
3:30PM - 4:30PM EST

Webinar series features speakers from
TEENS IN CHARGE, PIERCE FENNER & SMITH, Columbia Business School

Register at bit.ly/LC2RSVP

3. Comptroller Stringer will also be hosting a **small business focused M/WBE University Webinar Series: Resiliency and Recovery Post-COVID between June and October**. These Zoom presentations will explore topics from COVID recovery resources and best practices with Minority Depository Institutions to doing business with the Comptroller. Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages and must be requested at least two days before each session. **[You can RSVP here!](#)** For any questions, please email the Diversity Office at **diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov**.



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER

COMPTROLLER'S MWBE UNIVERSITY
MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

WEBINAR SERIES: RESILIENCY AND RECOVERY POST-COVID-19
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Via Zoom

June 9, 2020 | June 16, 2020 | July 7, 2020
COVID Resources and Best Practices with Minority Depository Institutions
Where businesses can learn about government and private sector resources and learn best practices from Minority Depository Institutions.

July 16, 2020
Investment Relationships with Pension Consultants Post-COVID
Where MWBE investment managers can learn and build relationships with NYC's pension consultants.

August 6, 2020
Doing Business with the Comptroller's Office
Hear directly from the Comptroller's Office about opportunities for professional services, standard services, and goods contracts.

Save the Date: October 2020
Annual Emerging & M/WBE Manager Conference
featuring a special session on Executive Board Searches Post-COVID
We highly encourage CEOs, Senior Partners, and Portfolio Managers of Public Equity, Public Fixed Income, Private Equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Hedge Funds, Alternative Credit, and Economically Targeted Investment Firms and Broker/Dealers to attend.

To RSVP, visit <http://ComptrollerDiversity.eventsbrite.com> or email diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov
Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.
Information provided during these sessions might change in emergency laws, resources and other factors evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot advise you on such developments. Please consult US, NY, and NYC COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY
If you are a business owner and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.
If you are a constituent and need assistance with complaints or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at action@comptroller.nyc.gov.

4. **CSI's Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development is accepting applications for the Career Success Scholarship**, an initiative aimed at supporting students in continuing education certificate programs. It is open to individuals seeking to advance their careers through education and training -especially those who are unemployed or seeking a career change, and those who do not have access to other sources of funding to pay for tuition and fees. This scholarship does not support current or future degree program studies.

- **Interested candidates should click here for more information and eligibility requirements**
- **Applications are due by August 3, 2020**



Career Success Scholarship
Helena Rubinstein

- Have you been affected by COVID-19?
- Are you unemployed and looking into the workforce?
- Are you looking to change careers into a industry that is more stable?

If you answered yes, please apply for the Helena Rubinstein Scholarship. The Scholarship:

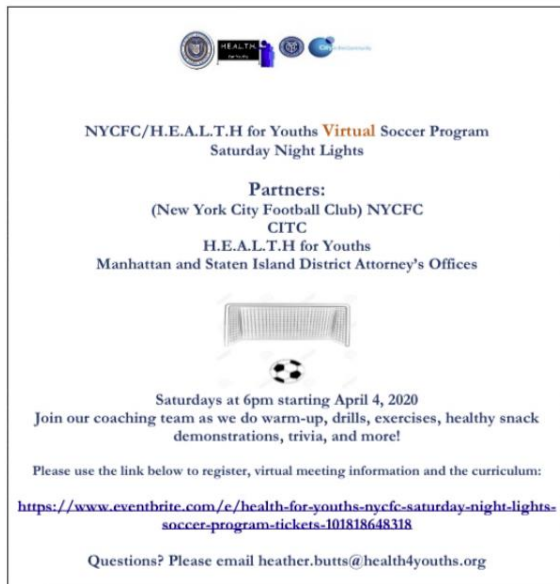
- Application will open May 25
- Covers up to 90% tuition

To apply, please consult with a Career Success Liaison: <https://bit.ly/2KAJA3C>

My office has collaborated with **Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA** to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am**. Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. Email Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com to get the link to join!



6. **H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths** continues to offer their virtual "**Saturday Night Lights**" Soccer Program each Saturday at 6pm! This is an opportunity for youth to get active, practice soccer drills, participate in healthy snack demonstrations, and much more. **[Click here to register!](#)**



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 they should have received in the mail. Online form is in 13 languages!

Wishing you all health and safety,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946
DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942