

### Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

August 21, 2020

#### Food Distribution Event with the Turkish Cultural Center Staten Island

With COVID-19 leaving so many New Yorkers out of work, with limited income and struggling to put food on the table, it was important that I join my colleague Congressman Rose, the Turkish Cultural Center, and the Embrace Relief Foundation to deliver 500 pounds food to Staten Island's Salvation Army for distribution to families in need. The donation will serve more than 100 individuals. These acts of collaborative community service will help us to overcome this unprecedented time.



**Fighting Back Against Gun Violence** 

The uptick in shootings across Staten Island is an issue of troubling concern, particularly as several innocent lives have been lost. I am proud to have joined Stapleton residents, community leaders, advocates against gun violence, and the NYPD for the "Stop the Violence"

Anti-Gun Violence Town Hall Meeting". This event comes just days after I joined constituents and my colleague Councilwoman Rose in Park Hill for the conclusion to the 'Seven Days of Good Trouble Marches' against senseless acts of gun violence. Both events provided stakeholders with a platform to raise their concerns and engage in meaningful dialogue surrounding our shared desire for a safe community to live, work, and play in.









### **Summer Mobile Office Hours**

Stapleton-Thursday, August 20th



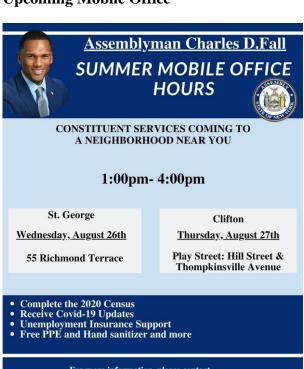


Park Hill- Friday, August 21st





### **Upcoming Mobile Office**



For more information, please contact Parnellj@nyassembly.gov or (718) 442-9932

### **Updates from Albany**

The fitness industry is among the many professions negatively impacted by COVID-19 and approximately 4 million New Yorkers are impacted by gym closures. Although the <u>State has approved the reopening of gyms starting August 24th</u>, in order to reopen under state guidelines, gyms must undergo an inspection by the city's health department to ensure compliance with all regulations and to determine whether a gym is eligible to host classes. It is anticipated that NYC gyms will not reopen before September 2 as health inspectors prioritize the inspections required at childcare centers and schools.

### **Introducing a Consumer Protection Bill with Senator Kevin Parker**

- **Bill A.10914 /S.8187-A** amends the general business law in relation to the suspension of a health club/gym contract.
  - Health club members would be provided the right to suspend their contract payments – at the option of the health club facility - or be able to use existent payments towards a credit to their account, if for whatever reason the facility is unavailable for use

In our fight against this global pandemic and with our schools reopening, there is no doubt that our students and schools should take priority in safety and inspection measures.

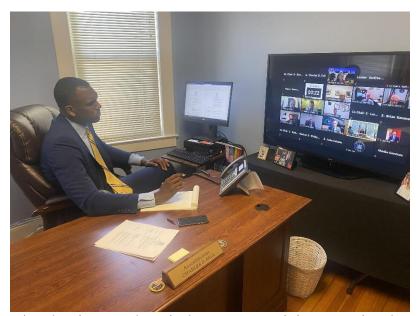
However, we must take into consideration that small businesses and proprietors have also been directly impacted, especially here on Staten Island. One being gyms and health club owners. Amid low rates of infections and hospitalizations here in the borough, I am hoping that the Governor and the Mayor can work together and find a balance on how to conduct the necessary inspections to assure that both schools and businesses can reopen.

### Joint NYS Legislative Hearing on the Impact of Tropical Storm Isaias on New York State.

Testimony was given by utility and telecommunication providers to examine the electricity outages and communication failures following Tropical Storm Isaias. More than 267,000 Con Edison customers lost power during and after Tropical Storm Isaias. According to the Con Edison online outage map, more than 37,000 customers on Staten Island were left without power. The hearing focused on:

- The pre-storm steps taken to protect the electric distribution grid and critical telecommunications infrastructure.
- Utility and telecommunications provider storm preparedness.

- The causes of the outages and service disruptions.
- The reasons for the lengthy post-storm repair, restorations of service and reconnection of customers.
- The extent of coordination between utility and telecommunication providers and municipalities in restoring service.



As we move into hurricane and tropical storm season it is concerning that there are situations where utility companies present vague planning regarding their natural disaster preparedness. Eight years ago, Super Storm Sandy impact thousands of Staten Island residents. The hearing as certainly shed some light and many areas that we still must improve on. I look forward to working with my colleagues on addressing these concerns.

# <u>Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your</u> <u>Community</u>

- 1. **Starting Monday, August 31**, front-door boarding and fare collection will resume on all MTA buses.
- 2. Governor Cuomo signs into law three bills passed by the legislature that will make it easier for all New Yorkers to vote and be counted in November.
  - A.10833; authorizes voters to request an absentee ballot due to risk of illness, including COVID-19
  - A.10807; authorizes voters to request absentee ballots starting, August 20, 2020.

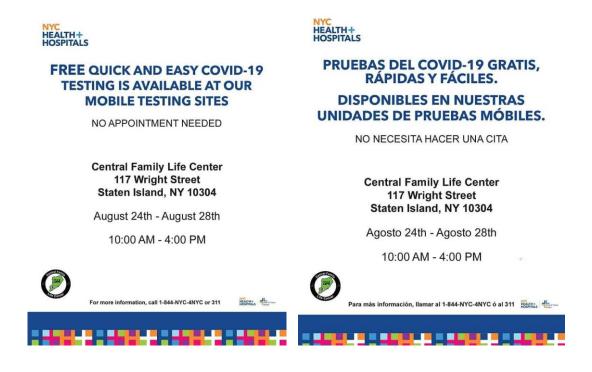
- A.10808-A; allows ballots to be postmarked on the day of the election, November 3, 2020.
- During a pandemic that has affected all our lives, we must ensure that no resident of New York feels pressured to put their health and well-being at risk to exercise his or her Constitutional right to vote.

## Reach out to your Board of Election to have an absentee ballot request sent to you.

- 3. Mayor de Blasio, announces the City's Open Restaurants program, which allows restaurants to serve diners in sidewalks and curb lanes, will return next summer. Outdoor dining will return to the city by June 1, 2021 and run through October 31st. The City will also bring back a popular initiative that combines Open Restaurants with Open Streets. On weekends, restaurants on participating corridors will go farther away from the curb than other Open Restaurants participants, and the rest of the streets will be open to pedestrian traffic.
- 4. Individuals traveling from states and territories with significant community spread of COVID-19 must be quarantined for 14-days from the time of the last contact within the identified state.

Here is an updated list of states flagged on the travel advisory - Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin

- 5. Locations to get tested for COVID-19:
  - Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.
  - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (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 (844) 692-4692
  - The Central Family Life Center will be providing free and easy covid-19 testing from August 24th-August 28th located at 117 Wright Street Staten Island, NY 10304, from 10 AM-4 PM



### Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

- 1. If you experienced a power outage, beginning on August 4, that lasted for more than 48 consecutive hours due to Tropical Storm Isaias, you may file a <u>reimbursement</u> request for food and prescription medication. ConEdison may provide reimbursements for the loss of food spoiled due to a lack of refrigeration up to a maximum of \$540 as well as the cost of damaged prescription medication.
- 2. **NYCHA** is making it easier than ever to apply for rent hardship assistance. To apply, <u>click here to visit NYCHA's self-service portal</u> or call 718-707-7771 and select menu option 5 when prompted.
- 3. **Project Hospitality** is offering legal services, if you or anyone you know is in need please contact **mrivera@projecthospitality.org** with your name, phone number, and the type of legal service you need to book a virtual appointment with one of their legal providers.
- 4. Community Health Action of Staten Island has released its Mobile Food Calendar for the month of August. Review the flyer below to find a location near you to get access to healthy, nutritious food for you and your family.



 Project Hospitality Soup Kitchen Service - Every Sunday Grab and Go meals from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at Assumption Church located on 15 Webster Ave, New Brighton.



- 6. Small Business Resources
  - Lowe's is currently providing Neighborhood Business Grants to small business owners in New York City. Click here to access the application. The deadline is this Sunday, August 23 at 11:59 PM EST.

- Several NYC Agencies have composed an <u>NYC Open Restaurants Program</u>
   <u>Checklist for Participating Establishments</u> to help restaurants know what
   NYS guidelines they should adhere to.
- The NYC Department of Small Business Services Virtual Compliance
   Consultation Session: Open Restaurants Program offers no-cost virtual
   compliance consultations to help you understand how to comply with key City
   rules and regulations to avoid receiving common violations. <u>Click here to</u>
   request a consultation.
- <u>Free virtual business courses for new entrepreneurs</u> SBS offers free business courses to help New York City entrepreneurs develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to succeed in business. Many of the courses are available in non-English languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Haitian Creole, French, Bengali, and Arabic.
- 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.

#### **Useful Events and Opportunities**

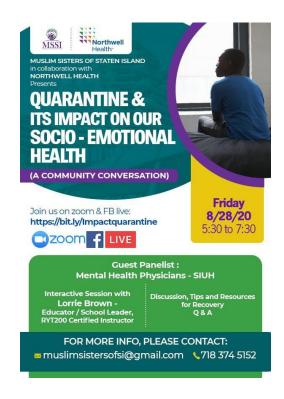
- 1. Citizens Committee for New York City has opened its Neighborhood Business Grant application. Small businesses can receive grants of \$5,000 \$10,000 to maintain payroll and operations.
  - They will prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women.
  - Proposals that focus on adapting businesses to the challenges of COVID-19 (i.e. delivering orders, fulfilling online requests for products, conducting training and classes online) will also be prioritized.
  - Grants may be made to barber shops, restaurants, food carts, vegetable stands, and other small businesses. The application is intended to be accessible and short, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
  - Click here for more information and to apply now.
- 2. Several community organizations are joining on August 22 from 1:00 PM 2:15 PM for a Health and Safety virtual event to share tips for parents and kids in preparation for the new school year. Come learn hygiene and safety tips, how to communicate your child, and gather resources for parents.



3. The Central Family Life Center's YouthBuild IMPACT program helps open doors to career training and job opportunities. This free program, for youth ages 17-24, will assist in achieving a High School Equivalency Diploma and securing entry-level em-ployment. Sign up today by calling 718-273-8414 ext. 8 or visiting 117 Wright Street.



4. Join Muslim Sisters of Staten Island and Northwell Health on Friday, August 28 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for a community conversation on Quarantine and Its impact on socio-emotional health. Email Muslimsistersofsi@gmail.com or call 718-347-5152.



5. Members of the COMEunity Fridge invite you to join them on August 29th at 2 PM at the corner of Forest Avenue and Amity Place. This is a chance to eat healthy food and meet your neighbors.



6. **Birth Equality for Black Moms** is an informative virtual session sponsored by BJ House of Community and Pink Lilly with guest speakers on resources and support for black maternal health. **Join them on Wednesday, September 9th at 7 PM.** For more information please **contact 347-833-0778 or 917-636-0345.** 



7. The Friends of Tompkinsville Park are seeking an artist to create and spearhead a Participatory Art project in Tompkinsville Park themed around Peace, Justice, and Healing. They are seeking an artist that would engage the community in the creation of an art installation in the park (for display up to 1 year). The budget for the project is \$5,000. The new deadline to submit a project proposal is Monday, September 7. Click here for additional details or email TompkinsvilleParkFriends@gmail.com.

### **How To Help**

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 <a href="may2020census.gov">my2020census.gov</a>, 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