



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

April 15, 2021

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 16th at 12:00 PM, stop by MAS at 180 Burgher Ave as we deliver food to the community to celebrate the first week of Ramadan.

MAS STATEN ISLAND PACE PRESENTS



FOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH
12:00 - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: 180 BURGHER
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

*SPECIAL THANKS TO PROJECT HOSI
& ASSEMBLY MEMBER CHARLES FALLS
SPONSORING & COORDINATING THE*



Join Forest Avenue BID along with our office, Senator Savino, District Attorney McMahon, Borough President Oddo, and Council Member Rose in our cleanup of the tree beds at 686 Forest Ave. 10:00 AM [this Tuesday, April 20th](#).



TUESDAY, APRIL 20
10AM TO 2PM



Spring is Here!!

The Forest Avenue BID is looking for volunteers
to help clean our Tree Beds
Interested please reach
Priscilla Marco
Neighborhood Development Specialist
(718) 816-4775 or priscilla@siboc.org

EARTH IS OUR HOME.
LET'S KEEP IT GREEN!



In Partnership with



Staten Island District Attorney
Michael McMahon



NYS Senator
Diane J. Savino



NYS Assemblyman
Charles D. Fall




NYC Councilwoman
Debi Rose

Help your community by getting guns off our streets. [Saturday, April 24th](#) at Calvary Chapel 30 Maple Parkway, SI, NY 10303. The site will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

**NEW YORK CITY
GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM**


CASH/IPADS FOR GUNS

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**



- DO I NEED IDENTIFICATION TO SURRENDER A GUN?**
NO, ABSOLUTELY NO IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED.
- HOW DO I BRING A GUN TO THE DROP OFF SITE?**
GUNS MUST BE PLACED IN A PLASTIC OR PAPER BAG OR BOX.
- CAN I TRANSPORT THE GUN IN A CAR?**
IF TRANSPORTING THE GUN BY CAR, THE GUN MUST BE TRANSPORTED IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR.
- WHEN DO I GET THE CASH CARD?**
AFTER THE GUN IS SCREENED BY OFFICERS, YOU WILL BE ISSUED A CASH CARD.
- HOW MANY GUNS CAN I SURRENDER?**
YOU MAY SURRENDER AS MANY GUNS AS YOU WISH, BUT YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR UP TO THREE GUNS FOR A MAXIMUM PAYOUT OF \$600.
- IS THERE A PHONE NUMBER I CAN CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION?**
YES, YOU CAN CALL 311 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE NYC GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME.
- CAN ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SURRENDER A GUN?**
YES, ACTIVE OR RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND LICENSED GUN DEALERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.
- CAN I HAVE SOMEONE SURRENDER THE GUN ON MY BEHALF?**
YES, SOMEONE ELSE CAN SURRENDER THE GUN ON YOUR BEHALF.


FOR ACCOMMODATIONS REGARDING ANY DISABILITY, PLEASE CONTACT SERGEANT QUINETS AT 646-610-5223 OR COMMUNITYAFFAIRS@NYPD.ORG AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.



**NEW YORK CITY
GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM**

CASH FOR GUNS

NO QUESTIONS ASKED



- RECEIVE A \$200 PRE-PAID CARD FOR OPERABLE HANDGUNS AND ASSAULT RIFLES**
- RECEIVE A \$25 PRE-PAID CARD FOR RIFLES, SHOTGUNS, AND AIRGUNS**





SATURDAY, APRIL 24th, 2021

DROP-OFF SITE OPEN 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.


**CALVARY CHAPEL
30 MAPLE PARKWAY
STATEN ISLAND NY 10303**

SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES WILL BE ADHERED TO DURING THIS EVENT.

NO CURRENT OR RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT
SPONSORED BY THE MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
PAYMENT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY DEPARTMENT SPECIALISTS

FOR ACCOMMODATIONS REGARDING ANY DISABILITY, PLEASE CONTACT SERGEANT QUINETS AT 646-610-5223 OR COMMUNITYAFFAIRS@NYPD.ORG AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.



District 61 News

Ramadan Celebration

The Muslim Celebration of Ramadan has begun. As the first Muslim elected official on Staten Island, it is an honor to help share this holiday with our community to raise awareness of my faith. This is a month of giving and sacrifice to honor our relationship with God. It is a time for learning and humbling ourselves and it is one of my favorite times of the year.

[Click here to watch my full remarks on Ramadan](#)



Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame

I had the pleasure of meeting with Principal Greenfield at Port Richmond High School to record a speech as a guest speaker to honor this year's Hall of Fame inductees. The full program will take place virtually [April 29th](#). I would also like to thank all the inductees for showing us the power of public education and for making our community proud. I would like to thank Port Richmond High school for honoring me with this opportunity and commemorating it with an award of my own.



Updates From Albany

The recently enacted New York State Budget included an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) for New York City public employees. The City will have the option of implementing it or not.

- The Mayor can deny any individual or title or unit deemed “critical” for revenue or public safety reasons.
- The Mayor can designate each agency’s commissioner to make these decisions for their respective agencies.
- The bills include NYCERS, TRS and BERS members only. New York State Local Retirement (NYSLRS) pension systems are not mentioned, but there is a strong possibility of state legislative action before the end of the 2021 Session.
- If approved by the Governor and the Mayor, the ERI for New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS) cannot start before [June 30, 2021](#) and end no later than [October 31, 2021](#).

- The ERI in Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Board of Education Retirement System (BERS) cannot start before [April 1, 2021](#) and end no later than [August 3, 2021](#).
- The open application period for both will probably be 90 days. Any retiree must provide at least 14 days' notice.
- All pension members would retire under the rules of their current tier and plan. To be eligible they must have a minimum age of 50 with minimum 10 years pension credit.
- Employees both age 55 or older and with 25 years or more of pension credit will not incur an age penalty.
- The ERI provides one-month additional credit for each year of credited service with a maximum of 36 months credit.


There is no debate that the pandemic we are still experiencing has placed fiscal burdens – both current and long-term - on both the state and the city. Besides taking the responsible approach of passing new revenue sources to assist in the recovery process, passing an early retirement incentive that recognizes the hard work of dedicated city workers and allows them to retire with the economic security they deserve, instead of being laid-off is essential. I look forward to working towards a similar early retirement incentive for all state and public employees.



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

1. As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that might typically be administered.
2. **Effective April 11, 2021, MTA Bridges and Tunnels is discontinuing its Staten Island Resident carpool plan at the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge (VNB)** The plan was intended to speed the payment of tolls at the VNB toll plaza via pre-paid tickets, while also encouraging carpooling as a means of reducing regional traffic. **However, the members of the State Majority Delegation once again, was able to keep the resident discount in tact where the rate will remain at \$2.75.**
3. **Empire Outlets, Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex to be walk-up vaccination sites for residents 75 and older.** “This is the group we need to reach most,” Mayor de Blasio said, referring to those aged 75 and older as a particularly vulnerable group. “Lots more outreach to be done to reach the oldest New Yorkers, like setting aside appointments at all city sites for seniors.
4. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - **The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here**
 - **The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here**
 - **SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769**
 - **Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category.** Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. **Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you and to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.**
 - **Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.**

5. **Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call 1-877-877-9267. If you are not yet eligible call 877-222-8387 to enroll.**



Attention NYC Veterans

VA New York Harbor Healthcare System is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel.

At this time, VA New York Harbor is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to **Veterans 65 years of age and older currently enrolled in VA Healthcare.**

The vaccine is being administered at the following locations by appointment only:

- Manhattan VA Medical Center
- Brooklyn VA Medical Center
- St. Albans Community Living Center
- Staten Island Community VA Clinic

Eligible Veterans must schedule an appointment by calling **1-877-877-9267**

Veterans who are not yet enrolled in VA Healthcare may visit www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/ or call 877-222-8387 for more information on how to apply.

VA |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

6. **Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.**
- View the Test-and-Trace corps **COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard** for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
 - **Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.**
 - **Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.**
 - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with 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. **Please click here if you have any further questions.**
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Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. SCORE Staten Island is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE. As a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors, who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
 - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
 - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone or by video
 - Free business tools, templates and tips online
 - Inexpensive or free business workshop/webinars (locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
 - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited here. Or you call them at [718-727-1221](tel:718-727-1221); email at info@scoresi.org and visit on Facebook and LinkedIn.

2. Need free tax assistance? **Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation offers a free tax preparation program** that provides NYC residents with assistance filing their returns and maximizing their credits and refunds. Call NAMIC's hotline **Monday – Wednesday 11am – 7pm** and **Saturday and Sunday 9am – 5pm**. Contact Maria Guzman-Colon at taxhelp@nmic.org or [929-415-8745](tel:929-415-8745) with any questions.


NYC FREE TAX PREP



FREE TAX PREPARATION

January 23 – April 15, 2021

Please be prepared with:

- Photo ID (New York State ID preferred)
- Social Security card
- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all family members
- W-2s for all jobs you held during 2020
- Any other tax-related documents
- Your bank account number and routing number (if you want to direct deposit your refund)


If you are filing jointly, your spouse must be present with photo ID.

When?
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11AM - 7PM
Saturday, Sunday 9AM-5PM

How do I sign up?
Book an appointment online at www.nmic.org/taxes

Who is eligible?
People who earned less than \$68,000 in 2020

Additional questions?
Contact us at taxhelp@nmic.org or (929) 415-8745


45 Wadsworth Avenue
New York, NY 10033
www.nmic.org
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:





NYC FREE TAX PREP



PREPARACIÓN GRATUITA DE IMPUESTOS

ENERO 23, - Abril 15, 2021

Por favor esté preparado con:

- Identificación con foto (se prefiere la identificación del estado de Nueva York)
- Tarjeta de seguridad social
- Contribuyente Individual Número de Identificación (ITIN) para todos los miembros de la familia
- W-2 para todos los trabajos que tuvo durante 2020
- Cualquier otro documento relacionado con impuestos
- Su número de cuenta del banco y número de ruta (si desea su reembolso por depósito directo)

Si presenta una declaración conjunta, su cónyuge debe estar presente con una identificación con foto.

¿Cuándo?
Lunes, Martes y Miércoles de 11 AM a 7 PM
Sábado, Domingo 9 AM - 5PM

¿Cómo me registro?
Haga una cita en línea en www.nmic.org/taxes

¿Quién es elegible?
Personas que ganaron menos de \$ 68,000 en 2020.

¿Preguntas adicionales?
Contáctenos taxhelp@nmic.org o (929) 415-8745


45 Wadsworth Avenue
New York, NY 10033
www.nmic.org
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:




3. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you.** If you need **free legal help** during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice and more. **call them at 718-233-6480.**



DO YOU NEED FREE LEGAL HELP DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Staten Island Legal Services is here to help you and your family get through this together.

- Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues
- Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid
- Eviction/Illegal Lockouts
- Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Prevention
- Small Business Advice
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Help
- Student Loan and Debt Collection
- Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection, & Child Support
- Education
- LGBTQ/HIV+

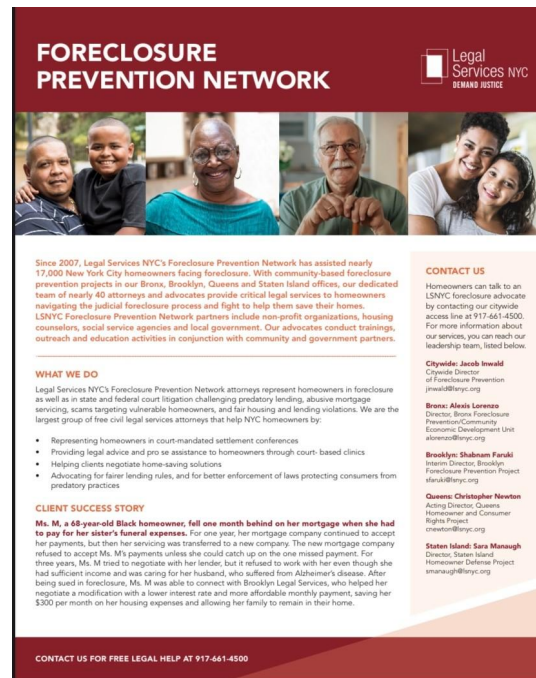
CALL STATEN ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
We speak your language and serve all 5 boroughs of NYC.

718-233-6480

STATEN ISLAND Legal Services NYC
REMAIN JUSTICE

legalservicesnyc.org



FORECLOSURE PREVENTION NETWORK

Legal Services NYC
REMAIN JUSTICE

Since 2007, Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network has assisted nearly 17,000 New York City homeowners facing foreclosure. With community-based foreclosure prevention projects in our Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island offices, our dedicated team of nearly 40 attorneys and advocates provide critical legal services to homeowners navigating the judicial foreclosure process and fight to help them save their homes. LSNYC Foreclosure Prevention Network partners include non-profit organizations, housing counselors, social service agencies and local government. Our advocates conduct trainings, outreach and education activities in conjunction with community and government partners.

CONTACT US

Homeowners can talk to an LSNYC foreclosure advocate by contacting our citywide access line at 917-661-4500. For more information about our services, you can reach our leadership team, listed below.

Citywide: Jacob Inwald
Citywide Director of Foreclosure Prevention
jinwald@lsnyc.org

Bronx: Alexis Lorenzo
Director, Bronx Foreclosure Prevention/Community Economic Development Unit
alorenzo@lsnyc.org

Brooklyn: Shabnam Faruki
Interim Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project
shfaruki@lsnyc.org

Queens: Christopher Newton
Acting Director, Queens Homeowner and Consumer Rights Project
cnewton@lsnyc.org

Staten Island: Sara Manough
Director, Staten Island Homeowner Defense Project
smanough@lsnyc.org

WHAT WE DO

Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network attorneys represent homeowners in foreclosure as well as in state and federal court litigation challenging predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, scams targeting vulnerable homeowners, and fair housing and lending violations. We are the largest group of free civil legal services attorneys that help NYC homeowners by:

- Representing homeowners in court-mandated settlement conferences
- Providing legal advice and pro se assistance to homeowners through court-based clinics
- Helping clients negotiate home-saving solutions
- Advocating for fairer lending rules, and for better enforcement of laws protecting consumers from predatory practices

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Ms. M, a 68-year-old Black homeowner, fell one month behind on her mortgage when she had to pay for her sister's funeral expenses. For one year, her mortgage company continued to accept her payments, but then her servicing was transferred to a new company. The new mortgage company refused to accept Ms. M's payments unless she could catch up on the one missed payment. For three years, Ms. M tried to negotiate with her lender, but it refused to work with her even though she had sufficient income and was caring for her husband, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After being sued in foreclosure, Ms. M was able to connect with Brooklyn Legal Services, who helped her negotiate a modification with a lower interest rate and more affordable monthly payment, saving her \$300 per month on her housing expenses and allowing her family to remain in their home.

CONTACT US FOR FREE LEGAL HELP AT 917-661-4500

4. **Small Business Resources:**

- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus crisis.** The PPP application for all lenders is now open. There are limited funds, so applicants are advised to apply early! **Click here for more information and to find the right application for your business.**
 - In preparation for your application, gather your documentation. For a complete list of required documents and additional PPP information, **click here.**
 - **List of participating lenders:**
 - Lower East Side People's Credit Union- North Shore Branch, for PPP inquiries, email lending@lespcfu.org or apply directly online on their **website.**
 - TruFund, **click here for an application** or email Mark Brazier (English) at MBrazier@trufund.org or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at mreyes@trufund.org.

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **The NYPD and others will host a community Job Fair **Saturday, April 17, 12 PM - 4 PM** at the Clove Lakes Park basketball courts. Companies that are hiring will be on site, as well as continuing education and training programs.**



The poster is for a community job fair hosted by the NYPD. It features the NYPD logo and the text 'NYPD New York City Police Department'. The event is on Saturday, April 17th, 2021, from 12PM-4PM at Clove Lakes Park-Basketball Courts. It also mentions a basketball game hosted by 'BIGGER THAN BASKETBALL'. Logos for NYPD Recruitment, U.S. Army, and ShopRite are included. At the bottom, logos for the General Amabile Life Center, Brothers Care, Inc., and a Summer Youth Employment Program are displayed.

NYPD
New York City Police Department
212-RECRUIT • NYPDRECRUIT.COM

Saturday, April 17th, 2021
Clove Lakes Park-Basketball Courts
1150 Clove Rd.
Staten Island, NY, 10301
12PM-4PM
(Victory Blvd & Clove Rd. Bus# 553)
(Rain Date- April 24th, 2021)

Basketball game
hosted by:
BIGGER THAN BASKETBALL

For more information, please contact Det Wilford or Det Rios at 646-246-8514 or 718-876-8505.
Companies that are hiring will be on site, as well as continuing education and training programs.

NYPD RECRUITMENT **U.S. ARMY** **ShopRite**

PBSI Community Job Fair

GENERAL AMABILE LIFE CENTER **BROTHERS CARE, INC. UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY** **Summer youth employment program**

2. **The Natural Resources Protective Association is hosting a Clean Up at Waterfront Park from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM on **Sunday, April 18th**. For additional information reach out to Jim Scarcella at **718-873- 4291**. Gloves, bags, refreshments will be provided. Masks and social distancing will be required.**
3. **The 15th Annual Harambee celebration - honoring community leaders who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community.** The virtual celebration will take place at 7:00pm on **Thursday, April 29th**. Ticket costs start at \$25 and can be purchased [here](#).
4. **Staten Island CareerCon, needs your help.** This innovative career fair, taking place on **Wednesday, April 28 at 8:30AM**, is designed to introduce students to various career and college pathways, while giving business owners and hiring managers an opportunity to meet and engage with the future of Staten Island’s workforce. This year, our event will be conducted virtually and will expand to accommodate over 8,000 students on Staten Island. This is a great opportunity to connect school students with businesses to discuss career pathways, internships, and jobs. It also provides a good opportunity for employers to promote their

business by tabling or being a panelist. Businesses can register [here](#), and students can ask their teachers or assistant principals on how to join. The event is open to high school juniors and seniors.

5. **Citizens Committee for New York City is offering** grants of up to \$10,000 to grassroots organizations responding to the immediate needs of struggling New Yorkers to open food pantries, distribute surgical masks, arrange elderly check-ins, or design other projects to meet their neighborhoods' urgent needs amid the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are open and there is a rolling deadline. **[Click here to learn more.](#)**
6. **During these difficult times, the Northfield Bank Foundation is offering a grant opportunity for COVID-19 emergency related requests for health and wellness and feeding the hungry initiatives.** The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates - Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. **[Click here to learn more about the grant process.](#)**
7. **Richmond County Savings Foundation - Nonprofit organizations may request funding for program or project support, journal ad or event sponsorship.** Grant requests are reviewed throughout the year for amounts up to \$5,000. **[See here for more information.](#)**

Sincerely,



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**