



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

April 22, 2021

Ramadan Celebration

The Muslim Celebration of Ramadan continues. 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](#)



Upcoming Events

Join us [Friday, April 23th](#) at 1:00 PM at Masjid Noor al Islam Society at 3075 Richmond Terrace as we deliver food to the community.

PLEASE JOIN
ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES D. FALL
AND PROJECT HOSPITALITY AT OUR
RAMADAN FOOD DRIVE
AT MASJID NOOR AL
ISLAM SOCIETY

3075 RICHMOND TERRACE
FRIDAY, APRIL 23RD
1 PM - 4 PM

Project
Hospitality

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/TPADS 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 INSPECTED 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 BURETS 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 BURETS AT
646-610-5223 OR COMMUNITYAFFAIRS@NYPD.ORG
AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

I am hosting a Virtual Community Iftar on [May 4th](#) at 6:15pm as we continue to celebrate Ramadan. [You can click here to register.](#)



District 61 News

MAS Food Giveaway

As the Muslim Celebration of Ramadan continues, we want to make sure we share our good fortunate and give back to our communities. [Last Friday](#) my office teamed up with Project Hospitality and the Muslim American Society to distribute food to the members of the mosque. Thanks to Project Hospitality for continuing to sponsor our food drives and giveaways. Thank you to MAS for providing the event location and volunteers. I am grateful to continue these partnerships and for all the volunteers who participated.



Highlights for the 2021-2022 NYS Budget

Our State Legislature passed a historic \$212 billion budget to jump start New York's economic recovery due to the COVID-19 Pandemic just a few weeks ago. We made sure that this budget reflected the needs and priorities for everyday New Yorkers. In the video below I highlight some of the key points of the budget.

[Click here to watch full video of highlights.](#)



Updates From Albany

This week the New York State Legislature passed legislation that will protect New Yorkers from exposure to airborne infectious diseases by reducing workplace transmission and community spread through enforceable health and safety standards.

- Currently, there is no federal or state law protecting workers from exposure to airborne infectious disease in the workplace.
- While there are several state executive orders and regulation in place that aim to reduce workplace transmission, they do not cover all industries or protect all workers.
- The NY HERO Act would require the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Health, to create an airborne infectious disease standard covering all private employers.

- The department would publish such model standard in English and Spanish and any additional language approved by the Commissioner of Labor.

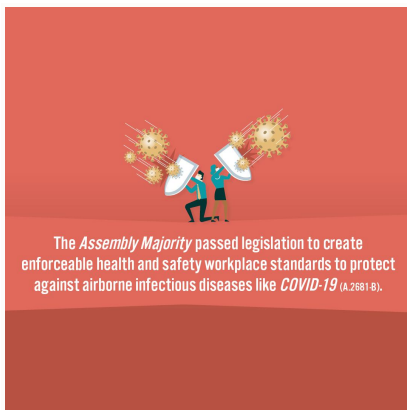
- The plan would set minimum standards for preventing exposure to airborne disease, including employee health screenings, personal protective equipment (PPE), accessible handwashing stations and regular facility cleaning.

- It would require all private businesses to implement this model or a similar plan.
- This bill would also create joint employer-employee workplace health and safety committees where there are 10 or more employees.
- To ensure employees feel protected to speak out, it would prohibit employers from retaliating against workers.
- The legislation was passed this week by the Assembly and Senate and is expected to be delivered to the Governor for execution action.

“I am proud to support and help pass this legislation to honor New Yorkers who showed up at their job each day and helped keep our state running at the height of this pandemic. They showed unwavering bravery and strength as they put their health at risk to keep our state and communities

moving forward.

It is only befitting that this legislation be called the NY Hero Act. New Yorkers deserve to feel protected in their workplaces.”



This week the Assembly passed an Earth Day Legislative Package to safeguard the environment

- In 2019, the Legislature passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), setting critical environmental standards, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy to address and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- This year's Earth Day legislative package includes two measures that will help New York reach the goals set by the CLCPA by reducing emissions from the transportation sector, which is currently one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

One of these measures sets the goal that all in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks, as well as off-road vehicles and equipment would be

- zero-emissions by 2035, and medium- and heavy-duty vehicles would be zero-emissions by 2045.

The second measure would help remove

- barriers to electric vehicle charging infrastructure by requiring the Public Service Commission to create a more flexible billing system for commercial electric vehicle charging stations.
- In addition to legislation passed this week, the Assembly Climate Change Work Group will monitor the implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and continue to explore policy initiatives on both the state and federal levels to combat the effects of climate change.

The Work Group will ensure that recommendations and timeframes from the Climate Action Council comply, as well as examine additional policy initiatives that may be helpful in addressing climate change. This may include modifications to existing laws and regulations such as increased access and usage of electric vehicles, improved

- air quality and decreased greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and power plants.



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

1. This week it was announced that the statewide 7-day average COVID-19 positivity rate dropped to 2.80 percent, the lowest since November 12. ICU patients dropped to 823, the lowest since December 3, and intubations dropped to 504, the lowest since December 7.
2. Tax Day for individuals extended to May 17: Treasury, IRS extend filing and payment deadline. The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. The IRS will be providing formal guidance in the coming days
3. Everyone in United States aged 16 years and above is now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Monday. People aged 16 years and above who have underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19, should be among those offered the vaccine first, according to the U.S. health agency's latest recommendations
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.**

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**; email at info@scoresi.org and visit on Facebook and LinkedIn.
2. **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?

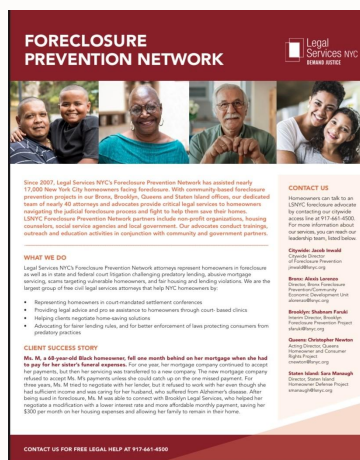
Staten Island Legal Services is here to help you and your family get through this together.

- Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues
- Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid
- Eviction/Legal 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

Legal Services NYC
statenidland.org



FORECLOSURE PREVENTION NETWORK

Legal Services NYC
ERINNY RIVERA

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.

Legal Services NYC's 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.

WHAT WE DO

Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network attorneys represent homeowners in foreclosure as well as in dispute with their lender (including predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, unenforceable arbitration provisions, and unfair terms and fee-based practices). We are the largest group of free civil legal services attorneys that help NYC homeowners by:

- Representing homeowners in court-mediated settlement conferences
- Providing legal advice and legal assistance to homeowners through court-based clinics
- Helping clients negotiate humane saving solutions
- Advocating for more lending rules, and for more enforcement of law protecting homeowners from predatory practices

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Ms. M., a 48-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 her mortgage was transferred to a new company. The new mortgage company refused to accept Ms. M.'s payments, which she had done up to the one-month 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 willing to let her husband, who suffered from depression, stop his being laid 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

CONTACT US

Homeowners can talk to an LSNYC foreclosure advocate by contacting our attorneys directly via our website. For more information about our services, you can reach our leadership team. Email below.

Christine Jacob-Bowling
Director, Director of Foreclosure Prevention
christine@lscnyc.org

Breana Akers-Lemons
Director, Director of Foreclosure Prevention
breana@lscnyc.org

Brooklyn: Barbara Pinski
Attorney, Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project
barbara@lscnyc.org

Queens: Christopher Rivera
Attorney, Director, Queens Foreclosure Prevention Project
chris@lscnyc.org


Staten Island: Sara Mungoff
Attorney, Director, Staten Island Foreclosure Prevention Project
sara@lscnyc.org

3. 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@lespfcu.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 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.](#)
2. **The Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society presents The 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19th, 2021, 7-11 PM at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10310.**



THE HARRIET TUBMAN PURPLE HAT SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 20173
Staten Island, New York 10312

President Nancy Athon-Poka Founder-Ms. Thomasina Williams

Presents



The 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday,
June 19th, 2021, 7-11PM
at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10303
Honorees: Sarah Blas/Edna Greenwich/ Laura Owens
Dinner, Entertainment and Dancing
Thomasina Williams Scholarship Awards
\$100.00 Donation/ no tickets sold at door
Limited capacity due to strict CDC/NYS Mandatory Catered Events Covid-19
Guidelines. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.
Everyone must always wear a mask, except while seated.
All guests must present a negative covid test within 72 hrs. of the event or a full vaccination card completed 14 days prior to the event date to be admitted to this event.
Tables will be 6 feet apart. Maximum 8 per table.
All guests must sign in with contact information.
This event will be registered with the NYC Department of Health.
For Tickets Contact: Co-Chairs: Sherry Powell 917-327-9889/Jaquet G. Robinson 347-855-2759
African-Centric dress optional!

3. **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.
4. **Citizens Committee for New York City is offering** grants of up to \$10,000 to grassroot 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.](#)**
5. **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.](#)**
6. **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**