

Assemblymember
Tony Simone

Assembly District 75



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Dear neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying the last of the beautiful summer weather! As September approaches, the start of school is around the corner. Every kid deserves to start the school year with the items they need to succeed, so my office is sponsoring a school supply drive!



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
TONY SIMONE



HELP OUT NYC STUDENTS BY DONATING SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

MONDAY- THURSDAY

AUGUST 10TH - AUGUST 21ST

DROP OFF LOCATION: 214 WEST 29TH #1002

TIME: 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM



**TISSUES - SCISSORS - NOTEBOOK PAPER - CRAYONS - COLORED
PENCILS - CALCULATORS - HIGHLIGHTERS - PAPER TOWELS -
FOLDERS HAND SANITIZER (TRAVEL SIZED) - BACKPACKS - AND
MORE...**

If you have school supplies to donate, you can drop them off at my community office at **214 West 29th Street, suite #1002**. We are accepting anything and everything a child might need to kick the school year off right, but we're especially looking for:

- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Calculators
- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Pens

- Binders
- Loose leaf paper

My office will make other announcements on my Instagram and Twitter about events surrounding the drive. My social media is the best way to see what I'm up to day to day, so be sure to follow along there!

Hoping you and your family are keeping cool,

Tony

This Thursday - Learn About the NY HEAT Act with Free Ice Cream!

It's a hot, sweaty, expensive summer in New York City. Join me and Renewable Heat Now on Thursday, 8/17 to get some FREE ice cream and learn how to support the NY HEAT Act, a bill that will fight rising energy bills and climate change in one scoop!

We'll be handing out free ice cream and information about NY HEAT, a bill that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save New Yorkers \$75/month on energy bills. So come on down to Mathews Palmer Park at 2:30pm on Thursday August 17th to beat the heat!



Announcing the Commercial E-Bike Licensing Act

The proliferation of e-bikes has created hazardous conditions for pedestrians on streets and sidewalks. To help address this problem, Senator Hoylman-Sigal and I have introduced a bill to require licensing for commercial e-bikes and e-scooters, and that focuses on sidewalk safety in particular. The licensing would include the requirement that the riders' delivery platforms pay for violations when a delivery rider uses their vehicle on the sidewalk. This would place the burden of responsibility on the corporations that place immense pressure on e-bike users to make deliveries quickly.

[Good Day NY invited me on their show to talk about how the bill](#) addresses the reckless behavior that puts pedestrians at risk, while making corporations liable for the root causes of the dangerous behavior.



In the studio at Good Day NY, with hosts Rosanna Scotto and Bianca Peters.

Calling on the Federal Government to Support Asylum Seekers

New York City has welcomed over 80,000 asylum seekers in the last year alone, at a total cost of nearly \$1 billion. Our city has taken on this challenge because we know that we have a responsibility to care for the families who come here searching for a better life, but we cannot do it alone.

That's why I joined Assemblymember Jennifer Rajkumar and our colleagues in the state Legislature and City Council [in a letter to President Biden](#), asking him to expedite work authorizations and provide federal funding to support New York's efforts. With those resources, we can help the people who are coming here looking to build a better future for their children: the very definition of the American dream. [You can read the full letter here.](#)

Get Sheds Down!

[There are nearly 400 miles of construction sheds](#), or as most New Yorkers call them, scaffolding, across New York City. The sheds protect pedestrians from falling debris and construction, but too often they are left on the sidewalk far past when their permits expire. The sheds are a blight on our city and attract illegal activity, which is why I joined Mayor Adams and other colleagues to announce the “Get Sheds Down” initiative, which will remove the unsightly sheds quicker to improve public safety and quality of life for all New Yorkers.

Through Running as a Solution - with Andy Byford!

I was joined by “[Train Daddy](#)” himself, Andy Byford, at a public seminar to talk with the community about the option of “through-running” trains as a big part of the solution for the overcrowding at Penn Station. Through running stations are stations between two terminals. At these stations, trains come in from one direction, unload and load passengers, and continue on in the same direction, avoiding the inefficiency of terminal stations.

[The Daily News printed Byford's remarks](#), where he explained that the proposed southern expansion of Penn that would demolish a partially residential block with significant buildings could be replaced by implementing through-running. I talked about all these issues [in an interview with NY1](#), and I'll keep working with the community, community boards and other stakeholders to transform both Penn Station and its tracks into world-class infrastructure that will work for everyone.

Relief for City Retirees

Two years ago the City of New York began a move to take away traditional Medicare from public employee retirees and force them to enter a for-profit health network, a Medicare Advantage plan. This move affected over 250,000 retired city workers.

Last week, [a Manhattan Supreme Court Judge issued a ruling](#) prohibiting the City from making the switch. I am strongly against any diminishing of healthcare for anyone, especially those who earned their benefits through a career of service to their city. I am proud to co-sponsor the [Health Equity for Retirees Act](#) by my colleague Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski. I will continue to fight against any attempts to chip away at healthcare and to win greater comprehensive and affordable care for all.

Supporting People with Serious Mental Illness - with Senator Gillilbrand & Congressman Goldman

Too many people living with serious mental illness (SMI) are stuck in a devastating cycle moving between hospitals, jails, and housing instability due to lack of access to community-based treatment. In 2021, over a third of people with SMI did not receive any form of mental health treatment. In New York City, a number of subway deaths have highlighted the need for access to intense and immediate mental health support.



I was proud to join Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Dan Goldman and Jerry Nadler announce their bill, which would address this problem by creating a new package of services under Medicaid targeted specifically to individuals living with SMI, setting a national standard for SMI care, and incentivizing states to provide intensive community-based services to treat SMI.

Supporting Unions - SAG-AFTRA and Starbucks

SAG-AFTRA, the union representing screen actors and performers, went on strike last month to protest the unwillingness of big studios to negotiate a fair contract. Among other things, the studios want actors to allow their likenesses to be scanned so that AI can recreate them for any project in the future - meaning an actor gets paid for a single day of work that guarantees the studio never has to hire them again. This ludicrous proposal is bad for workers, so I joined SAG-AFTRA on the picket line to demand that the corporations come back to the table to negotiate a fair contract.



Rallying on the picket line with Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Councilmember Erik Bottcher, SAG-AFTRA workers, and organizers.

Starbucks workers have also been organizing at locations across the country, including several here in New York City. 32BJ is working with the growing Starbucks union to organize the stores that haven't yet unionized.



I joined 32BJ to encourage customers to sign petitions urging Starbucks to allow workers to organize.



Enjoying National Night Out Against Crime with officers and community members from NYPD's 10th Precinct.



Joining the West 400 Block Association for an ice cream social.



Ali Forney has a new location in midtown Manhattan! I joined the staff there to learn about the services they provide for the LGBTQ+ community.



Handing out information on government programs to the residents at Manhattan Plaza.



Hearing the news from the district at Penn South!

Hudson Guild's Back to School Bash - Coming up on August 26th!

The first day of school is right around the corner! Come by and pick up a bookbag full of back to school essentials, learn about Hudson Guild's offered programs, and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with FREE games, live music, food, face painting and more!



Standing with Tenants

Tenants at 410 and 412 West 46th Street have been living in a dilapidated building and face regular harassment from their landlord, in an attempt to force them to leave. Together with other local elected officials, I have been fighting for humane living conditions for them by meeting with Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Adolfo Carrion and speaking at a press conference held outside the building. As a result, HPD has stepped in to make most of the repairs and order a new administrator for the building.

There is still work to be done here and in other parts of NYC where tenants endure similar conditions. City agencies must have the resources to act faster in these situations so that tenants like the ones at 410/412

West 46th Street don't have to wait for months on end for important repairs. Further, we must pass legislation to protect the rights of tenants and hold landlords accountable like the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which would prevent the displacement of lower-income tenants in New York and preserve affordable housing by providing the opportunity for tenants to own or remain renters where they live. The bill is based on the city's "TIL" (Tenant Interim Lease Apartment Purchase) Program that enables tenant associations in City-owned buildings to develop low-income tenant-owned cooperatives.

Planning the Future of Pier 76

Until 2020, Pier 76, located at 36th Street in the Hudson River Park, was the home of an NYPD tow pound, even though state legislation said it should be a park and the community and its elected officials had been calling for its removal for over a decade. Other uses had already left the pier but getting rid of the tow pound took the intervention of the governor and legislature. The state Parks Department came in, and spent \$31 million to remove the tow pound, clean up the 5.6-acre pier, and create the open space park area that is there now. But this use is temporary while the future of Pier 76 is being planned.

The Hudson River Park Act says Pier 76 should be a minimum of 50% "passive and active public open space" such as lawns sports or playgrounds, while the rest can be "park/commercial" (an entertainment, retail, or commercial recreational use). Although the Act calls for "limited park/commercial uses," there is great pressure for Pier 76 to generate income to help support the Park's maintenance and operations, especially to help with the approximately \$100 million cost to repair it so it can be used safely and for more activities.

The Hudson River Park Trust has re-convened a task force to generate ideas that would combine passive and active park space while also generating income for the park. As a member of the Pier 76 Task Force, it is my goal to see the park space maximized and commercial space minimized. I look forward to seeing various proposals for the pier.