



Dear neighbor,

This week, I spent time in Albany and around the district working on issues that matter to our community. I wanted to share a few quick updates.



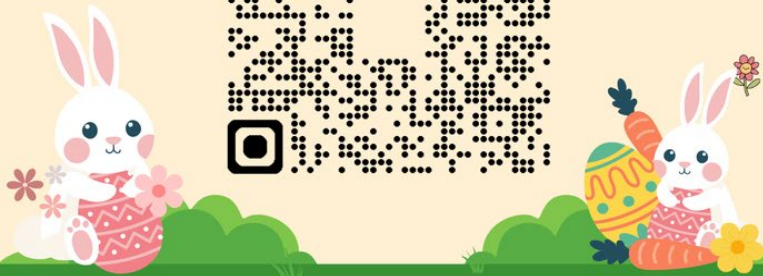
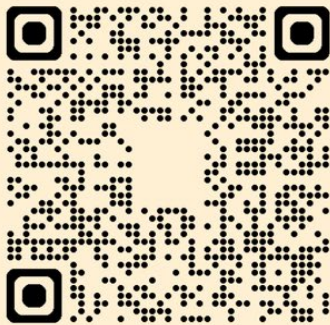
**Easter Egg Egg-stravaganza**



# EASTER EGG HUNT



Chelsea Green Park  
Saturday, March 28th  
10am-12pm



RSVP Deadline: March 25<sup>th</sup>  
**[bit.ly/TonyEggHunt](https://bit.ly/TonyEggHunt)**



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**TONY SIMONE**

Hop on over to Chelsea Green Park for an egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt! Join me on Saturday, March 28th from 10 am - 12pm at 20th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues for candy, face-painting, photo ops, and timed hunts for kids (5th grade cutoff). Don't miss out – this will be egg-stras special!

Please [RSVP](#) to secure your spot today!

RSVP [HERE](#)



## **One House Budget**

The Assembly passed its **One-House Budget proposal**, and the focus is clear: **making New York more affordable while continuing to invest in our future**. This proposal is our response to the Governor's proposed budget. Over the next couple of weeks, the Assembly will negotiate a final State budget with the Senate and the Governor.

We're prioritizing:

- **Making housing more affordable:** increased funding for NYCHA and Mitchell-Lama, supporting those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: read more by clicking [HERE](#)
- **Investing in public transportation:** read more by clicking [HERE](#)
- **Tackling rising utility rates:** read more by clicking [HERE](#)
- **Funding education and childcare:** read more by clicking [HERE](#)

The proposal invests **\$266 billion**, with a focus on **putting money back in people's pockets and lowering everyday costs**.

The goal is simple: help working and middle-class New Yorkers afford to live here.

## **New York State Nurses Association**

I met with and rallied alongside members of NYSNA! New York's healthcare system is under strain with staffing shortages, rising costs, and unsafe conditions for nurses. Supporting frontline workers means safer hospitals and better care for every New Yorker.



## Advancing LGBTQ+ Protections

Youth from the Ali Forney Center, alongside partners from New Pride Agenda and the New York Civil Liberties Union, joined me in Albany. We helped educate my colleagues about the fact that LGBTQ+ youth face homelessness at far higher rates. Therefore, New York must expand shelters, housing, and support so every young person has a safe place to go. We can talk a big game, but unless we put our money where our mouth is, that means nothing. I'm fighting to protect those who are under daily attack from the federal government!



**Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

At a time when we are under attack for simply existing, and our history is being erased, last week's announcement is an important step for New York City. I am grateful to Mayor Mamdani for creating the Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs and for appointing the incredible Taylor Brown to lead it.



When our flags are torn down and medically necessary care is stripped away, the LGBTQIA+ community needs a fighter with Taylor’s experience in civil rights and public service and deep roots in the community to ensure New York City remains a place where everyone, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, is welcomed, protected, and supported.



You can watch a video about the announcement by clicking [HERE](#).

### **Ramon Aponte Playground Update**

As many families in our community know, Ramon Aponte Playground has been closed since early February due to a partial scaffolding collapse at an adjacent building. I know this has been a major disruption to many Hell's Kitchen families who have some of the lowest levels of green space of anyone in the City. We must get the park reopened with a full guarantee of safety as soon as possible.

I am heartened by the news at Community Board 4's Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee that once the area is made safe there will be a partial reopening of the park. However, like many of you, I am not satisfied with the unspecified timeline. That is why I sent a letter to the Department of Buildings and NYC Parks to take all efforts to prioritize approvals and cut necessary red tape to get this park reopened in our community that already has such little green space.

You can read the letter below:



## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

214 WEST 29TH STREET, SUITE 1002, NEW YORK, NY 10001  
212-807-7900  
326 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NY 12248  
518-455-4941  
SimoneT@nyassembly.gov

TONY SIMONE  
75TH ASSEMBLY  
DISTRICT

Ahmed Tigani  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Tricia Shimamura  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY, 10065

March 19, 2026

Dear Commissioner Ahmed Tigani and Commissioner Tricia Shimamura:

I write to you to request that the New York City Department of Buildings and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation work to ensure that Ramon Aponte Playground is reopened as quickly as possible while implementing all possible safety measures.

It was purely chance that the sidewalk bridge did not collapse hours before it did when children were still playing in the playground. We cannot rely on chance to avoid potential tragedies like what almost happened on Wednesday February 11th, 2026.

Ramon Aponte Playground is beloved by Hell's Kitchen children and parents. There should be no delays to reopen the park, except as a result of necessary actions that secure the safety of the park for its occupants.

I appreciate the gravity that DOB and Parks is treating this situation with. To ensure that the park is opened as promptly and safely as possible, I request the following:

COMMITTEES  
Labor  
Economic Development,  
Job Creation, Commerce and  
Industry  
Corporations, Authorities and  
Commissions  
Environmental Conservation  
Governmental Operations  
Social Services  
MEMBER  
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic  
and Asian Legislative Caucus  
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task  
Force  
Task Force on New Americans

Photo: Catie Savage

- Until the park is reopened, all work regarding Ramon Aponte Playground be expedited, including but not limited to approval of scaffolding permits, approval of work permits, inspections, reviews, and work necessary to reopening the park
- A thorough review to confirm that the inspection report accurately determines why the scaffolding fell and that another inspection is completed if the first inspection it does not accurately determine this
- Confirmation that the new scaffolding plans account for and avoid the causes of the original scaffolding falling, and an explanation of what must be changed if they do not
- Inspections to ensure that the new scaffolding is built exactly to the plans that are approved
- Regular inspections while the scaffolding is up to ensure that all work is being completed safely.
- Clear communication of timelines, next steps, and updates.
- Above all else, all necessary actions be taken that secure the safety of the park, and all else, all work be completed thoroughly and carefully.

Please grant these requests to ensure that the neighborhood may again safely use Ramon Aponte Playground as soon as possible.

Thank you for giving your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Tony Simone  
Assemblymember

Photo: Phil O'Brien

I will keep you updated on the timeline of reopening and promise to use every tool in my power to get our park reopened as soon as possible.

### **DOROT's Passover Package Delivery**

DOROT is welcoming volunteers to participate in their Passover Package Delivery to connect with older members of our community. This event takes place on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at two locations:

1. DOROT: 171 West 85th Street, off Amsterdam Ave.
2. Moise Safra Center: 130 E. 82nd Street, off Lexington Ave.

Volunteers will check in, pick up a package, deliver it to a DOROT older adult participant and either stay for a short visit or drop off the package and enjoy a phone “visit” later in the day. For more information and to register, please visit the [Passover Package Delivery | DOROT](#)



## The Rush Hour

Recently I sat down with Annika Pergament on NY1. We spoke about the One House Budget, the need to build more affordable housing in our community, and my new bill, the [HOST Act](#) (A10339/S09405).



You can listen to the full conversation about taxes, housing, the Penn Station General Project Plan, and the HOST Act, my bill to ensure New York is prepared to make the World Cup a great time while

promoting safety and community oversight by clicking [HERE](#).



Thank you so much for reading our Community Update! I hope you were able to learn something of value about our work and found some helpful information about happenings in our district. As always, my office and I are here to serve you so if you need any assistance with a state agency, unemployment benefits, tenant issues, or have an idea for new legislation, please email us at [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov) or call us at 212-807-7900.

In service,  
Tony

*Keep up with me on social media!*

