

# Rebecca Seawright



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I continued my participation in hearings on higher education, health and local governments. I took the opportunity to question our Mayor Adams on overdevelopment, the disappearance of local small businesses, and his appointments to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) Board. I secured a commitment from him to visit the 76th district, and ride the Roosevelt Island Tram which he said is "one of the greatest attractions in New York City." You can tune into these hearings concerning the State Budget. The next one is on Tuesday, February 15 at 9:30 am regarding Transportation ([tune in here](#)).*

*Our office has been hearing from constituents about their recent Con Ed bills being 2-3 times the normal price. I wrote to New York State Department of Public Service Chair Christian to oppose the sharp increases due to supply issues. Enclosed, you will find more information on the increase and resources for paying your utility bill.*

*I joined with Council Member Julie Menin in signing a letter to President and CEO of RIOC Shelton Haynes demanding that OMNY fare collection be installed at the Roosevelt Island Tram. It is necessary for the tram to be incorporated into this new fare collection system to allow for seamless transfers and to enable riders to take advantage of the OMNY fare capping benefit launching at the end of February.*

*We are working on our Assembly One-House Budget, and I am pushing back on a proposal by the Governor to lift the Floor Area Ratio cap eliminating the longstanding, reasonable, and necessary cap on residential development in New York State. We must preserve the character of our neighborhood and the quality of life for Upper East Side and Yorkville residents.*

*Given the rapid decline of cases and hospitalizations, Governor Kathy Hochul is lifting the statewide mask-or-vaccine requirement for indoor businesses. Cities and businesses can still choose to require masks. The mask*

requirement remains in effect statewide for specific settings like health care facilities, nursing homes, and schools.

Please join us for one of the events we are pleased to sponsor:

- **Tuesday, February 15 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm - No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.** RSVP by calling 212-288-4607.
- **Tuesday, February 15 at 6:00 pm - Town Hall Tuesday: Aging Advocacy and Services for Senior Citizens** streaming on [Facebook live](#). [RSVP here](#).
- **Thursday, February 17 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets) - No-Cost Face Covering Giveaway.** [RSVP here](#).
- **Thursday, February 17 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Zoom - Virtual Knitting Social on zoom.** [RSVP here](#).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,



**Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright  
Speaks at the Memorial Service  
Remembering the Life of the  
Honorable Sarah Weddington, Roe v. Wade Attorney  
February 5, 1945 – December 26, 2021**



**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER



**VIRTUAL  
TOWN  
HALL  
TUESDAY**

FEBRUARY 15  
6:00PM  
ZOOM

**AGING  
ADVOCACY:  
SENIOR CITIZEN  
BENEFITS &  
SERVICES IN  
NEW YORK CITY**



**Topic of  
Discussion**

**FEATURED  
SPEAKERS:**

**LiveOn NY**

Making New York a better place to age

**KIM LERNER, LMSW**

**DIRECTOR OF BENEFITS OUTREACH**

*Search and Care*  
No one should fall through the cracks

**JOSEPH DIBENEDETTO, LMSW**

**AGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR &  
ADVOCACY COORDINATOR**



[RSVP Here](#)

**Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright**  
is seeking nominations for the 2022

# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS



Together, let's celebrate **Women's History Month** by recognizing the extraordinary women who are making our communities stronger.

Join us at the  
**2022 Women of Distinction  
Awards Ceremony**

held at  
Zoom/FB.com/RebeccaASeawright  
on Wednesday, March 16  
at 7 pm on zoom.  
*RSVP for details*

**Nominations must be submitted by 2/25/22  
via email to seawright@nyassembly.gov.**

*For a nomination form or more  
information about this or any  
other community issue, contact*

**Assembly Member  
Rebecca A. Seawright**

1485 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10075  
212-288-4607 • seawright@nyassembly.gov



**Nominate a Woman of Distinction in our community**

**RSVP to the ceremony on zoom**

**Assembly Ways and Means Committee Member  
Rebecca Seawright in Budget Hearings**

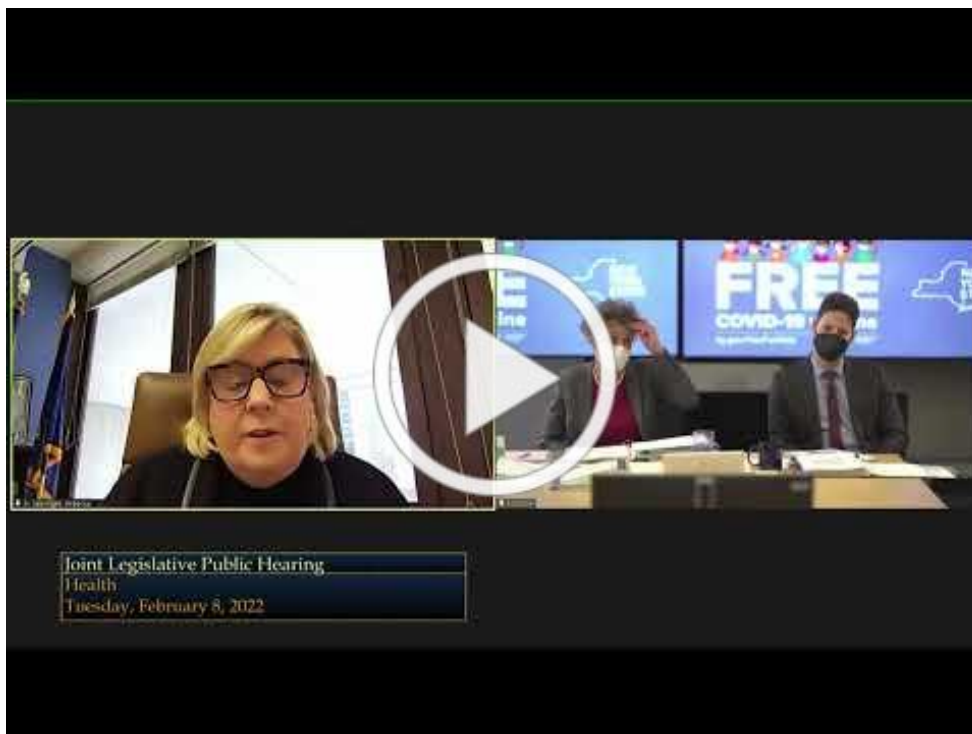
## Seawright Questions Mayor Adams on Overdevelopment, Small Businesses and RIOC Board Appointments



**Questioning State Health Commissioner Bassett:**

**Misleading Pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites**

**Illegal "Donation-for-Cannabis" Bus on East 86 Street**

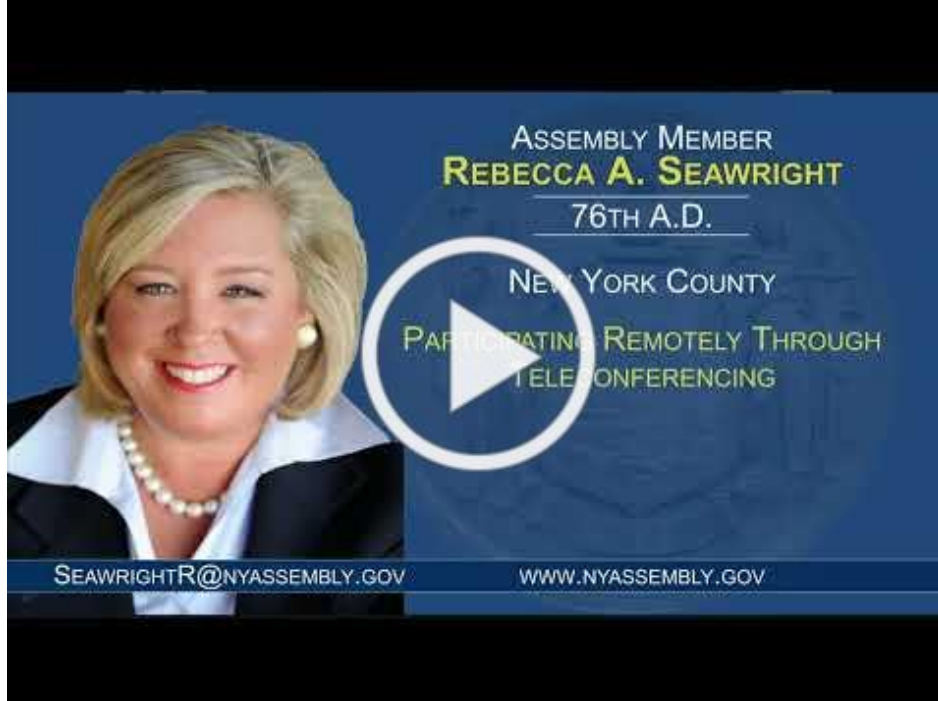


In Albany I protested against the "donation for weed" bus on E.86 St., & questioned NYS Health Commissioner Basset at this week's hearing. Operations like this one undermine the legal cannabis industry in NYS. Our 19th Precinct has responded to the reports from constituents and violators will not be eligible for licensing in the legal market.

## **CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez Responds to Seawright's Request To Move Hunter College Science and Nursing Facility Forward**



## **Seawright Urges SUNY Interim Chancellor Deborah Stanley On Greater Access to Community Colleges With Free Tuition**



## Seawright Responds to Shocking Con Ed Bills

### Demands Answers From the NYS Department of Public Service Chair Christian

[Click here to read the full letter.](#)

We have been hearing from constituents about unexpected hikes in the price of their Con Ed utility bills.

Electric supply costs went up beginning last month. Customer bills are generally comprised of three different types of costs: delivery, supply, and taxes/fees. Recent increases in bill amounts are driven largely by charges in the cost of energy supply. These increases are based on different factors such as weather, demand, and market prices.

As a result, there is a dramatic increase in the supply charges component of the Con Ed bill this month. The problem lies with the privately owned electric companies controlling the production of our resources. In New York City, almost 70% of our electricity is produced using fossil fuels, primarily gas.

Assembly Member Seawright argues that the price of a harsh winter and the transition to greener energy infrastructure should not be placed on consumers. In the Assembly, Seawright is a proponent of a transition from private to public ownership of energy resources, cosponsoring Assembly Bill A1466A.

#### **What you can do to respond:**

[Check if you are eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\).](#)

[Look at Con Ed Bill Paying Assistance Options](#)

[File a complaint with the Public Service Commission](#)

[Comment on proposals impacting future increases](#)

## Seawright Cosponsors Panel on Antisemitism



# Addressing Surge In Attacks Across New York and the Country



Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senate Majority Leader



Julie Menin, NYC Councilmember



Michael Cohen, Eastern Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center



Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assemblymember



On Wednesday, Assembly Member Seawright cosponsored an important discussion on the surge of anti-Semitism in New York City with City Council Member Julie Menin.

State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright talked about her partnership with the Simon Wiesenthal Center in helping bring about the funding in the state budget for a new Mobile Museum of Tolerance for New York. The mobile museum will keep the history and the lessons of the Holocaust alive with interactive exhibits that will now be available for the benefit of neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan area and beyond. I look forward to the van visiting the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island.

Panelists including the Simon Wiesenthal Center, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, NYPD 19th Precinct, the Anti-Defamation League, New York City Human Rights Commission, and the New York State Office of the Attorney General spoke about efforts toward ensuring that hate crimes are recognized as hate crimes and that perpetrators are brought to justice.

# Seawright Statement Opposing Overdevelopment in NYS Budget



*"I stand in firm opposition to lifting the 12 FAR cap for residential development in New York State in the NYS budget. I stand in strong opposition to this proposal and against the overdevelopment of our neighborhoods. I have appreciated hearing from neighbors in overwhelming number to express their concern on this vital issue.*

*"In Albany, I have been a vocal advocate in opposition to the lifting of the existing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to build tall towers. Just this*

*week, I questioned our Mayor Adams on the impact of overdevelopment such as the Blood Center and the suffering of small businesses from the pandemic.*

*"The proposal in the Governor's Budget would be harmful to our neighborhood, allowing residential development to rise above the 12 FAR would only benefit real estate developers, vastly increase super luxury housing in our city, and incentivize the demolition and replacement of existing rent regulated affordable housing. The data shows that increased density alone does not yield more affordable housing for our neighbors. We must preserve the character of our neighborhood and the quality of life for Upper East Side and Yorkville residents.*

*"As budget negotiations and hearings proceed, I will voice my opposition and share the input of the many constituents contacting me on this important issue."*

## Assembly Member Seawright Sends Letter With Council Member Julie Menin to RIOC For OMNY At Tram



RIOC is a New York State run public-benefit corporation that maintains and develops Roosevelt Island, operates a Public Safety Department, and also provides services such as the Roosevelt Island Tramway that enhances the residential island community. It is one of the few forms of mass transit in New York City not run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, but uses that system's MetroCard.

With an annual ridership of over two million people and daily use in the thousands, the Tram currently is one of the most reliable services for traveling into Midtown Manhattan and a way to avoid crowded subway cars on the F train that travels to Manhattan and Queens. Those who forget or are not in possession of a Metrocard, cannot use their smart technology such as smartphones and watches, which could also have their payment readily available. If passengers used OMNY earlier on their trip, a free transfer is not available and passengers cannot take advantage of the weekly fare cap. Starting at the end of the month, New York City transit riders who utilize OMNY will pay no more than \$33 per week for unlimited rides on the MTA's local buses and subways.

In addition to not having OMNY integrated with the tram, RIOC is also currently missing out on collecting full revenues from Metrocard rides due to an outdated agreement with the MTA that did not account for fare hikes, as RIOC only receives \$2.00 for a Metrocard swipe. Adopting OMNY technology provides an opportunity to collect full fares and create a fairer agreement.

***"The clock is ticking. The MTA is moving forward with its plan to fully implement OMNY. The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation is late to the game. RIOC must come forward with a timetable to deploy the OMNY system while also ensuring that Tram riders continue to benefit from seamless payment and transfers,"*** said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

# Rebecca Seawright

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

NO-COST  
THURSDAY  
PPE  
GIVEAWAY



12:00PM-2:00PM

COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78/79 STREETS)

212-288-4607

SEAWRIGHT  
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

RSVP Here

The ***New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYHAF) portal*** is accepting applications from eligible homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement due to COVID-related hardship until next Friday, 2/18 (any applications after that will be waitlisted). Those who qualify can receive financial assistance to catch up on missed housing payments, reduce mortgage debt to make monthly mortgage payments more affordable, and receive up to six months of future housing payments. Apply at [www.nyhomeownerfund.org](http://www.nyhomeownerfund.org) or call 1-844-77-NYHAF.

**It's tax season. VITA and TCE sites can help you prepare and file your tax return:** To learn more about eligibility requirements or to find a site near you, visit: [www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers)

**Changes to tax credits mean more money for YOUR FAMILY when you file!**

**Earned Income Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit. Child and Dependent Care Credit.** Claiming even one could return thousands of dollars to you in 2022. We'll help you get your money. If you earn \$72,000 or less, file for FREE with an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. [\*\*\*Learn more about NYC Free Tax Prep.\*\*\*](#)

**Important information for the Excluded Workers Fund recipients:** The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year. As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to

federal income tax. For more information, visit [dol.ny.gov/ewf](http://dol.ny.gov/ewf).

**MetroCards and OMNY:** The MTA will launch a four-month pilot project to allow unlimited weekly rides using the new OMNY tap-and-go app— which, up until now, had no equivalent to an unlimited weekly Metrocard (or daily or monthly, for that matter). Starting Feb. 28, from Monday to Sunday during each week of the pilot, any subway or bus rider who uses the OMNY contactless payment system and takes 12 trips within that week— \$33 in fares— will automatically have free trips for the rest of that week. The week-long calendar rolls over every Sunday night.

## Upcoming Events

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15**

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 3:30 PM ATTORNEYS FROM THE LAW  
OFFICES OF GRIMBLE & LOGUIDICE, LLC  
WILL PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST FOR  
CONSTITUENTS OF THE 76TH ASSEMBLY  
DISTRICT**

**A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL HOST A  
ONE -ON-ONE SESSION WITH  
ATTENDEES.**

**DISTRICT OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY  
MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78-79 STREETS)**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!



**SCAN ME TO  
RSVP!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:  
CALL: 212-288-4607  
EMAIL: SEAWRIGHT@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

**RSVP for the legal clinic here**



Assembly  
Member  
Rebecca  
Seawright

# VIRTUAL KNITTING SOCIAL

JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD  
KNITTERS FOR CRAFTING  
AND CONVERSATION

EVERY THURSDAY ON  
ZOOM  
**2PM-4PM**

ALL SKILL LEVELS  
WELCOME

Contact the Office of Assembly  
Member Rebecca Seawright  
Call: 212.288.4607  
Email: [SeawrightReNYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightReNYAssembly.gov)

RSVP for the Virtual Knitting Social

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## METROCARD BUS

STOPS HERE (79/York):

WED. 2/16, 3/2

10:00AM- 12:00PM

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REFILL YOUR  
METROCARD

APPLY FOR  
REDUCED FARE

CASH ONLY

**Rebecca**  
**Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

# NO-COST NOTARY

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)







**American Red Cross**  
Greater New York Region

## Help Strike Back After Disaster Strikes!

### Become a Red Cross Volunteer Today!

Be ready to help both your local community and communities around the United States! Due to predictions for an active hurricane season the Red Cross will need thousands of volunteers to care for people when disasters strike. Train now to be a Red Cross Volunteer so you can answer the call when your community needs it most!



### Volunteers Urgently Needed for Hurricane Season!

#### Shelter Service Associate

We need volunteers with a valid driver's license to help support emergency shelters by staffing different areas including reception, registration & feeding.

#### Disaster Health Services Associate

Medical Professionals with unencumbered licenses are needed to support our shelters (RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramedic, PA).

**Apply today at [redcross.org/volunteer](https://redcross.org/volunteer)**

[recruitmentgny@redcross.org](mailto:recruitmentgny@redcross.org)  
646-875-8051

[View as Webpage](#)



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