



Assembly Majority Leader

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



Community News

Gun Violence: Peoples-Stokes Announces \$219,000 in State Funding For Stop the Violence Coalition and Peacemakers

New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, announced \$65,000 in state funding for the Stop the Violence Coalition and \$154,000 for the Buffalo Peacemakers to address the rise of gun violence in the City of Buffalo. The \$219,000 in funding secured by the state legislators will support the organizations by helping them expand to additional Buffalo neighborhoods and increase their outreach efforts to address the root causes of violence in the community.

Stop the Violence Coalition (STVC) is a collaboration of community-based organizations formed in 2004 in response to the overwhelming number of homicides in the city of Buffalo. Their mission is to stop the violence plaguing our neighborhoods and to take the initiative to make our city a safer place to live. The Coalition's work occurs on the street – intervening where conflicts arise. The Buffalo Peacemakers Violence and Gang Intervention Program is a group of volunteers and part-time staff members who formed in 2007 to provide proactive intervention into the cycle of violence in the lives of gang-involved or at-risk youth in Buffalo. Members of the staff integrate themselves into local neighborhoods in order to effectively mediate conflicts in the community. Their efforts include a "Safe Passage" program that stations members at strategic locations throughout the city after school hours to discourage violence and help students get home safely.



New York Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes Has Been Named to the Smithsonian's First-Ever Advisory Council for the New Smithsonian American Women's History Museum

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer recently announced that following his support for her appointment, the Smithsonian Institution has officially named Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes to the advisory council for the new Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.

In September, Schumer appointed Leader Peoples-Stokes to fill a congressionally-appointed role on the inaugural advisory council for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.

The legislation creating the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum called for a 25-member advisory council that consists of 19 citizens, the Smithsonian Secretary, a member of the Board of Regents, and four members appointed by congressional leadership. The council will advise the Smithsonian Board of Regents for the new museum and make recommendations on the location, planning, design, and construction of the museum. The council also helps with fundraising and maintaining the museum's collections.

"It gives me great honor to be appointed to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Council," In this role, I have the extraordinary mission to help the world's largest museum highlight American women's heritage and display our contributions to history, culture, and society. I would like to thank U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer and congratulate the other members of the advisory council whose leadership will help to make this museum a reality."

**Majority Leader of the NYS Assembly
Crystal Peoples-Stokes**

Legislative Updates

The following bills sponsored by Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes passed both Houses of the Legislature:

- **A.1248-A**
Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. This landmark legislation creates the framework for the regulation and taxation of adult-use cannabis, improves the medical marijuana and hemp/CBD programs, and provides significant investment into communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs and mass incarceration. *Chapter 92 of the Laws of 2021.*
- **A.3523-A**
This legislation provides greater opportunities for people to benefit from the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis. To be delivered to the Governor.
- **A.4000I**
This legislation helps thousands of families keep the roof over their heads and give our new governor time to improve and streamline existing relief programs. To be delivered to the Governor.
- **A.4668**
This legislation provides patients continuity in out-of-pocket prescription drug costs over a plan year by prohibiting mid-year formulary changes that would increase prescription drug costs. To be delivered to the Governor.
- **A.5463**
This legislation provides the city of Buffalo flexibility in its marketing of certain bond sales for one additional year. *Chapter 170 of the Laws of 2021.*

- **A.5464**
This legislation provides Erie County flexibility in its marketing of certain bond sales for one additional year. *Chapter 177 of the Laws of 2021.*
- **A.6247-A**
This legislation requires non-depository bank lenders to comply with the provisions of the Community Reinvestment Act, and helps to prevent the appalling practice of redlining in loans. *Chapter 549 of the Laws of 2021.*
- **A.6392**
This legislation expands opportunities for people to become organ and tissue donors by electing to be on the Donate Life Registry when interacting with certain government documents and applications. To be delivered to the Governor.
- **A.7183**
This legislation extends the residential parking permit system in the Fruit Belt neighborhood for five additional years. *Chapter 368 of the Laws of 2021.*
- **A.7729**
This legislation provides public defenders and legal aid attorneys with access to a defendant's criminal "rap" sheet in order to provide more effective representation. To be delivered to the Governor.
- **A.8026**
This legislation allows Cariol Horne to apply to the New York State and Local Police Retirement System for retroactive retirement benefits. To be delivered to the Governor.

NFTA Bus Shelters



Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes previously secured \$500,000 in DASNY capital funds for the NFTA. Resources were utilized for the reconstruction of the Utica Station bus loop, catenary improvements for the light rail system, and the installation of new bus shelters at the following 10 locations by summer 2022:

- Main Street & Allen Street South
- Genesee Street & Kerns Avenue West
- Bailey Avenue & Langfield Drive North
- Kensington Avenue & Bailey Avenue East
- Main Street & Depew Avenue South
- East Ferry Street & Kehr Street West
- East Ferry Street & True Bethel East
- Langfield Drive & Edison Avenue West
- Fillmore Avenue & Leroy Avenue North
- Smith Street South of Seneca, East side of street

Funding Updates

DASNY-Funded Projects by
Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes:

- **Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) – \$125,000:**
Buildout of office space on Bailey Avenue to support and service Eastside entrepreneurs.
- **Buffalo Museum of Science – \$190,000:**
Installation of a fire suppression system in the Traveling Exhibit Gallery space.
- **Community Hope Builders CDC – \$250,000:**
Construction of affordable housing and units for those in need of supportive services along Genesee Street corridor.
- **City of Buffalo – \$350,000:**
Replacement of the North Buffalo Ice Rink's roof structure.
- **Nyamekye Foundation – \$500,000:**
Construction of a mixed use building to house an urgent care, primary care medical facility and affordable housing units along Jefferson Avenue corridor.



Peoples-Stokes, NYS Cannabis Control Board Chairperson Visit Québec to Discuss Cannabis Regulations and Implementation

The International Trip Shares Cannabis Market Best Practices as New York State Gears Up

Québec City, QC Canada – NYS Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, accompanied in person by Cannabis Control Board Chairperson, Tremaine Wright, and virtually by executive staff from the Office of Cannabis Management, attended bilateral meetings with the Québec provincial government to discuss cannabis regulations and best practices. In March 2021, Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes successfully passed the NYS Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA - A.1248), the most progressive and comprehensive cannabis legislation in the United States. It was signed into law shortly after that. In 2018, Québec was the last province in their respective country to opt-in to their federally legalized cannabis market. The Majority Leader met with Ontario's provincial government in 2019 to be briefed on their open market, private retail operations. This contrasts with Québec's chosen model that is entirely state-run by the SQDC (The Société Québécoise du Cannabis). Representatives discussed legislation, regulation, and management of cannabis-related topics ranging from public health and safety, law enforcement, and equity to taxation, research, awareness, and prevention.



Cannabis Control Board and the Office of Cannabis Management

The announcement and State Senate confirmation of Tremaine Wright as Chair of New York's Cannabis Control Board (CCB) and Christopher Alexander as Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is an incredible indication the Empire State will have exemplary leadership to move forward to implement a comprehensive and progressive regulatory framework for NYS Cannabis industry. I look forward to working with NYS leadership to ensure change and social equity.

City of Buffalo relaunches 'Stand Up Buffalo' Rental Assistance Program

The City of Buffalo has relaunched a program to help families in need with their rent during the COVID-19 pandemic

The City of Buffalo and Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) will re-launch its STAND-UP Buffalo rental assistance program for income eligible residents to cover any gaps created by the complete expenditure of funds from the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The City of Buffalo, along with most of the municipalities across the State, partnered with the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA) to create a single, unified portal that City residents could use to apply for rental assistance funds. The portal could be accessed through the internet or a toll-free hotline. Last week, Governor Hochul announced that the ERAP system was being temporarily shut-down due to the complete allocation of all available funds and that she was seeking nearly \$1 billion in additional rental assistance from the federal government to meet the ongoing demand. Residents who qualify can get more information by calling 211 or check out their website standupbuffalo.com

ERAP – Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Application enrollment for the New York State Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP) has closed. LRAP will provide economic relief to help landlords by providing rental arrears assistance for landlords whose tenants have left their rental property or are unwilling to apply for ERAP. The program will cover up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rents accrued on or after March 1, 2020.

The program prioritizes landlords who own rental buildings with 20 or fewer units. After 45 days, applications for all eligible landlords are processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long funds are available, and an application was submitted during the enrollment period. For questions and concerns, please contact 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368) or visit: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/landlord-rental-assistance/> for more information and to apply for relief.

The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF)

NYS HAF is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NYS HAF will begin accepting applications January 3, 2022 and expects to receive significantly more applications than can be funded by the program. Applications will be processed in the order they were received. Application submission does not guarantee you will receive financial assistance.

The program will begin accepting applications soon. In the meantime, we encourage you to review the website to review the Application Guide, which includes a list of documents you may need when you are ready to submit your application. Visit: <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/> or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (1-844-776-9423) for more info.

LRAP - Landlord Rental Assistance Program

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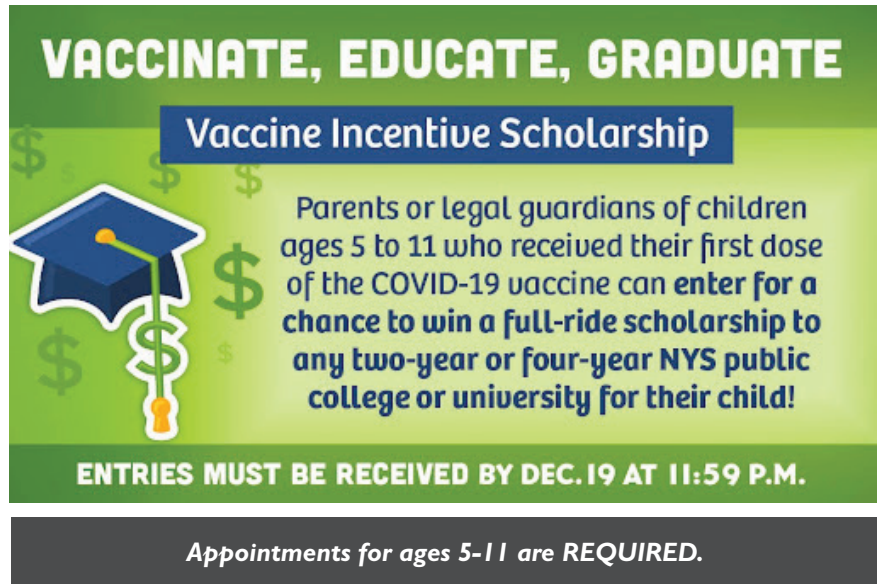
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COVID Vaccine for Ages 5-11

CDC now recommends that children between the ages of 5 and 11 years receive the Pfizer Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine. Individuals 5-11 years old must have a parent/legal guardian give consent (In-person, verbal by phone or in writing by using the COVID-19 Consent for Vaccination of Minors Form for Ages 5-11 years.)

Children 5 through 11 years old will receive a separate vaccine formulation denoted with an orange cap that has one-third the dose given to adolescents and adults, and will receive the vaccine with a smaller needle. You must pre-register your child by calling 716-858-2929 or on the state's website: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccines-children-and-adolescents>. CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens are all scheduling immunization appointments online.

If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Office for People with Disabilities at 716-858-6215 at least 72 hours prior to your appointment.



VACCINATE, EDUCATE, GRADUATE

Vaccine Incentive Scholarship

Parents or legal guardians of children ages 5 to 11 who received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can enter for a chance to win a full-ride scholarship to any two-year or four-year NYS public college or university for their child!

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC. 19 AT 11:59 P.M.

Appointments for ages 5-11 are REQUIRED.

Employment Opportunities: Nurses for Our Future Scholarship Program Launched to Cover Tuition for 1,000 New RNs

New York state has a shortage of nurses. More than 9,300 openings are currently listed for registered nurses statewide. Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, hospitals have been facing a labor shortage and a massive influx of patients. Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced a SUNY and CUNY scholarship program called the Nurses For Our Future Scholarship. The scholarship program will cover the tuition for 1,000 students to get RNs at SUNY and CUNY to help address the current nurses shortage. This scholarship program is designed to recruit and retrain nursing and health care professionals to serve in NYS.

This scholarship will allow students to complete a nursing program with a flexible schedule, either part-time or full-time. The program aims to incentivise people active in health care to advance their education.

The scholarship will be marketed to existing and unemployed workers, including through regional SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers for entry-level nurse certifications in high demand including Certified Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse and Nursing Home Aide.

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Assembly Majority Leader
**Crystal D.
Peoples-Stokes**

Community News

Winter 2021

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Upcoming Events to Look Forward in 2022

- Wills & Estate Workshop
- Kidney Screening
- Clear your Criminal Records (Marijuana)
- CannaBiz Convo 105
- Movie Night Summer Series



AAVM Update

The Buffalo Common Council approved Mark Cerrone Contracting, as the General Contractor for the AAVM project in September 2021. Plans are underway for construction to begin as soon as the winter weather breaks. July 26, 2022 was recently selected as the date for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting. The date is very significant in American history – on July 26, 1945, U.S. President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 to Desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces. Please stay tuned for further developments.