



ASSEMBLY MEMBER LATOYA JOYNER

77TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY.STATE.NY.US/MEM/LATOYA-JOYNER



NOVEMBER 2015 - NEWSLETTER

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Assemblywoman Joyner Supports Senior Safety for Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Striving to improve the safety of the senior community, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner offered a safety workshop – with the help of the New York City Family Justice Center, which included important tips and resources for elder abuse at the Hope of Israel Senior Center.

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LATOYA'S LINE

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's statement regarding the groundbreaking for the \$2.4 million reconstruction of Cedar Playground.

"The groundbreaking for a new playground, basketball courts and adjacent landscape at Cedar Park will preserve this beautiful Bronx park as a mainstay for safe family fun for the Morris Heights community and its surrounding neighborhoods. These recreational and safety upgrades at Cedar Park – thanks to help from my fellow Bronx elected officials and NYC Parks Commissioner Silver – will allow families to utilize the park and its playground for years to come."

Assemblywoman Holds Health Expo for Community



Focusing on supporting healthy living for families in District 77, Assemblywoman Joyner held her 1st Annual Health Expo in Joyce Kilmer Park. The community gained access to free health screenings, vision services, nutritionists and giveaways.

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District Office - Constituent Service Hours

When: Monday - Friday (10:00 AM-6:00 PM) **Where:** 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (btwn E. 162 and 163 Streets)

Governor Cuomo Signs Assemblywoman Joyner's Legislation to Protect Women in New York State



Assemblywoman Joyner discusses Assembly Bill A.6262 on the floor.

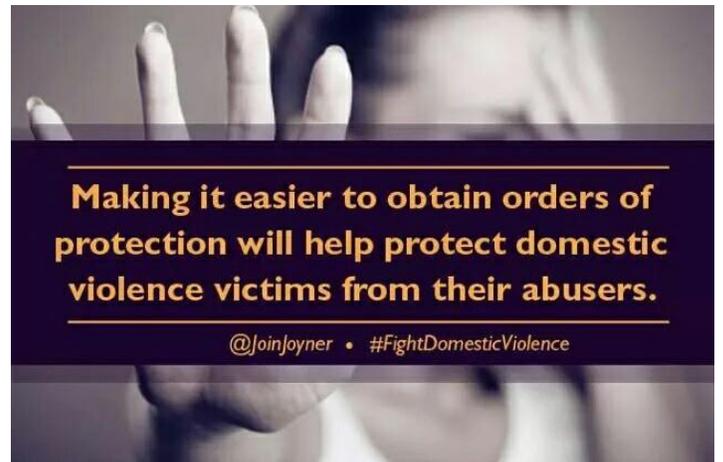
BRONX, N.Y. – On Oct. 21, **Governor Cuomo** signed multiple pieces of legislation designed to protect and further women's equality in New York State – including **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's** bill (Assembly Bill A.6262) that will protect victims of domestic violence.

Statement of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Regarding Governor Cuomo's signing of Assembly Bill A.6262:

"Those suffering from domestic violence will no longer have to travel to a courthouse in order to feel safe from their abuser. The signing of Assembly Bill A.6262 is a win for victims of domestic violence, their families and our community because it allows the power of technology to make them feel safer. I commend the work and support of my colleagues and Governor Cuomo for this essential package of bills to improve the safety for those experiencing domestic violence because it is an issue in our society. Now, with the signing of Assembly Bill A.6262, a new pilot program will be created to allow individuals to electronically file protection orders."

Assembly Bill A.6262 will create a pilot program that protects domestic violence victims by speeding up the process for obtaining temporary orders of protection.

The bill will provide victims of domestic violence a safer and more accessible method for obtaining temporary orders of protection. The legislation seeks to amend the family court act and the judiciary law, which will allow the Office of the Court Administration to develop a pilot program to permit domestic violence victims to electronically file protection orders and issue such orders remotely. The legislation requires the Chief Administrator of the Courts to submit regular reports to the Governor and the Legislature on court practices, procedures and services with respect to the adequate and appropriateness of its services for crime victims. This bill would take effect on April 1, 2016.



One-in-four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime and nearly 3 million men face physical assaults, according to Safe Horizon.

The New York Police Department responds to more than 250,000 domestic incidents annually, or approximately 600 calls daily.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Announces Security Upgrades at NYCHA



(L-R) Assemblywoman Joyner with residents at Highbridge Gardens and Sedgwick Houses (right)

Bronx, N.Y. - Committed to preserving safety and security for Bronx families, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D - Bronx, 77th AD)** secured \$2 million in funding that will be directed to the installation of security cameras and security lighting at three New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. As part of a \$42 million allocation in state funding for NYCHA security improvements, these upgrades will address public safety concerns and preserve the safety and well-being of all families that live in NYCHA buildings. Funding will be directed to:

- Highbridge Gardens for security lighting and security cameras;
- Sedgwick Houses for security lighting, visual television intercoms and key fob security system; and
- Claremont Consolidated for security lighting.

Currently, there are more than 1,720 people that reside in Highbridge Gardens' six building development. Also, approximately 1,626 people live within Sedgwick Houses' seven building campus, and Claremont Consolidated is a six-story building with 95 apartments for seniors, according to NYCHA.

"Funding for these security upgrades is imperative for all families and residents. Feeling safe in your own home is an absolute must and a right, and these new security installations - including new lighting and cameras - will help to preserve this right," said Assemblywoman Joyner. **"NYCHA is New York City's largest landlord; its developments are large and house many members of our great and diverse community here in the Bronx. There is a need for additional security in order to preserve the quality of life for all NYCHA tenants. These upgrades will address these concerns and preserve public safety."**

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Supports Fire Safety with FDNY, Fellow Bronx Officials



On Saturday Oct. 10, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson, Senator Jose M. Serrano and representatives from the FDNY were on hand to discuss fire safety issues at Joyce Kilmer Park.



Bronx Officials Offer Free Self-Defense Classes for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

With a focus on empowering the community and raising awareness for Domestic Violence, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)**, in partnership with **Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson, Roberto Clemente State Park** and the **NYPD's 46th Precinct**, provided a series of free self-defense classes for women this fall. Tito M. Hartz, a skilled martial arts instructor and owner of East Coast United Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Bronx, offered safety and self-defense tips to the community.

According to Safe Horizon, 1-in-4 women will experience domestic violence, which makes it a major concern for all Bronxites and New Yorkers.



"Knowing how to protect oneself from an attacker is not only empowering, but it can also send a strong message to domestic violence abusers that they will not continue to infect our community," said **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)**. "October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and it is a great opportunity for victims and communities that are crippled by domestic violence to be heard. Domestic violence is a family issue, and it is a community issue, that can be eliminated with assistance."

Assemblywoman Joyner Supports Certificate of Relief & Employment Resource Fair



BRONX, N.Y. – On October 28, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner** joined the **New York City Department of Probation's Certificate of Relief & Employment Resource Fair** at the **South Bronx Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON)**, which was open to the public and included resources and assistance for those that need it. On hand, community members were able to receive on the spot Certificate of Relief Judicial Reviews, access to employment resources as well as a workshop that focused on a Know Your Rights' RAP Sheet Education.

In support of these interventions, the Assemblywoman passed legislation to expand youthful offender status. The "Second Chance Act of 2015" brings uniformity to New York's legal system and ensures that 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds charged with misdemeanors will be treated as Youthful Offenders.



Assemblywoman Joyner: How Technology Can Protect Domestic Violence

BY LATOYA JOYNER, ASSEMBLY MEMBER

October 21, 2015

Domestic violence can hurt our families and our community, which is why we need to be proactive in spreading awareness and improving access to safety for victims. Being involved in such an altercation is a life changing experience, but it doesn't have to be a permanent scar.

October is **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**; It is a perfect opportunity for us to speak up about how victims can gain the assistance they need to rebuild, and rehab their lives for the better. Being subjected to such abusive behavior, whether it is among family members or intimate partners, includes forms of abuse that can range from physical to emotional, sexual and even financial. And in most of situations, domestic violence has the power to increase instances of poverty,

unemployment, and lead to homelessness and detrimental health outcomes.

How pervasive is domestic violence in our society? In 2013, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence notes that the **New York City Police Department** responded to nearly **285,000** domestic violence incidents within the City, and almost 1 out of every 5 homicides in the City are family related. While there was a seven percent dip in total calls to domestic violence hotlines across the state in 2014, a total of nearly 281,000 domestic violence calls were logged.

However, increasing access to safety for victims from their abusers remains a major concern. **Right now, those suffering from domestic violence abuse are forced to travel to court in order to secure an order of protection against their abuser.** And in 2014, there was a two percent decline in total orders of protections that were issued to victims of domestic violence by New York State Courts, which indicates there is a need to ensure protections are more easily accessible and attainable. This is why legislation I passed in April is so important. Passing the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate, **Assembly Bill A.6262** will create a pilot program that protects domestic violence victims by speeding up the process for obtaining temporary orders of protection. Signed into law by **Governor Cuomo** as part

of a package of legislation that will protect and further women's equality in New York, those suffering from domestic violence can feel safer faster by requesting these orders electronically.

We use technology every single day to make our lives easier. Now, we have the remarkable opportunity to allow technology to enhance the implementation of this very important law to which will benefit people that need it the most and eliminate any obstacles that could impact their safety.

In order to approve safe outcomes and access to safety for victims, the legislation will amend the family court act and the judiciary law, which will allow the Office of the Court Administration to develop the pilot program to permit domestic violence victims to electronically file protection orders and issue such orders remotely. Also, a reporting requirement is included, which will require the Chief Administrator of the Courts to submit regular reports to the Governor and the Legislature.

Ensuring that domestic violence is limited in its ability to infect our families and our communities is necessary. Whether it is in the Bronx, New York City, or across New York State, victims need to know that assistance is available, including increased safety and protections are easily available in order to mend their lives and their families back to full health.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JOYNER INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO HER UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Civil Legal Services Coming to Your Neighborhood



Courtesy of
NYS Assembly Member
Latoya Joyner

The Mobile Legal Help Center is a partnership between the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) and the New York State Courts' Access to Justice Program that provides free civil legal services to New Yorkers in need.

Private meeting rooms and technology inside the vehicle enable it to function as a full-service office.

The vehicle will be stationed at:

**Assemblywoman Joyner's
Community Office**
910 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY
(btwn E. 162 and 163 Streets)
November 30, 2015
10am to 3pm

To Make an Appointment please visit:
<https://mobilelegalhelpcenter.acuityscheduling.com/>

For more information, please call: 718-538-2000

Staff onboard the Mobile Legal Help Center will provide FREE legal assistance on issues related to:

- HOUSING
- PUBLIC BENEFITS
- DISABILITY BENEFITS
- HEALTHCARE BENEFITS
- IDENTITY THEFT
- DEBT MANAGEMENT
- CONSUMER CREDIT
- IMMIGRATION
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- DIVORCE
- CUSTODY
- EMPLOYMENT
- ADVANCE PLANNING
- SUPERSTORM SANDY

Everyone is eligible to receive free legal services, regardless of immigration status.



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with New York City's Tenant Support Unit

Tenant Support Specialists every Thursday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM



**Where: Assemblywoman Joyner's
Community Office**
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451

Tenant Support Specialists will be holding joint office hours to provide support to tenants that may be experiencing housing related issues such as:

- Harassment
- Purposeful denial of essential services
- Overcharges
- Possible eviction

For more information, please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Office at 718-538-2000