



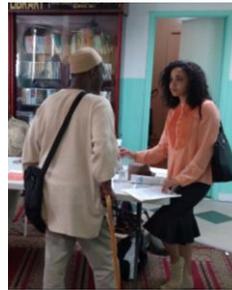
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
LATOYA JOYNER
77TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
 ASSEMBLY.STATE.NY.US/MEM/LATOYA-JOYNER



JUNE 2016 - NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, ISSUE 6

Assemblywoman Joyner Holds Mosque Resource Fair



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner held a Mosque Resource Fair for families living in the 77th Assembly District at the Yankasa Masjid. The resources included City agencies and organizations that can help to provide assistance for tenants, immigration issues and help with public assistance - including the NYC Tenant Support Unit, PAN – AFRICAN – CDI, the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC, the Highbridge Islamic Center, IDNYC, NYC Comptroller’s Office and the Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality.

Assemblywoman Celebrates Year-Long Special Needs Programming Effort at P.S. 35



Joining the P.S. 35 school community and INCLUDEnyc, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner honored Josephine Ofili, a parent leader, who along with Principal Graciela Navarro helped to identify the serious need for additional programming to address the growing demands of P.S. 35’s special needs student population.

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LATOYA’S LINE

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner’s statement regarding new business and leadership programs for low-income and immigrant women entrepreneurs

In the Bronx, women are the majority that helps to make our borough the best in all of New York City. Local mom-and-pop businesses run by low-income and immigrant women fuel our economy and our diverse neighborhoods. Having additional workshops through Women Entrepreneurs NYC (WE NYC) can limit the gender and socioeconomic gap that so many small business owners face. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in our strong Bronx women, and offering assistance through Mayor de Blasio’s “WE Master Leadership” program to women entrepreneurs can help to expand our local economy even further.

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District Office - Constituent Service Hours

When: Monday - Thursday (10 AM-6 PM), Friday (10 AM-5 PM) **Where:** 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (btwn E. 162 & 163 Streets)

Assemblywoman Celebrates Year-Long Special Needs Programming Effort at P.S. 35



BRONX, N.Y. – On May 12, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) and INCLUDenyc Executive Director Barbara Glassman joined teachers and staff at P.S. 35 Franz Siegel Elementary School to celebrate the completion of a yearlong project at the school designed to increase awareness, supports, and progress for students with disabilities.

Throughout the course of the school year, families of students with disabilities received one-to-one coaching and access to weekend parent support groups. All of P.S. 35's families – not just those of students with disabilities – gained awareness of the needs of special education students through information sessions and educational resources. All staff received information, coaching, and support on disabilities and the special education process.

In September 2015, Assemblywoman Joyner announced that she secured funding in the amount of \$150,000 to enhance critical support and educational services for students with special needs at P.S. 35.

"With the help of INCLUDenyc and the superb administration at PS 35 (The Franz Siegel School), we were able to enhance access to quality education for all children and parents that make up this great school's family. Through the wonderful work of INCLUDenyc, real change was seen for students with disabilities by raising awareness for the needs of those with special needs and adding a sound educational support structure for students and their families. Everyone should have access to a quality and sound education, and this program has proactively addressed the growing population of students with disabilities in our community thanks to the \$150,000 in funding that I secured for this yearlong effort."

--Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)

Assemblywoman Joyner Visits New Mothers at Walton Avenue Pediatric Clinic



BRONX, N.Y. Bronx, N.Y. – **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)** visited new mothers at Healthy Children Pediatric Medicine, as part of Maternal Depression Awareness Month and Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month.

Assemblywoman Joyner congratulated the mothers on their new additions to their family as well as presented valuable information regarding women’s health issues in New York State. As a supporter of raising awareness around the all-important issue of maternal mental health and the high instance of asthma in the Bronx, Assemblywoman Joyner recapped her work in Albany, as she passed resolutions in support of additional awareness around these important public health topics in the Bronx and New York.

In April, Assemblywoman Joyner previously passed resolutions to raise awareness in the Assembly in honor of improving the health of the communities she represents in the 77th Assembly District.

“Improving New York’s public health and addressing key community issues such as asthma and maternal depression is my primary goal,” said Assemblywoman Joyner. “Being able to directly talk to mothers and families in our community about the harms of asthma and maternal depression – important health topics that affect large portions in the Bronx – has been one effective way we can step up awareness around these health issues.”



Assemblywoman Joyner speaks to new mothers at Healthy Families Pediatric Medicine with Dr. Grecia A. Marte

Assembly Passes Legislative Package in Observance of Annual Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day

Bronx, N.Y. – In celebration and observance of the annual Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) joined her colleagues in the Assembly as they announced the passage of a package of bills that would improve the quality of life for New Yorkers with disabilities.

There are approximately 3.2 million New Yorkers that have reported having a disability, according to the New York State Department of Health. The Assembly’s legislative package ensures safety and protections for all New Yorkers who are disabled.

The legislative package includes measures that make sure New Yorkers with disabilities are afforded safer emergency evacuation plans, including more accessible housing. Also, bills have been passed to allow people with disabilities to fully participate in elections, public hearings and meetings. The suite of bills will also establish the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council for Service-Disabled Veterans, offer more affordable home care and improve worksite opportunities and benefits. Additional information regarding this legislative package of bills is available here: <http://bit.ly/1NxdjEa>.

In addressing the needs of her community, Assemblywoman Joyner has introduced [Assembly Bill](#)

[A.9814](#), a measure that prohibits any rent increases where any modification, increase or improvement is made to accommodate the needs of a disabled tenant – including the installation of grab bars in the bathroom, making closet and front doors easier to open, and other services. Also, [Assembly Bill A.7920](#) will amend current law to provide a disability benefit for employees of the New York City Transit Authority that become disabled following an assault while on the job. Assembly Bills A.9814 and A.7920 were not included in the above listed legislative package of bills.

“My bills build on the direction taken this year during the Annual Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, and ensure that those that are disabled in our community can live safely and comfortably in their homes” said Assemblywoman Joyner. “It will also expand protections and benefits for those are hurt and become disabled while serving their employer. These are commonsense solutions that can improve lives.”

Assemblywoman Joyner Passes Legislation to Study Aging Prison Population

BRONX, N.Y. – Focusing on the livelihood of all loved ones, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) announced the passage of her bill, [Assembly Bill A.7407](#), which will study the growing needs for friends and family members that find themselves aging behind bars.

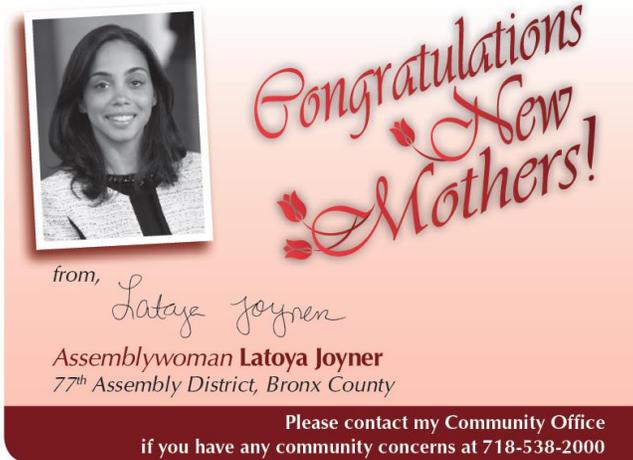
The steady increase of elderly inmates in the New York State prisons has become alarming, with 17% of the total inmate population being elderly in May 2015. How fast has this population grown? **Nearly a decade earlier, approximately 11% of the inmate population was elderly, and in 1992, only 4% of the total population behind bars were seniors, according to available data.**

Calling for an immediate study by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), this legislation authorizes DOCCS to study and make recommendations regarding the treatment of New

York’s aging prison populations. Examining the capacity of our mature prison system, the costs of related health resources and infrastructure for this public health crisis and the inconsistencies of the criminal justice system, [Assembly Bill A.7407](#) will charge DOCCS to address the burgeoning challenges of a changing prison population.

“Making sure that our loved ones behind bars are treated with dignity and respect – including appropriate medical treatment and health care – is the primary purpose of this legislation,” said Assemblywoman Joyner. “Our inmate population is getting older, and we need to tackle this issue head-on to ensure that those individuals in prison that are seniors are offered proper resources and treatment. Assembly Bill A.7407 is the right first step, and I am thankful for the unwavering support from my colleagues in the Assembly.”

OPINION ARTICLE: Raising Awareness for New Mothers Facing Mental Illness



By Latoya Joyner, Assemblywoman for the 77th Assembly District

The surprise and wonder of child birth and caring for a newborn is a gift that many New Yorkers cherish to the fullest. For some new mothers or soon-to-be mothers, the feeling and symptoms of maternal depression are a reality that can be scary, hard to talk about and have a lasting impact on their children.

Bringing attention to this widespread, yet unfamiliar public health issue, is an important step for families. In the summer and fall of 2015, there were numerous cases in the Bronx and New York City, where the early stages of motherhood sadly led to fatal incidents of postpartum depression. It is near and dear to my heart, having known of someone affected in the South Bronx, which is why I passed a resolution in the New York State Assembly that proclaims May as Maternal Depression Awareness Month – an important step that will bring this mental wellness topic front-and-center for all New Yorkers.

While there are treatments available and help hotlines for mothers and families, **approximately 10-20% of new mothers and expectant mothers in New York suffer from depression when ushering a new child into this world.** Collectively, maternal depression envelopes the feelings and emotions that women face when pregnant and up to one year following birth. In New York City, there were more than 120,000 new births in 2013. For Bronxites, approximately 20,153 new births were reported in 2012. Maternal depression and its symptoms impact a lot of mothers in our community in the Bronx and across New York City.

Locally, I am grateful for the major push forward in New York. New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray's

initiative to universally screen and treat all pregnant and new mothers for maternal depression at hospitals in the New York City Health + Hospitals network and Maimonides Medical Center within the next two years will be very helpful. Also, thanks to guidance from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Department of Financial Services, health insurers in New York State are now required to provide health insurance coverage for maternal depression screenings. For new mothers that suffer from depression following pregnancy, it makes sense to have a holistic approach in our great city and state to help our mothers to get in front of this all-important public health issue and women's health issue.

Knowing that there is help and that maternal depression is common will help mothers understand that there isn't something wrong with them. But for those mothers that deliver their babies in other hospitals or hospital systems, there is a need for additional information gathering and publicity around this topic, which is why I have also drafted legislation to add additional funding to this important health issue that will raise the bar of understanding for mothers feeling victim to the side effects of depression, and not knowing where to turn. **Affording access to essential informational resources can help mothers that may be suffering.**

But even worse, maternal depression can have a domino effect on the development of children. Numerous studies from the World Health Organization and the National Center for Children and Poverty highlight the impacts of maternal depression and its overwhelming effect on early childhood development and the school readiness of young children. For low-income families, the barriers are even higher when it comes to access to appropriate prenatal and postpartum health options. Inability to garner appropriate nutrition in the early stages of life can result in low educational attainment, child development and reduced economic productivity, according to available research. Being able to level the playing field for mothers can result in equal development for our children – regardless of where they live or where they are from.

Starting to talk about maternal depression during and following pregnancy with family members and medical professionals can help us as a society eliminate the stigma associated with the disorder and its harmful symptoms. This May, let us all have a discussion on this important topic and support our strong New York mothers as they care for our future leaders.

- **ASSEMBLYWOMAN OFFERS FREE TENANT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with **New York City's Tenant Support Unit**. Tenant Support Specialists are available **every 1ST and 3rd Thursday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**, and can help provide support to tenants that may be experiencing housing related issues such as:

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

You can make an appointment by calling Assemblywoman Joyner's Office at 718-538-2000.

- **ASSEMBLYWOMAN OFFERS FREE HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES**

In partnership with the **Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs**, legal professionals will be on hand to assist your housing concerns **every 2nd and 4th Thursday, from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM**.

To make an appointment, please contact the Assemblywoman's Community Office at 718-538-2000.

- **16th Council District Tenant, Block & Neighborhood Council's ANNUAL HOUSING CONFERENCE**

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner joins Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson and State Senator Jose M. Serrano to present the Annual Housing Conference. It will include panel discussions, giveaways and information tables. The festivities start at 5:30 PM at the Bronx Museum of the Arts (1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx NY 10456).

For more information, please call 718-588-7500 or email District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov.

- **BRONX HOMEOWNER FORUM**

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Assembly Member Victor Pichardo present their Bronx Homeowner Forum. All prospective, new and current homeowners are invited to attend the FREE event being held on Monday, June 20 from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM at the Latino Pastoral Action Center (14 West 170th Street, Bronx, NY 10452).

Free resources and information will be available; including presentations from New York City and New York State agencies, as well as organizations and community-based organizations who can provide information on first-time home buying, financial counseling, co-op and condominium ownership rights and many other issues.

For more information or to RSVP, please call 718-538-2000.