



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



JULY 2016 - NEWSLETTER

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Assemblywoman Joyner Receives District 9 Leadership Service Award



A fighter for quality education for all children, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner received the Leadership Service Award from District 9's Community Education Council. Previously, the Assemblywoman won increased funding for various programs and projects that have improved the educational success of our community's children. She has also supported community outreach events to improve healthy living such as her second annual Women's History Month Wellness Celebration, which was held at P.S. 73.

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LATOYA'S LINE

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's statement regarding New York City's plan for Legionnaires in the South Bronx

"In anticipation of the summer, I appreciate the proactive action being taken by the New York City Health Department to continue its plan to treat and reduce the risk of the Legionella bacteria – especially for the hundreds of South Bronx families impacted by the disease last year. Building upon local efforts to impose stringent inspections of cooling towers in the Bronx, it will now be easier to locate registered cooling towers in buildings. On the state level, I have introduced legislation that will allocate funding to ensure that resources and measures are in place so that future generations do not have to worry about this preventable disease."

Assemblywoman Addresses Community Safety Concerns at Antonia Diaz



Joining the seniors at the Antonia Diaz Apartments on Shakespeare Avenue, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner was accompanied by the NYPD 44th Precinct's new Neighborhood Coordinating Officers as she heard resident concerns over public safety and other community quality of life issues.

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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 Joyner Ensures Future Home of Bronx Children's Museum



BRONX, N.Y. – Helping to secure the future of culture and arts education for all Bronx children, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)** announced the passage of her bill Assembly Bill A.8120-A, which officially ensures **Mill Pond Park** will be the permanent home of the **Bronx Children's Museum**.

Previously known as the cultural institution “without walls,” the Bronx Children's Museum will now be permanently located at the park. **This legislation, which passed the Assembly and the Senate, authorizes New York City's Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement for the operation of the children's programming in the park, which is located below the Major Deegan Expressway between E. 149 and E. 153 Streets.**

Traditionally known for its mobile “Museum on the Go Bus,” the Bronx Children's Museum annually serves more than 11,000 children and their families through temporary exhibits and ongoing after school and summer programming.

“No longer will the children of the Bronx be deprived of their own brick-and-mortar children's cultural institution. I am happy to announce that this legislation ensures that the Bronx Children's Museum has a home in one of our beautiful Bronx parks. The Bronx is the only borough to not have a children's museum. This legislation changes that, and will empower our community through offering inspirational exhibits. Bronx children need, and deserve to dream big. The addition of a permanent cultural institution aimed at developing our youth through the arts and sciences can continue to foster these kinds of ideas and expand opportunities for learning.”

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

Assemblywoman Joyner Holds Bronx Homeowner Forum at LPAC



BRONX, N.Y. – **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)** held her first annual Bronx Homeowner Forum for prospective, new and current homeowners in the 77th Assembly District – including co-op and condominium owners. The forum included services and resources to help all homeowners.

“You all are here because you have the desire to build up our community, whether that be the neighborhoods of Claremont, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden or Morris Heights. If you currently own your home, new to homeownership or looking to own, the Bronx Homeowner Forum will point you in the right direction, with great contacts, and the right resources

and information,” Assemblywoman Joyner said.

City and state agencies, including community-based organizations and other non-profits and financial institutions, were at the **Latino Pastoral Action Center** to present information and resources and answer questions from the community. These included:

- Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of South Bronx
- NYC Housing Preservation & Development
- Legal Aid Society
- NYS Attorney General’s Office
- NYPD 44th Precinct
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- NYC Department of Buildings
- Department of Sanitation of New York
- NYC Department of Transportation
- North West Bronx Resource Center
- University Neighborhood Housing Program
- United Northern Mortgage Bankers



Assemblywoman Joyner's Bill to Help Families Gain Immediate Clarity over Inmate Deaths Heads to Governor's Desk

BRONX, N.Y. – **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)** announced passage of her legislation that will provide faster notification of the next of kin in the event that a loved one passes behind bars. **Assembly Bill A.7500 now heads to Governor Andrew Cuomo to be signed into law.**

Assembly Bill A.7500 calls for New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to **be responsive to an inmate's next of kin or other designated person, who seeks additional information regarding the circumstances surrounding their passing.** According to DOCCS, there were a total of 501 inmate deaths during the four year period from 2009-2012.

Senator Gustavo Rivera (D-Bronx, 33rd SD) previously introduced companion legislation (Senate Bill S.5427); it passed the Senate June 14. The Assembly unanimously approved the bill for the second straight year on March 28.

“With unanimous support from the Assembly and the Senate's passage, I am happy that my colleagues have recognized the rights of families and their loved ones behind bars. Every inmate is someone's mother or father, brother or sister, son or daughter. No one should have to wait 18 months before receiving details regarding the death of someone they care about that is in custody. This bill will help family members gain clarity by speeding up the process by which they obtain information, and make it easier to grieve the loss by offering some closure and details surrounding their passing.”

--Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

JOYNER SUPPORTS RENT ROLLBACK

Testimony of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Submitted to Rent Guidelines Board

Hello Chairperson Hon. Kathleen A. Roberts and members of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board, I am Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you this evening as you convene in my district. By way of background, there are more than 33,000 apartments under rent regulation in my district, which is the equivalent of nearly three-quarters of my constituents. So as you can well understand, the decisions made by the Board will have a dramatic impact upon the affordability of housing for the vast majority of my constituents.

In my district, the latest available data indicates that the median household income is \$26,436 – one of the lowest median household incomes of any district in New York City. As a direct consequence, the 77th Assembly District is also one of the most rent burdened communities in New York.

The Rent Guidelines Board's proposal increase rents for rent-stabilized apartments by up to 2 percent for one-year leases, and up to 3.5% for two-year leases will destabilize the already precarious finances of countless families in my community and almost certainly push a significant number of those families into homelessness. I would urge all board members to do better than that.

Last year, you made history by supporting an unprecedented decision to freeze rents for families in rent-stabilized apartments. This year I urge you go even further toward offering relief for New York's working and low-income families. A rent rollback would support working families – the real backbone of our community in the Bronx – and ensure that families never have to choose between putting food on the table and paying your monthly bills.

Please keep in mind when considering a rent rollback that – even without a rent increase – landlords are allowed to raise rent under numerous circumstances such as when Major Capital Improvements and Individual Apartment Improvements are performed or through the vacancy bonus when apartments turnover. The Community Service Society found that the vacancy bonus was responsible for almost half of the total increase in rent in 2014.

On behalf of the more than 125,000 residents of the 77th Assembly District, which includes areas of Morris Heights, Mount Eden, Highbridge, Claremont and Concourse East, I urge that the Rent Guidelines Board hear their concerns when voting on June 27, and give them a rent rollback.

OPINION: Answers for the Student Homelessness Crisis



By Latoya Joyner, Assemblywoman for the 77th Assembly District

Originally appeared in The Norwood News' June 23-July 6, 2016 issue

Of the 58,000 people sleeping in shelters on any given night, nearly three-quarters are parents and their children, who have been unable to afford an apartment in our increasingly unaffordable City.

For the six-year old living in a shelter or doubled up in the home of a family friend, the daunting prospects of learning to read and social dynamics of making new friends are fraught with the instability of homelessness. **Children who are homeless are more likely to be suspended and to have behavioral issues in school. Due to the often longer commutes, they may struggle to complete their homework and study for exams. Indeed the stigma of homelessness can be a source of stress and trauma for children.**

While this citywide phenomenon has received only scant attention until recently, I have been all too aware of this crisis due to the significant impact on my own community in **Bronx School District 9 where a full 18 percent of the student body was in temporary housing during the 2013-14 school year, according to the Department of Education.** The impact of homelessness is not abstract, but has a direct effect upon student performance in the classroom, as approximately 33% of students experiencing homelessness are considered chronically absent. This is not a problem limited to just one borough – instead it reaches into communities throughout the City;

nearly 30,000 students resided in a shelter over the course of last school year.

Since my election to the New York State Assembly, I have been a relentless advocate for additional state funding to expand opportunities and improve results for children living in homeless shelters and I am pleased Mayor de Blasio is moving forward with a critical initiative to better support this population. His administration's new \$10.3 million investment in improving outcomes for homeless students significantly expands educational support for youth in shelters including investments in onsite literacy programs, attendance assistants to reduce chronic absenteeism, and social workers to provide emotional support for families. It also devotes funding to initiatives that ensure communication among Department of Education staffers and families to address challenges in real-time.

Coupled with a \$19.5 million commitment to build school-based health centers that will expand access to health care for students living in shelters, Mayor de Blasio's initiative is critical progress toward New York's public education system effectively meeting the needs of students in need of permanent housing.

And in January of this year, the de Blasio administration rectified a longstanding inequality that deprived children in shelter from access to yellow school buses. Now, thousands of children have yellow school buses picking up and dropping off children in shelters. Parents are now spared lengthy commutes to and from schools and are better able to maintain employment.

Having seen the impact of homelessness on the educational performance of students in my community, I know firsthand the challenges students and their families face in today's difficult housing market. **By building an effective partnership between our schools and our shelters – we can restore opportunities and enhance educational attainment for a generation of New Yorkers.**

Assemblywoman Joyner Kicks off Summer Reading Challenge for District Students

**ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...
READ!**

Participate in the New York State Assembly's 2016 Summer Reading Challenge and receive a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate!

Simply read 15 minutes a day for 40 days during July and August, then mark off the days you read on a calendar. Send your marked-off calendar to:

**Assemblywoman
Latoya Joyner**
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK • Bronx, NY 10451
718-538-2000 • joyner@assembly.state.ny.us

Call my office or see your teacher or librarian for more details!

In cooperation with Summer Reading at New York Libraries
www.summerreadingnys.org

BRONX, N.Y. - In cooperation with New York Libraries, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) begins her Summer Reading Challenge this July, which supports improving literacy and reading this summer for District 77 students and their families.

When children have marked at least 40 days this summer of reading, they will earn a **Excellence in Reading** certificate by submitting their completed forms to the Assemblywoman's Community Office at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK Bronx NY 10451. Calendars, pamphlets and bookmarks are available for all families online or in the Assemblywoman's office.

Click here for your 2016 Summer Reading Challenge Pamphlet: <http://bit.ly/28VKfIM>

New York State Assembly's
Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by
Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
in cooperation with
Summer Reading AT NEW YORK LIBRARIES
www.summerreadingnys.org

This brochure is also available in Spanish.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Summer Reading Challenge

"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August. I will mark the calendar below with a check mark (✓) each day that I read by myself or with my reading buddy."

When you have marked at least 40 days on this calendar, you will earn an Excellence in Reading certificate. Just send the marked-off calendar and the completed form to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Special thanks goes to the New York State Education Department's Division of Library Development and librarians across the state for their help.