

# Assembly Member

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# Rebecca Seawright

COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10075

## IN OUR COMMUNITY:

- **Women's History Month Celebration**

## IN ALBANY:

- **Seawright on Gun Violence**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Shred-a-thon**
- **Rent Freeze Clinic**
- **Brain Health**

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES:

- **York Avenue Sewers**

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## A MESSAGE FROM

### **Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On International Woman's day, March 8<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 4th Annual Women's History Month Ceremony at the Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium.

I look forward to co-sponsoring the following upcoming events:

- Friday, March 16 - **Rent Freeze Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance**, 11am-1pm at Seawright's District Community Office. Space is limited, call 212-288-4607 to make an appointment.
- Saturday, April 21- **Shred-a-thon, Earth Day edition!** 82nd Street Greenmarket between First and York Avenues, 10am-2pm.
- Friday, May 11 - Alzheimer's Foundation of America **Brain Health and Wellness presentation**, 10am-12pm at Seawright's District Community Office.

Stay in touch with my office about any issues that are important to you. As always, we are just a visit, call or email away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Seawright".

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Seawright Hosts 4th Annual Women's History Month Celebration Honoring 15 Women in our Community**



On the evening of Thursday, March 8, 2018, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Fourth Annual Women of Distinction Awards to commemorate Women's History Month was held at the Abigail Adams Auditorium, home to the Colonial Dames of America.

Seawright honored fifteen women who have demonstrated hard work, commitment, and dedication to making our communities on the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island a better place. Award recipients included Erlinda Brent, Dr. Beverly Dempsey, Joan Falcetta, Lisa Fernandez, Nikki Leopold, Rachel Levy, Marie Luarca-Reyes, Trudy L. Mason, Madelaine Piel, Jennifer Ratner, Naomi Semeniuk, Mallory Spain, Carol Tweedy, Kathleen Walsh and Sharon Williams.

"In March- Women's History Month- we must take time to recognize the women of today who are speaking up, inspiring others and working hard to put our community on a better path. There will never be enough ways to thank them, but we can recognize them with a special honor, the Woman of Distinction Award," Seawright said.

Colonial Dames of America's Executive Director Deborah Spaeder McWilliams provided information on the historic space. Marymount Manhattan College President Kerry Walk, host of last year's awards welcomed the audience and introduced Seawright.

In closing Seawright said, "Celebrating Women's History Month is not just about the women who came before us; it is about the women today who are change-makers, influencers and inspire us to resist and keep up the fight. We are better for the women who stand beside us today. Congratulations, Women of Distinction, you are an inspiration to our community, our city, and our great State of New York!"



*Executive Director of the Colonial Dames of America Deborah Spaeder McWilliams*



*New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer*



*Marymount Manhattan College President Kerry Walk*



## IN ALBANY

### ***Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright: When it comes to gun violence, we need more than thoughts and prayers***



**Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright** (D-76<sup>th</sup> District) announced that she helped pass legislation to prevent and reduce gun violence in New York. The legislative package includes measures to ban bump stocks, prevent individuals determined to be a danger to themselves or others from possessing or purchasing firearms and establish a longer waiting period before delivery of a purchased firearm to a person who has not cleared a background check.

“Again and again, senseless gun violence takes innocent lives, leaving agony, heartbreak and indescribable grief in its wake,” **Seawright** said. “But as the brave survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, have made clear, there can be no excuse for inaction. These tragedies – whether it’s the headline-grabbing mass shootings or the day-to-day gun violence that afflicts some of our neighborhoods – don’t have to be routine. Kids don’t have to die.”

One piece of legislation passed by the Assembly prohibits the possession, manufacture, transport, shipment and sale of devices that accelerate the firing rate of firearms so they operate in the same manner as machine guns, including trigger cranks and bump-fire devices (A.9958). Under current New York State law, attaching such a device to a firearm is illegal because once attached, the weapon is considered a machine gun. However, there is no restriction on the sale or possession of bump stocks or other similar devices that are not attached to a firearm.

This type of firearm modification enabled a single gunman to kill 58 people and injure over 500 in the October 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting. Using bump stocks on two separate weapons, the individual responsible was able to fire more than 1,100 rounds in approximately 10 minutes. This horrific level of violence shows why gun modifications of this kind should never be in the hands of civilians, noted **Assemblymember Seawright**.

Legislation was also passed to establish the ability of a court to issue a restraining order, known as an “extreme risk protection order,” prohibiting a person who exhibits serious signs of being a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm for up to one year (A.8976-B). The petitioner, who could be a family member or law enforcement officer, would be required to file a sworn application describing the circumstances and justification for the request. Following a hearing, the court could grant the order if there is a finding that there is reasonable cause to believe the individual in question is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to him or herself or others. In emergency circumstances, the court would also be authorized to issue a temporary order restricting access to firearms pending a final hearing.

Under the existing appeals procedure provided in the civil practice laws and rules, individuals would be permitted to appeal a court’s decision to issue an extreme risk protection order. They would also be entitled to submit a request, at any time while the order is in place, for a hearing to discontinue the order based on a change of circumstances and a showing that he or she no longer poses a danger.

“This legislation in no way hinders the rights of law-abiding citizens. What it does is help prevent suicides, fatal domestic violence incidents and possibly even mass shootings,” said **Seawright**. “Simply put, an extreme risk protection order could prove the difference between life and death.”

Currently, five states – California, Connecticut, Indiana, Oregon and Washington – have these so-called red flag laws in place, **Seawright** noted.

To further help keep guns out of the wrong hands, the legislative package includes the Domestic Violence Escalation Prevention Act, which would prevent domestic violence abusers from having access to weapons by prohibiting an individual who has been convicted of a domestic violence crime from purchasing or possessing a firearm (A.5025).

More than half of all female homicide victims in this country are killed by an intimate partner, with nearly three women murdered every day. Those aren’t just startling statistics, they are mothers, sisters and friends whose lives are brutally taken, and one of the first steps in preventing these tragedies is making sure their abusers don’t have a gun, stated **Seawright**.

Further, legislation was passed to establish a waiting period of 10 days – instead of the current three days – before a gun may be delivered to a purchaser whose background check is not completed (A.2406). Under current federal law, gun dealers must conduct a background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) before selling a firearm. The NICS system responds with one of three messages – “proceed,” “denied” or “delayed.” The dealer must deny the sale if the NICS background check determines the buyer is a prohibited purchaser and responds with a “denied” message. However, if the response is “delayed,” the dealer may nonetheless complete the sale after three business days. In these cases, the FBI continues to investigate whether the person is an eligible purchaser beyond the three-day period even though the person has likely already been sold the firearm.

According to the FBI, more than 15,000 gun sales went forward between 2010 and 2014 to individuals who were prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm because the determination whether to deny or proceed could not be made within three business days. The additional waiting period provided for in the legislation would help ensure that only those who have cleared a background check are able to purchase firearms, noted **Seawright**.

Another measure passed by the Assembly requires out-of-state citizens who also have homes in New York to waive the confidentiality of their home state mental illness records when applying for a firearm here (A.9978). Closing this dangerous loophole will help law enforcement better protect our communities, **Seawright** stated.

“We need to do more to combat gun violence, and we need to do it now,” said **Seawright**. “No parent should have to bury their child because someone who shouldn’t have had a gun got one. Let’s stand together and say enough is enough.”

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Rent FREEZE Clinic*



**MARCH 16  
11AM- 1PM**

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**  
**RENT FREEZE  
CLINIC**

learn about the  
senior citizen/  
disabled rent  
increase exemption  
program for renters!

COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
78/79 STREET

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
CALL 212.288.4607

## **SHRED-A-THON!**

**Earth Day  
Edition !**

**All those yellowing, moldy docs of  
yours? Tax forms? Checks?  
Get 'em industrial-grade shredded  
and for FREE!**

**Saturday, April 21st, 2018**

**10am - 2 pm**

**82nd Street Greenmarket**

**82nd Street between First & York Avenues!**

**PLUS Compost Collection!**

**PLUS** Recycle those eye glasses, corks,  
batteries & cords!

**Huge thanks to AM Seawright &  
CMs Kallos & Powers for their generous grants!**

For more: [thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com](http://thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com)





**Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and the  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America Present**

## **BRAIN HEALTH & WELLNESS**

A presentation, free and open to the community. Staff from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America will provide insight into the difference between normal age related changes in the brain and dementia related illness. Learn how to engage with your doctor about brain health concerns, current treatments for cognitive impairment, and steps to best maintain your overall brain health and wellness.

**Friday, May 11, 2018**

**10am-12pm**

**Presentation (10am-11am) and Memory Screenings (11am-12pm)**

**Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright**

**1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)**

**RSVP at [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov) or 212.288.4607**

***Lenox Hill Neighbor House  
New Tenant's Right Clinic in East Harlem***



LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

## Tenants' Rights Advice Clinic

- Are you a Manhattan resident with a housing problem?
- Do you have questions about your lease?
- Is your landlord failing to make repairs or provide you with heat, hot water, or other essential services?

Attend one of our Tenants' Rights Advice Clinics, offered at two convenient locations, to speak to an attorney or legal advocate for advice on your housing-related and landlord-tenant questions.

**Lenox Hill Neighborhood House**  
**331 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street**

May 10, 2018  
July 5, 2018  
September 6, 2018  
November 1, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.\*  
*\*Must arrive by 12:00 p.m.*

**East Harlem Health Action Center**  
**158 East 115<sup>th</sup> Street**

March 21, 2018  
April 18, 2018  
May 16, 2018  
June 20, 2018  
July 18, 2018  
August 15, 2018

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.\*  
*\*Must arrive by 4:00 p.m.*

Please bring all relevant housing-related documents with you.

331 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021 | [www.lenoxhill.org](http://www.lenoxhill.org)

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY

## CONSTRUCTION OF YORK AVE. COMBINED SEWERS & WATER MAINS

York Ave between E. 61<sup>st</sup> and E. 63<sup>rd</sup> Streets including intersections.

**PROJECT#:** SEN002169 **BOROUGH:** Manhattan **DATE:** March 9, 2018

**CANCELLED**

## WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION

**E. 62<sup>nd</sup> St. between York Ave and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**8:00am for 8 hours**

**WHY IS MY WATER BEING TURNED OFF?:** A water shutdown is necessary to facilitate the installation of a 12" water main in conjunction with the Construction of York Ave. Combined Sewers and Water Mains Project. This shutdown will occur at/or about 8:00 am and last for approximately 8 hours. On occasion, this work may be completed earlier and water service restored.

**SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

The DDC recommends that you shut off the water main valve in your house/building in order to avoid problems that may occur when sediment enters or is released from your plumbing

You are asked to shut off all WATER cooled appliances, which may include air conditioners, etc.

Once water service is returned, turn the main house valve back on and flush the system by running your faucets to sinks and tubs for about 15 to 30 minutes.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to learn more about the DDC Project, please call the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) **Laura Rivera**, at **646-838-7942** or visit the NYC DDC web site at [www.nyc.gov/ddc](http://www.nyc.gov/ddc). During non-construction hours please contact New York City Government Services and Information Hotline at 311.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to unforeseen conditions (weather, field conditions, etc.) it may become necessary to change some scheduled work locations and operations.

**If you have any questions about the NYC water quality, please contact the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP)**

For more information on the health impacts of lead please go to: [www.ddc.gov/nceh/lead/leadinwater/default.htm](http://www.ddc.gov/nceh/lead/leadinwater/default.htm)

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

Ana Barrio  
Acting Commissioner

[www.nyc.gov/ddc](http://www.nyc.gov/ddc)









