



Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day!

I was pleased that my office once again had the opportunity to honor our local veterans with the NYS Assembly Valentines for Veterans program, partnering with many elementary schools in my district whose children take joy in decorating Valentines for our area veterans. **We are so pleased that not only did many schools participate, but that we were able to deliver them through veterans and other organizations throughout the area.**

I was honored to visit the VA in Montrose last Friday to deliver hundreds of Valentines for distribution to their patients. I also was pleased to have the opportunity to personally hand out Valentines to a number of veterans.



Many thanks to the wonderful staff at the VA for their support and encouragement of our program. Thank you to all the elementary schools who partnered with us to create these Valentines: Bedford Village, Church Street, George Washington, Harrison Avenue, Increase Miller, Katonah, Mamaroneck Avenue, Mount Kisco, Samuel J. Preston, Parsons Memorial, Post Road, Pound Ridge, and West Patent.

Thank you also to the following organizations for helping us to distribute our Valentines: Town of Harrison, American Legion NY Post 0559 and VFW Post 3047 Harrison, Katonah American Legion NY Post 1575, American Legion NY Post 0136—Mount Kisco, American Legion NY Post 0135—White Plains, American Legion NY Post 1866, Barbara Giordano Foundation, Inc, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #49, Veterans Administration Hospitals—Montrose and Castle Point, Town of Bedford Veterans Advisory Committee, Interfaith Prison Partnership, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Veterans and Military Families Bureau.

Meanwhile, it has continued to be a busy time up in Albany. While there, not only am I focused on budget hearings and floor action, but am also spending time with constituents and advocacy groups who meet with members to discuss their legislative and budgetary priorities.

I have recently had the opportunity to meet with a number of organizations that serve the 93rd Assembly District, including **the Westchester and White Plains Youth Bureaus** (which I had the honor of introducing on the Assembly floor), **the Mount Kisco Childcare Center, the American Red Cross in Greater New York,** and **Elizabeth Seton Children's.**



My thanks to these groups, and many others, who take the time to participate in the process and advocate for their important causes.

[City of White Plains Awarded \\$10M Downtown Revitalization Grant](#)

Congratulations to the City of White Plains for receiving \$10 million from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. White Plains, truly the hub of Westchester County, has done a remarkable job keeping itself modern, accessible, and an all-around wonderful place to live.

I could not be more pleased and grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul for this funding, announced last week, for the further revitalization of the City's downtown. **These funds will allow White Plains to continue on its successful trajectory, providing it with the opportunity to develop additional and crucially-needed affordable housing, and to make the City even more accessible for riders and pedestrians.** This funding will ensure that White Plains can continue to thrive in the years and decades to come.



My Joint Statement Commending Governor Hochul for Additional Victim Service Funds

While there are a number of items in the Governor's proposed budget that give me concern – such as cuts to school funding as mentioned in my [previous newsletter](#) and [cuts to clean water infrastructure](#) – **I was incredibly pleased that Governor Hochul is proposing \$120 million in additional funds for victims services.** Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and I recently put out the following statement commending the Governor:

"After years of advocating for an increase in NYS funding to help victim services organizations, we applaud Governor Hochul for including in her proposed FY 2025 budget (released on [January 16, 2024](#)) an additional \$120 million in NYS funding for crime victim service providers. The previous budget's allocation was \$43 million, which was not nearly enough for all the organizations that depend on this funding.

Federal Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) funding, traditionally a major source of funding for crime victim service providers, relies upon revenue created by fines and fees in federal cases, which have been dwindling in recent years. The reduction in available funds has led to severe cuts to organizations that are crucial to the well-being of residents of our state including:

- Domestic violence and rape crisis providers
- Human trafficking services
- Local mental health and child and adult protective services
- Housing and homelessness responses for crime survivors
- Legal assistance for crime victims
- Hospital and emergency-based programs that perform rape kit and other medical examinations to crime survivors
- Prosecutor- and court-based programs that assist survivors through the court process and more, including child abuse, intimate partner violence, and family violence

Unfortunately, the need for these organizations has only continued to rise.

New York State has long been a beacon of light and hope for so many. As a state, we should be doing all that we can to help victims of crimes get the help and support they need to recover from their trauma. We will press hard in the Legislature's budget discussions to ensure that the proposed funding remains intact and is included in the adopted budget."

'Rape is Rape' Bill Signed into Law

For several years, the Assembly Majority has passed legislation, known as the 'Rape is Rape' bill, a needed update to New York's sex crimes statute to expand the definition of rape to include nonconsensual oral and anal sexual conduct and to remove the penetration requirement. Late last month, **Governor Hochul signed the bill into law.**

Not calling these horrific crimes what they are has both legal and emotional consequences for survivors, both invalidating and adding to the trauma they've already endured. With Governor Kathy Hochul's support, **we have finally broadened this definition of rape to ensure all victims of rape and sexual assault can get justice.**



Photo Credit: Governor Hochul's Facebook Page

[New Laws Taking Effect in February](#)

The month of February marks a month of many interesting and important laws going into effect, including:

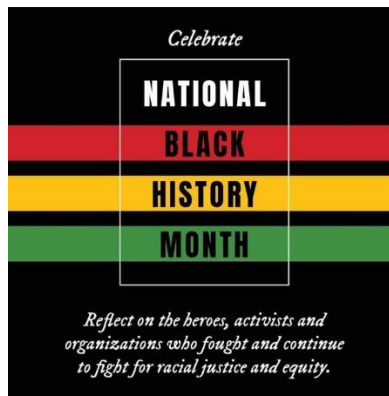
Effective Date	Chapter	Summary
2/11/2024	Ch. 723 of 2023 A.2672-B S.1048-A	Requires any seller imposing a surcharge on a customer who uses a credit card to clearly and conspicuously post the total price for using a credit card and prohibits the surcharge from exceeding the amount of the surcharge charged to the business by the credit card company.
2/15/2024	Ch. 632 of 2023 A.458 S.548	Provides a deceased tenant's legal representative the option to terminate such tenant's lease upon notice to the landlord.
2/15/2024	Ch. 635 of 2023 A.2134-A S.2294-A Ch. 1 of 2024 A.8494 S.8035	Requires owners and agents of multiple residences and multiple dwellings to provide names and contact information of residents to emergency personnel upon the request of such personnel, where the physical safety of such residents must be accounted for by ascertaining their whereabouts.
2/17/2024	Ch. 511 of 2022 A.6727-A S.8746	Makes the profession of physical therapy assistant a licensed profession.

2/19/2024	Ch. 732 of 2023 S.4266-A A.5088-A Ch. 12 of 2024 S.8026 A.8545	Establishes a task force on missing women and girls who are black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) to develop policy changes that will work to address the lack of care and concern for missing and murdered BIPOC women and girls with New York state governmental agencies.
2/22/2024	Ch. 539 of 2023 A.150 S.2702	Increases age for use of ATVs by minors from age 10 to 14.
2/22/2024	Ch. 588 of 2023 S.3608-A A.4987-A	Directs the Department of Health to provide a video on the dangers of drowning for infants and young children to be viewed by parents of newborn children.
2/22/2024	Ch. 604 of 2023 S.7526 A.7673-A	Authorizes construction mentoring programs for small businesses and minority and women owned enterprises in New York City.

[Celebrating Black History Month](#)

Finally, February is National Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the central role of Black Americans in the U.S.

Whether we're honoring the trailblazers who shaped history, or recognizing those leading the fight for democracy today, Black History Month is a time for all of us to learn from our past and commit to creating a more equal future.



As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,



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