



May 17, 2024

Greetings –

Environmental Legislation: Wildlife Crossing Act Passes

My bill “The New York Wildlife Crossing Act” ([A.4243/S.4198](#)) passed the Assembly this week and having passed the State Senate previously will now go to Governor Hochul for her signature. Wildlife crossings help wildlife adapt to climate change and preserve biodiversity by connecting essential habitats. This legislation directs the State Department of Transportation and New York State Thruway Authority to identify sites in the State where wildlife crossings are most needed both ecologically and in terms of preventing vehicular – wildlife crashes. This bill will better prepare the State to take advantage of the \$350 million allocated in the Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act for wildlife crossing infrastructure across the United States.



Street Safety: Sammy's Law Enacted

Last week I joined Governor Hochul, colleagues in government, activists, and community members at MS51 in Park Slope for the bill signing of Sammy's Law as part of the enacted State FY 2024-25 Budget. This legislation, which I co-sponsored and have long advocated for, will save lives, and reduce crashes by giving New York City the authority to lower the current citywide speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph. Its passage marks the culmination of years of work on the part of Families for Safe Streets and other organizations. Families for Safe Streets is led by people who courageously shared their stories about losing family members to traffic violence, including Amy Cohen, mother of Sammy for whom the bill was named.



Launch of the Dyslexia Task Force

This week the State's Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force held its first meeting. The Task Force was established by my bill [A.133/S.2599](#), which was signed into law by Governor Hochul last year. This meeting of the Task Force marks a very important step in addressing the educational needs of the hundreds of thousands of the State's children that have dyslexia or a related learning disorder. The Task Force, which includes educators, experts, parents, and people with dyslexia from across the State will examine and make recommendations regarding evidence-based practices for screening children for dyslexia and providing interventions and supports. The final report of the Task Force, due at the end of this year, will set us on course to ensuring that children with dyslexia can become fluent readers and successful students. In the fall, the Task Force will be holding public hearings and I will be sharing information on these as soon as dates and locations are finalized.

Supporting Early Identification and Interventions for Dyslexia

An essential part of children with dyslexia and related learning disorders getting the services they need is positive identification of the nature of their disorder. This is why I introduced the Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act ([A.2898/S5481](#)), which would mandate that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. The cost of such exams makes them out of reach to many families and my bill would significantly address this. **It has passed the Assembly and now requires passage in the New York State Senate.**

In addition to this legislation, over the past three years I have directed \$1 million in State funding to Promise Project. Promise Project is an organization that has been at the forefront of the movement to level the playing field for marginalized children with learning disabilities and disorders. In collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center, Promise Project runs the only program of its size and scope in the country fully dedicated to providing free, state-of-the-art neuropsychological evaluations to New York City's most vulnerable children, and couples these assessments with advocacy and parent support. Promise Project also works with targeted NYC public schools to train school staff how to recognize children who are at-risk for developing a reading disorder, links students with targeted interventions available within their school and provides follow up support to monitor their intervention response over time.

In recognition of my work around dyslexia I was honored by the Promise Project last week at their "Beautiful Promise" event. I look forward to seeing Promise's work serve as the model throughout New York.



Full Service Friday 5/31

On May 31st I am hosting a service event at my District Office featuring shredding, rain barrel giveaway, and the MTA Metro Card Van. See full details on the flyer below and [reserve your free rain barrel here](#).

FULL SERVICE FRIDAY

Friday
May
31

- ◆ **PAPER SHREDDING**
- ◆ **MTA METROCARD VAN**
- ◆ **FREE RAIN BARRELS**

All services will be provided on the sidewalk
in front of my district office at
416 7th Avenue in Park Slope
(between 13th and 14th Streets)



9am-12pm: NYC Department of Sanitation's paper shredding truck, no reservation is necessary, just walk up to the truck with your paper to shred. (please remove all plastic or metal including staples and binder clips, and NO card-board)



10am-2PM: MTA Metrocard Van for all your MetroCard related issues including reduced fare applications; transferring balances; lost, stolen, or damaged cards and more! No reservation is necessary, walk-up service at the van window.



9am-3pm: FREE rain barrels from NYC Department of Environmental Protection. You must reserve your rain barrel in advance using the QR code below, the rain barrels will be delivered to my office by 9am. (If there any are left-over, we will offer them on a first come first serve basis after 3pm, if you cannot use the QR code, please call the office to reserve your FREE rain barrel)

Rain Barrel only QR code



If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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