



**June 27, 2024**

**Greetings –**

I hope everyone is having a good start to the summer and finding ways to keep cool. This past week I attended school graduations throughout the District. It was my privilege to share in these special events with students, families, teachers, and school staff.



I am proud that this year's New York State budget increased funding to public schools statewide by \$1.3 billion, for a total of \$35.9 billion. Given this investment, the Mayor's proposed cuts to 3-K and Pre-K programming are all the more frustrating and I joined parents and advocates at City Hall this week to call for restoring these cuts in the final City budget. 3-K and Pre-K enable parents to work knowing that their children will be in a well-resourced and enriching environment and sets the stage for future success in school. I look forward to

continuing to partner with school communities to ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive in pre-school, elementary school, middle school, and beyond.



## Advocating for Congestion Pricing

On Wednesday of this week the MTA Board met for the first time since Governor Hochul announced that she wanted to “indefinitely delay” implementation of congestion pricing, which was scheduled to begin June 30th. I was one of the first elected officials to publicly state my opposition to the Governor on this. I rallied with congestion pricing supporters prior to the Board meeting and then [spoke before the Board](#) urging them to proceed with congestion pricing as they are authorized to do by the enabling legislation the State passed in 2019. I am deeply disappointed that they voted to confirm Hochul’s “pause.” As I have argued repeatedly, the benefits of a well-designed congestion pricing program are clear – reduced traffic and improved public transportation that will lead to a more livable, prosperous, and environmentally sustainable city. It is not time to give up on this vision and accept that the MTA will have to dramatically scale back its capital program.



## City Pools Open

New York City's public pools open today June 27th. [You can find out about locations, hours, swim classes and more here.](#)

## New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Culture Grants Available

[FY2025 Grant Guidelines](#) are now available for New York State nonprofit arts and culture organizations and artists. In total, \$82 million in critical grant funding is now available to support our statewide creative sector. The application deadline is July 17, 2024, at 4 PM.

NYSCA staff is available to help with any questions through webinars, virtual office hours and over email. These resources are all available on the [NYSCA website](#).

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If you have any concerns about these or any other legislative or community matter please email me at [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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