



ASSEMBLYWOMAN *Latrice Monique Walker*

Reports to the People • Winter 2024

Dear Neighbor:

I hope this 2024 year-in-review newsletter finds you well. First, I want to thank you, my beloved constituents, for trusting me with another term to represent you in New York State's 55th Assembly District. I was born and raised in Brownsville, so it has been one of the greatest joys of my life to serve the community that poured so much into me growing up.

The Assembly Majority fought hard to secure a \$233 billion budget that meets the needs of New Yorkers, including resources to fight crime, improve our mental health system, bolster maternal health, and build more housing so people can thrive.

I also joined advocates and concerned lawmakers in a successful fight to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in the state budget to save SUNY Downstate Hospital in Brooklyn.

I remain committed during the next legislative session to focus on the key issues of housing, criminal justice, education, creating greater opportunities for small business and addressing the needs of our seniors.

I look forward to representing my constituents – no matter how complicated the issue or how daunting the task. I never ran and I never will.

Sincerely,

Latrice Monique Walker
Assemblywoman, 55th A.D.



HERE ARE SOME LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 AND PRIORITIES GOING FORWARD:

- I was the Assembly sponsor of **A.2656**, which allows pregnant women to enroll in the state's health exchange at any time without penalty. The bill, which Gov. Kathy Hochul signed into law in October, was important to me as a mother. It sends a clear message to all New Yorkers that the state is committed to combatting increasing maternal mortality rates, especially among Black women. Pregnancy is a time for joy and optimism, not for anxiety over access to healthcare.
- The Assembly Majority waged a successful fight to secure hundreds of millions of dollars to save **SUNY Downstate Hospital**, which had been facing the possibility of closing because of ongoing financial trouble. The FY 2025 budget includes \$100 million in operational funds and \$300 million in capital funding. The funds will help SUNY Downstate's continued efforts to address health disparities within communities of color served by the hospital.
- The FY 2025 budget includes \$347 million to support New York State's efforts to reduce **gun violence**.
- On Jan. 1, New York will be the first state to ban co-pays for insulin, legislation supported by the Assembly Majority and signed by Governor Kathy Hochul. The ban applies to any New Yorker on a state-regulated health insurance plan. There are 1.58 million New Yorkers diagnosed with diabetes, and the proposal is expected to save New Yorkers an estimated \$14 million in 2025.
- The Clean Slate Act of New York (**A.1029C**), which I proudly co-sponsored, went into effect on Nov. 16. The new law will bring relief to 2.3 million New Yorkers with criminal histories. Under the Clean Slate Act, New Yorkers will be eligible to have conviction records sealed three years from sentencing for misdemeanors and eight years from sentencing for felonies – removing barriers to employment, housing, education, and other opportunities needed to successfully reenter society and make meaningful contributions to their communities.
- I am the Assembly sponsor of the Second Look Act (**A.531**), which would allow judges to review and reconsider excessive sentences, giving incarcerated people the chance to receive a sentence reduction when it's in the interest of justice. It is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. The measure would provide people serving lengthy sentences the opportunity to petition the Court and demonstrate that they are fit for release, or that the sentence is no longer appropriate. This bill will be among my priorities in the upcoming legislative session.
- I will be fighting in the upcoming session for **A.1089**, a bill that I sponsor. It would impose an excise tax on the sale of ammunition, generating money that would go into a gun violence impact fund. The legislation is an effort to provide relief to families in underserved communities who experience violence. The money from the violence impact fund could be used for funeral costs, medical bills, mental health resources or other unplanned expenses.

Team Walker – in Albany



Assemblywoman Latrice Walker hosted her 10th Annual Thanksgiving luncheon for seniors at the Van Dyke Community Center on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to everyone who attended, Van Dyke Tenant Association President Lisa Kenner, volunteers, members of 500 Men Making A Difference, officers from the NYPD's 73rd Precinct, and Chef Mike Whitfield.



Team Walker hosts monthly advisory board meetings on every third Saturday.



Assemblywoman Walker partnered with the NAACP to encourage people to get civically engaged.



Assemblywoman Walker joined other elected officials and city leaders at a groundbreaking ceremony ahead of a \$3.9 million restoration project at the Weeksville Heritage Center's Hunterfly Road Houses that were built in the 1800s. The project is expected to be completed in 2026. Weeksville was one of the largest Black communities in America before the Civil War.



Assemblywoman Walker attended the ribbon-cutting in September for the Bridge Rockaway complex at 203 Newport St. The site, which used to be a chocolate syrup factory, now boasts 174 units of housing – 87 of them with supportive services for seniors. It also includes manufacturing space, an exciting and unique addition to Brownsville.



It's always great to catch up with friends and make new ones at the Old Timers' Day Reunion.

y and Around the District



Assemblywoman Walker demanded answers after a shooting at the Sutter Avenue L train station left four people hit by police bullets, including a man who suffered a traumatic brain injury.



Rev. Eddie Karim, my director of community relations, presented Community School District 23 Superintendent Dr. Khalek Kirkland with a proclamation in June honoring him for his hard work of behalf of our young scholars, parents, educators, and staff.



Assemblywoman Walker spoke at a rally in March in Albany to garner support for a bill she sponsors that would strengthen New York's residential solar tax credit and make it refundable for low-income families.



Family Days and block parties are so much fun in the summer.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 53rd Annual Legislative Conference in Albany in February, including folks who traveled from the district on buses.



Detective Walter Brant, better known as 'Wally' to the community retired in July after 31 years with the NYPD. He is the gold standard of what community policing should look like.



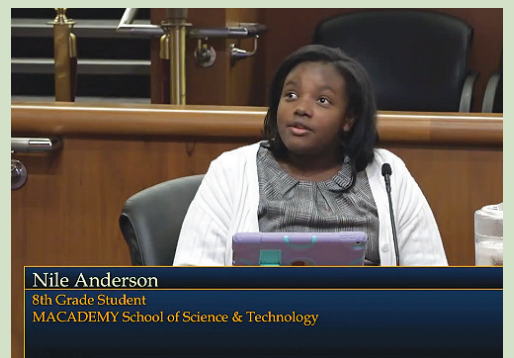
Assemblywoman Walker rallying for parole justice in Albany.



Assemblywoman Walker was honored by the new leadership team of the Marcus Garvey Park House Tenant Association.



Assemblymember Latrice Walker
55th Assembly District



Nile Anderson
8th Grade Student
MACADEMY School of Science & Technology

Assemblywoman Walker praised her daughter, Nile, for testifying in January at a joint Legislative hearing. The topic? The dangers of social media for children.

GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

CB 3 First Monday of the Month

CB 16 Fourth Tuesday of the Month

CB 5 Fourth Wednesday of the Month

CB 17 Third Wednesday of the Month

CB 8 Second Thursday of the Month

NYPD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

67th PCT Third Thursday of the Month

77th PCT Second Monday of the Month

73rd PCT Third Thursday of the Month

81st PCT Second Tuesday of the Month

75th PCT First Wednesday of the Month

PSA 2 Third Tuesday of the Month

Please see the community board and precinct websites for times and addresses.

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Scan the QR Code to request a meeting, submit a budget request or invite the member to an event.



SCAN ME

WE'RE OPEN MON-FRI (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
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