



Assemblyman CHARLES D. FALL



Legislative and Community Report - 61st Assembly District - Winter 2019

Dear Neighbors,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your New York State Assemblyman this year. Throughout the year, I have connected with thousands of North Shore residents, attended dozens of community organized events and civic meetings, visited nearly two dozen local public schools, had two pieces of legislation I proposed signed into law, and much more.

As we enter the 2020 legislative session, my goals are to continue improving the quality of public transit; ensure our public schools are safe and equipped with resources to thrive; continue advocating for programs and services for youth and seniors; and further support early intervention and treatment initiatives for community members affected by mental health and substance use disorders.

I look forward to another year of working with you on the North Shore and advocating for you in Albany.

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly, 61st District

Beryl Bikes Are Coming to Staten Island

In spring 2020, Beryl, a bicycle sharing company, will introduce over 1,000 bikes for use across Staten Island as part of phase two of the NYC dockless bike share pilot program. These bikes are uniquely equipped with visibility features to help create safer roads for bike riders, car drivers, and pedestrians. Beryl also incentivizes users to park bikes responsibly, which helps prevent bikes from being placed haphazardly on our roads and sidewalks. For more information and updates, visit the NYC DOT Bike Share website at www.nycdotbikeshare.info.



Test riding the Beryl bikes was a fun experience. I look forward to seeing residents safely enjoy this transportation alternative in spring 2020.

Assemblyman Fall: Turning Legislative Visions To Reality

Legislation Signed Into NYS Law

- **Marie's Law.** On January 18, 2019, I introduced my first piece of legislation, Marie's Law, bill A.4784-C. By August 22, Marie's Law became my first drafted legalization signed into law. This bill strengthens protections for minors against felony sex offenders by barring the sexual offender from living in a household with the child. I am proud that my colleagues in government, on both sides of the aisle, unanimously agreed upon the importance of this bill. Final Assembly vote (130-0) and Senate Vote (62-0). I want to give a special thank you to Senator Savino for carrying this bill in the Senate and working with me to get this crucial law passed.
- **Extending The Small Business Mentoring Program.** This new law will extend the MTA Small Business Mentoring Program (SBMP) – bill A.8020 – for 10 years until December 31, 2029. For the last ten years, the SBMP has allowed the MTA to award its public works projects in a cost-effective and diverse manner. According to a report done in the first seven years of the program, 6,000 jobs were created in the MTA's fourteen county service regions. Of the 240 approved contracts, 162 were awarded to New York State certified Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE's) and MTA Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) contractors who now serve as prime contractors.

By extending this program, we will continue to provide supportive services including business development, construction training, access to capital funds, business plans and back-office support in a cost effective and diverse manner. Final Assembly vote (148-0) and Senate vote (47-14). For more information on SBMP opportunities, call (212) 878-7027 or email sbmp@mtahq.org



Legislation Awaiting the Governor's Approval

- **Trampoline Regulatory Bill.** Bill A.7250 seeks to regulate the commercial trampoline park industry and increase the safety standards for families in New York State. I introduced this bill because there is currently no regulation of the trampoline park industry in NYS. We have seen a nationwide spike in injuries and emergency room visits linked to trampoline park accidents. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2013 there were 2,500 reported injuries, and by 2017 there were 17,800 related injuries. The report also revealed a significant increase in emergency room visits. Final Assembly vote (118-0) and Senate vote (62-0).
- **Amending Labor Laws to Enhance Employee Transparency.** Bill A.8035 would amend the Labor Law to define the title "employer" for those employees that perform services for an employer through another entity, namely a placement agency. My legislation would clarify this issue and assure that any New Yorker that is willing to work and provide for their family is fairly compensated if they qualify for unemployment insurance.

Under current law "employer" is defined and provides conditions for "terms of coverage" but both do not address situations where an individual is paid by one entity but performs services for another entity. Final Assembly vote (147-1) and Senate vote (58-4).

Newly Proposed Legislation

- **Expanding the Safety, Packaging and Taxation on Vaping Products.** Bill A.8746 would help consumers to verify the legitimacy of vaping products before making a purchase by using label verification methods on current legal vaping liquids. Due to the increasing number of unsafe black market vaping products, I introduced this bill to ensure that any vaping product that remains on the market today, or in the future, can be easily verified by the consumer for their safety. My legislation will also place an excise tax on vaping products so as to promote more funding for current and future programs that will assist New Yorker's to quit smoking and vaping.
- **Establishing a Tax Credit for Gold Star Children.** Bill A.7823 would amend the tax law by establishing \$1,500 a tax credit for Gold Star children until the age of 18. Children who have lost a parent who was an active duty service member are entitled Gold Star Children.
- **Expanding Students' Right to Observe Non-Traditional Days of Observance.** My bill would require SUNY, CUNY, or state-funded-institutions of higher education in New York to allow students the right to observe certain religious holidays and non-traditional days of observance without suffering an academic penalty.

Students would be required to submit to their instructor a statement in writing of their intent to observe a holiday, at least three days before any exam, quiz, or work-study project. I introduced this legislation because of how important non-traditional and traditional celebrations are to the core aspect of any individual and culture.

- **Establishing ULURP Requirements for Homeless Shelters.** Bill A.07820 would require cities with populations of one million or more residents to file an application with the Uniform Land Use Review Board before a shelter could open. This legislation would also require the city to give the community in question a 120-day notice to voice any potential concerns about the proposed site as opposed to the current 30-day mandate. The intent of the legislation is to strengthen government transparency and accountability to the residents it serves.

I remain committed to advocating for the concerns and needs of my constituents as we prepare for the shelter at 44 Victory Blvd. With this bill, any future shelters proposed in NYC would require more substantial community input.

Visit my website to remain informed about the legislation I will advocate for throughout the 2020 legislative session.

Groundbreakings, Ribbon Cuttings and North Shore Development



Mariners Harbor Waterfront Park Ribbon Cutting. Richmond Terrace Park is officially open for residents of the Mariners Harbor community to enjoy. As the former Chief of Staff for Parks on Staten Island, this is one of several commitments I have continued to advocate for on the North Shore. The park's amenities include pedestrian-friendly paths, benches, and waterfront views. Decades ago, this area served as a beachfront and picnic area for residents to enjoy; now it has been restored to its glory. A big thank you to everyone involved in orchestrating this project.



Camelot Youth Clubhouse Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. I was proud to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for Staten Island's first ever "Staying Healthy" youth clubhouse. The facility — located at 1286 Forest Avenue — provides young Staten Islanders, ages 12 to 17 years old, in recovery or at-risk of addiction with a safe, drug-free space to develop social skills for long-term health and recovery.

The program was funded by an increase to the 2019 state budget, which contributed more than \$240,000 to support the operation of the Youth Clubhouse. This is a step in the right direction towards supporting a healthier generation of Staten Islanders and builds upon the success of District Attorney McMahon's ongoing anti-drug initiatives.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can also find help and hope by calling the state's toll-free, 24-hour, 7-days-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (467369).



Port Richmond High School Athletic Field Groundbreaking. I am glad to report that Port Richmond High School will welcome a new, \$15 million athletic complex in 2021. Students will soon have a brand new turf football, soccer and lacrosse field, a new track, five tennis courts, and separate baseball and softball fields. I was happy to work with administration to secure the funding needed to accomplish this development. Our youth and the larger surrounding community will benefit immensely from this investment in their goals, passions, and physical health. Thank you to Principal Greenfield for his leadership and commitment to the students of Port Richmond.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Richmond University Medical Center Gamblers Treatment Program. I joined medical professionals from RUMC and Assemblyman Reilly at RUMC's Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine to welcome the expansion of the Gamblers Treatment Program to this facility. RUMC's gamblers program began in 1982 as one of three outpatient gambling programs in the state and currently serves as one of the only programs of its kind in NYC. This facility will offer Island residents greater access to medical professionals and proper services to receive the help they need. The Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine is open weekdays, 8:30am-5pm. If you or someone you love is seeking treatment, contact RUMC at 718-818-6132 to schedule an evaluation.

The North Shore Is Awarded \$10 Million Through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). Staten Island's downtown community is the 4th NYC regional winner of the Governor's \$10 million DRI. This funding will help to develop and implement key projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization. This includes efforts to enhance community spaces, invest in local retail and dining businesses, and develop amenities for residents to enjoy.

In 2020 a local planning committee of municipal representatives, community leaders, stakeholders, private sector experts, and state planners will develop a Strategic Investment Plan to guide the use of the funds.

Thank you to the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, the Staten Island Downtown Alliance, Borough President Oddo, Congressman Rose, and Senator Savino for also working to ensure this vision became a reality.

2019 Funding Allocation Highlights



Education is fundamental to the success of our youth, however, our public schools are often underfunded. This year, I worked to allocate nearly \$300,000 in funding to various schools and educational programs in need of technology, band equipment, youth programming, and building improvements. These additions will make a positive impact on student achievement and expand youth opportunities on the North Shore.

It is always wonderful to visit public schools across the 61st District and meet so many bright students and dedicated administrators. Thank you P.S. 22, P.S. 65, and the various schools across the district that welcomed me!

2020 United States Census

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person residing in the United States. In previous census counts, New York State has been undercounted, resulting in the loss of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services, and more. **The 2020 National Census Day is April 1, 2020.**

Key Census Facts

Why is it important to count everyone?

New York State receives \$53 billion each year in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services, and more. NYS loses over \$2,600 per person in federal aid each year until the following census count.

Who is undercounted and what are the consequences?

Historically, the census has undercounted young children, the elderly, people of color, rural residents, immigrants, renters, and low-income households at higher rates than other populations. **It is important to note that undocumented immigrants are entitled to participate in the count.** When any group is undercounted there is an inaccurate depiction of our population makeup and where funding is most needed.

To learn more and register with your local

NYC Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee (NOCC) visit:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/census/index.page>

For employment opportunities with the Census Bureau, you can visit:

census.gov/about/regions/new-york/jobs/all.html or call (855) 562-2020.



If we can be of any assistance or answer questions, please feel free to contact my office.

MTA Updates



Addressing MTA leadership at the legislative hearing on the MTA 2020-2024 Capital Plan.

At a recent legislative hearing regarding the MTA's 2020-2024 Capital Plan, I addressed MTA leadership in a line of questioning regarding several issues, including a lack of funding allocated to further the development of the North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), as well as a delay in commitments for new train cars on the Staten Island Railway.

While MTA leadership has expressed their early endorsement of the BRT, I will continue to have conversations with the MTA to ensure that the funding needed to implement the BRT is properly allocated. Alternatively, the SI Railway is expected to receive 5 prototype railway cars beginning in December 2021 and 70 more railway cars starting September 2022. I am disappointed by the slow movement of both projects, however, I will continue to advocate for the transportation and infrastructure funding that North Shore residents need to enjoy modern, accessible and efficient transportation options.

Citywide Community Resources

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income homeowners and renters pay for utility and heating bills. If you have received an electric, gas, or heating disconnect notice, you can apply for emergency financial help. You may also qualify for help if you have a low supply of heating fuel or a broken boiler or furnace.

HEAP consists of two seasonal components: Heating Assistance, which operates from November to March, and Cooling Assistance, which operates from May to August. Call the Info-line at (800) 692-0557 if you have questions about HEAP.



I am working closely with Chief Kenneth Corey of the NYPD to discuss neighborhood safety and continue to build on the great progress that local law enforcement has made to improve the quality of life and public safety on the North Shore.

Utility Assistance Program (UAP). UAP assists families or individuals who are elderly, blind, disabled, mentally impaired, or those residing in a neglected or hazardous environment who require financial assistance for their energy bills. Contact the Heat Line if you are having trouble paying your utilities bill (212) 331-3150.

Report an Environmental Problem. If you see something happening in the environment, whether you believe that it is a violation of environmental law or a natural occurrence, contact the Department of Environmental Conservation. To reach a local Environmental Conservation Police Officer (ECOs), call (347) 308-4589 or (347) 308-3159. Reports from citizens are vital for effective enforcement of New York's environmental laws.

Skip the Trip to the Human Resources Administration (HRA) Office. ACCESS HRA is a mobile app and website that makes it easier to apply for SNAP, recertify for Cash Assistance, and print a Medicaid renewal form. Get the ACCESS HRA mobile app or visit nyc.gov/accesshra for more information on your benefits.

Educational Resources for Guardians with Students in District 75 Schools. All students deserve to attend schools free of bullying, discrimination and harassment. Parents can report incidents of bullying and harassment to the NYC Respect for All liaison by calling (718) 935-2288, or emailing RespectforAll@schools.nyc.gov. The New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSRA) also provides special education mediation for parents and school districts throughout New York State; call (518) 687-2240 for more information. For other concerns, call the NYC Special Education Hotline at (718) 935-2007, or contact the Staten Island office of Parent to Parent NYS at (800) 866-1068 to learn about the services your child may be entitled to.

Grants, Scholarships and Opportunities

NYS Minority and Women Business Development (MWBE) Program is designed to promote equality establishing economic opportunities for MWBEs and eliminate barriers for their participation in state contracts. For information on becoming a New York State certified MWBE, email mwbebusinessdev@esd.ny.gov.

Grant Support. Individuals, non-profits, and organizations seeking grant support can look to Candid for a variety of free trainings at its center in New York City, partner locations and online. For a schedule of classes, visit www.grantspace.org.

The New York Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program designed to help youth who were in U.S. foster care. Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school-related expenses. Visit <https://www.fc2sprograms.org/new-york/> for more information.

NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides tuition awards to students who are New York State residents attending a public or private degree-granting college or university located in New York State. Recipients must be in the top 10 percent of students of their high school graduating class, pursue an approved, two or four-year STEM degree program and agree to live in NYS and work in a STEM field in NYS for five years after graduation. Visit <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/> for more information.

The Family Development Credential Program (FDC) and FDC for Leaders is a New York State professional development training that provides frontline staff from public, private and non-profit service systems (e.g., home visitors, case managers, family resource center workers, community health workers) with the skills and competencies they need to empower families. FDC-trained staff help families capitalize on their strengths and set attainable goals. Classes are held each spring and fall at City University of New York (CUNY) campuses.

DYCD offers competitive scholarships to selected frontline staff, supervisors, managers and directors of DYCD funded and other community-based organizations, non-profits, and City agencies across New York City. Spring 2020 Online Scholarship Applications are due by January, 7 2020. For more information on either type of Family Development Credential Program, or upcoming classes, please contact the FDC, Capacity Building Deputy Director, at (646)343-6224.

Seeking New Job Opportunities? Get connected to local private sector jobs through the NYS 'Jobs Express' portal at www.ny.gov/services/find-job. There are also many career opportunities with the New York State Government. Joining the state workforce often requires a civil service exam before applying for the position you are interested in. Find out more information at www.ny.gov/services/find-job-new-york-state-government.

The NYS Excelsior Scholarship Program provides tuition awards to eligible students attending New York State's public colleges and universities (SUNY and CUNY). Recipients of the Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to \$5,500. The application for the Spring 2020 is currently available. Please contact the NYS Scholarship Unit at scholarships@hesc.ny.gov or (888) 697-4372 for more information.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Assemblyman Fall Committee Assignments

Chair, Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection
Member, Committee on Aging
Member, Committee on Cities
Member, Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection
Member, Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions
Member, Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development
Member of the 2019 Mental Hygiene Joint Budget Conference Committee
Member, Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus



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www.nyassembly.gov/mem/Charles-D-Fall