

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

July 3, 2020

Happy 4th of July weekend! While Staten Island businesses and public amenities are slowly reopening for our enjoyment, social distancing and face mask guidelines are still in place and required while in public. Large gatherings of 10 or more people are also prohibited in order to keep you and your loved ones safe.

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, there will be no NYC Sanitation trash or recycling collection on Saturday, July 4. Instead, residents who normally receive Saturday trash collection should place their materials curbside after 4 pm on Sunday, July 5. Residents who normally receive Saturday recycling collection should place their materials out at curbside after 4 pm on Friday, July 10 for collection on Saturday, July 11.

Click [here](#) to watch the FDNY's public service announcement on the dangers of Fireworks.



District 61 News

Independence Day Grab-and-Go BBQ

I partnered with the New York Center for Interpersonal Development (NYCID) and Mobile Soul Barbecue, to ring in the 4th of July weekend with a grab-and-go barbeque for North Shore residents. The seventy residents that visited my office were provided with reusable bags, bottles of hand sanitizer, face masks, census assistance as well as BBQ and snacks. Thank you NYCID, Mobile Soul, and the constituents who made this event a great success. I also want to thank my colleagues, Senator Diane Savino and Assemblymember Michael Cusick for joining us.



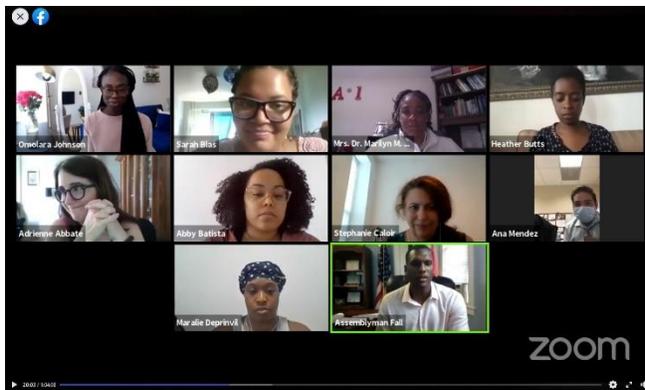
Child Wellness Initiative Virtual Town Hall

I joined members of the Child Wellness Initiative for a virtual town hall to discuss child health and wellness concerns during COVID-19. As the father of two young girls, I understand the daily challenges that parents and guardians of young children face as we balance parenting and working from home while also trying to prioritize the health and safety of our families. During the discussion, I provided updates on the many precautions the state is taking to ensure that our kids and most vulnerable populations remain safe as NYC reopens. Several people voiced concerns about navigating their child’s educational needs, concerns about visiting medical facilities as COVID-19 persists, and the potential health implications of reopening NYC. Other panelists highlighted the importance of guardians finding outlets to cope and feel supported during the pandemic.

[Click here to watch the virtual town hall in full.](#)

Here is a list of several government and community-based resources that can help support the needs of guardians and youth during the pandemic.

- **Register for this webinar on Selfcare During the Crisis** hosted by the Central Family Life Center scheduled for Monday, July 6 at 6 pm.
- **Participate in free virtual family yoga every Thursday at 7 pm and Saturday at 10 am.** Email Sara.Blasgarden@gmail.com for a link.
- **[NYS Resource Guide for Caregivers in the Time of COVID-19.](#)**
- **NY Parent Helpline** is a referral line that can help direct you to the services you need: 1-800-244-5373.
- **NYS Mental Health Assistance** 1-844-863-9314.
- **Staten Island NYC Family Justice Center for Domestic Violence support** 1-718-697-4300.
- **[Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) Food Benefits](#),** call 1-888-328-6399 for more information
- **DOE free Grab-and-Go Meal Hubs**



Renaming Stapleton Playground to 'Reverend Maggie Howard Park'

In an effort to further honor the late Reverend Maggie Howard, I sent a letter to Mayor de Blasio to request that NYC Parks rename Stapleton Playground to 'Revered Maggie Howard Park'. All Staten Island elected officials as well several citywide representatives signed on to the letter to further champion this community request. Nearly 2,000 community members have signed the Change.org petition in favor of this park renaming. Rev. Howard's legacy of loving and providing for her community lives on in the hearts of many and this park renaming would serve as another token of appreciation for her love and service to the Stapleton community. I look forward to working with my partners at City Hall and NYC Parks to move forward with this renaming. Another special thank you to my colleagues in government for their support during this process.

[Click here to sign the petition for the park renaming in honor of Rev. Maggie Howard.](#)



Positive Community Contributions

In late April, members of Port Richmond Strong, a North Shore civic organization, and Community Board 1 alerted my office of a North Shore property located at 45 Jewett Avenue that was disrupting the Port Richmond community due to excessive debris and unsanitary conditions.

Over several months, my office, civic leaders, and the office of Borough President Oddo contacted several NYC agencies including the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Buildings to discuss the state of the property and to seek a resolution. Thankfully, DSNY committed to removing 43 tons of garbage and debris at this location and has committed to curbside garbage pickup moving forward. Thank you to the many community partners who advocated consistently until adequate action was taken and thank you to DSNY for helping to improve the state of the Port Richmond neighborhood.

Please reach out to my office if you believe your community is suffering from a 'zombie property'.



45 Jewett Avenue before



45 Jewett Avenue after

Updates From Albany

Governor Cuomo signs the NYS Tenant Safe Harbor Act

On Tuesday, June 30th, Governor Cuomo signed legislation (**A.10290-B**), which the New York State Legislature passed – by party line vote (99-50) – back in late May. This bill would help to keep residential tenants in their homes following the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing only money judgments, and not evictions, for unpaid rent that is due during the COVID-19 emergency.

- Executive Order 202.28, issued on May 7, 2020, included a directive that there shall be no initiation of a proceeding or enforcement of either an eviction of any residential or commercial tenant for nonpayment of rent or a foreclosure of any residential or commercial mortgage, owned or rented by someone that is eligible for unemployment insurance or benefits under state or federal law or facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of sixty days beginning on June 20, 2020.
- This new law will disallow courts from issuing warrants of eviction for unpaid rent that was due from the beginning of the COVID-19 state disaster emergency through the period that restrictions on businesses, public accommodations and nonessential gathering are in place.
- Landlords will still be able to obtain money judgements for unpaid rent that accrued during that time period, but tenants will remain stably located in their homes and place of business.

With more than 1 million renters losing their income during this pandemic, I am glad to see that the Governor enacted this legislation into law. If my colleagues and I didn't take the necessary action to pass this legislation back in May we could've very well witnessed a renter's catastrophe.

This new law will further help financially struggling tenants and the vulnerable to stay in their homes and avoid evictions as we still progress forward in defeating this pandemic.



2020 North Shore Youth Assembly visit to Albany, NY

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

1. Phase 3 of the New York Forward Plan is set to begin on Monday, July 6.

- Under Phase 3, personal care businesses including tattoo and piercing facilities, appearance enhancement practitioners, massage therapy, spas, cosmetology, nail specialty, UV and non-UV tanning, or waxing. **Click here for phase three guidance.**
- Indoor dining has been halted for phase 3 in NYC due to growing health concerns. However, the city will continue **taking applications from restaurant owners who want to open outdoor dining space through the Open Restaurant initiative.**
- To protect workers and help businesses safely enter Phase 3, the City will distribute an additional 2.5 million face coverings. **Find a distribution site here.**
- The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection can answer questions about reopening, health and safety guidelines for the workplace, or to report an employer that is not following reopening requirements at **311 or 1-212-436-0381.**

2. Mayor de Blasio announced a **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Summer Bridge 2020 Program** which will provide constructive engagement and enrichment activities to 35,000 New York City youth this summer. Summer Bridge 2020 will offer approximately 60-90 hours of activities over a five-week period. The program will prioritize low-income, justice-involved, foster care, runaway and homeless, NYCHA residents and young adults from communities hit hardest by the pandemic.

- SYEP Summer Bridge applications will be soon available.
- **Click here for eligibility information.**

3. **Individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 must quarantine for 14-days from the time of last contact within the identified state.**

- **Here is an updated list of states flagged on the travel advisory:** Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah

4. **Swimming is now permitted at all eight NYC public beaches. Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10 am to 6 pm.** All beachgoers are reminded to be safe in and around the water this summer and only swim when lifeguards are on duty.

5. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**

- Through a partnership with BioReference labs, the City will conduct its second antibody survey at community testing sites in the five boroughs. Free antibody testing will be offered by appointment Monday – Friday from 12 pm- 8pm or Saturday through Sunday 8 am-12 pm, through Friday, July 24. **Click here to make an appointment** or by call **888-279-0967.**
- **Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.**

- **Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, at (844) NYC-4NYC.** New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about Coronavirus can call to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from **9 am - 9 pm**.
 - **Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. Click here to learn more, or call 1-844-692-4692.**
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Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. MTA Service Announcements

- The MTA is operating on current weekday and Saturday schedules for the holiday weekend with subway and bus options for customers traveling to NYC-area beaches.
- Staten Island Railway will operate on a Saturday schedule on both Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4.
- Friday, July 3- Sunday, July 5, buses operating along Forest Avenue will be detoured to accommodate Forest Avenue Open Streets - Restaurants.
- Commuters are encouraged to consult the **MyMTA app** or **MTA website** for trip planning and real-time service information.

2. CAMBA HomeBase is an organization dedicated to assisting anyone facing eviction, housing court, and rental arrears. Staten Island residents should call the CAMBA Staten Island office, 718-226-0496, Monday- Friday from 9 am to 4pm to get answers to all questions and concerns.

- CAMBA also offers “Financial Wellbeing” tele-sessions- clients should contact their case managers to initiate a referral.
- **Click here to review the CAMBA COVI-19 Resource Guide**

3. Click here to find a list of NYC Open Restaurants across NYC.

4. NYC public libraries will open 22 branches for grab-and-go service beginning on Monday, July 13 including the Richmondtown Library and Todt Hill–Westerleigh Library.

5. The Pride Center of Staten Island, in conjunction with CHASI, will begin providing Home HIV Testing Kits.

- The kit consists of a simple mouth swab and instructions. The test itself takes 20 minutes to perform. You can run it at home by yourself, or we can schedule over the phone counseling and assist you with performing the test. You may schedule an appointment for online assistance.
- **Click here for more information on how to sign up.** You may also contact the HIV Prevention Program Manager, Nicholas Robinson, at 718-808-1385, or email **nrobinson@pridecentersi.org**.

6. Stay Cool this Summer:

- **Cool It NYC! initiative**
- **Call (212) 331-3126 to request a Home Energy Assistance Program application by mail;** a return envelope is included with an application. **Click here to download and print an application.**
 - Completed applications can be returned by mail to the Richmond Job Center, 201 Bay St., Staten Island.
- **Access NYC** has released the application for the Cooling Assistance Benefit. Through this benefit, individuals and families can receive air conditioners and fans. The deadline to submit applications is August 30, 2020. **For more information and to see if you are eligible, click here**

7. The NYCHA Mold Busters Program is required to effectively remediate mold and excessive moisture in a timely fashion. Residents with mold or active water leaks in their apartment should enter a work order by calling the **NYCHA Customer Contact Center** at (718) 707-7771. Residents can also use the **MyNYCHA app or website.**

- If you have already contacted CCC regarding mold or leak problems in your unit and would like further assistance – contact the Ombudspersons Call Center at (888) 341-7152 for assistance, or **click here for more information.**

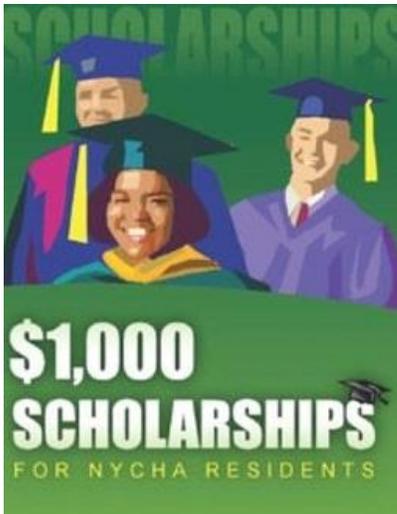
Small Business Resources:

- **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce** is collaborating with Start Small Think Big to offer free legal and financial services from top professionals. **Learn more and sign up here.**
- Emergency Grants are available for small businesses that have experienced material damage to their storefronts over the last few weeks. **Click here for more information on the NYC Small Business Emergency Grant Program.**
- **Are you a small business owner with questions about reopening?** NYC Small Business Services hosts regular webinars to help businesses understand and comply with requirements and best practices to reopen. Meetings are also targeted to specific communities and continue throughout the summer. **Click here to access the ongoing webinars.**
- **The NYC Department of Small Business Services** has developed a **Reopening Guide**, a helpful palm card: **NYC Means Business: Reopen & Stay Safe at Work** and a dedicated **Business Restart Hotline: 888-SBS-4NYC.**
- NYC restaurants can apply for the **Restaurant Revitalization Program.** Restaurants can apply for up to a maximum of \$30,000 to pay the wages of five or more workers for 6–12 weeks. **Click here to find more information.**
 - **The New York Forward Loan Fund** is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen. **Click here to access the application.**

- **Free Face Coverings for small businesses and their employees. Click here to find a distribution partner located near you.**
 - If your organization is interested in receiving donated KN95 Masks from the SI Community Organizations Active in Disaster, **please complete this form.**
 - **Staten Island Business Outreach Center (SIBOC)** is working with small businesses with any assistance they may need; small business owners can call their office **(718) 816-4775 or info@siboc.org** to a virtual one to one business meeting.
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Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

1. **NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship Opportunity.** The NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. The program awards \$1,000 scholarships to selected NYCHA residents enrolled as undergraduates at the City University of New York (CUNY). The deadline to apply is July 23, 2020. **For more information click here.**



2. **Green City Force Urban Farm Corps.** Through Green City Force's Urban Farm Corps, NYCHA residents get paid hands-on training in gardening. Green City Force is recruiting for 6-month and 11-month member positions and offers training and hands-on experience to help you grow while serving your community. **For more information on the application process and how to apply, click here.**
3. File your taxes for free with NYC Free Tax Preparation. The last date to file is July 15, 2020. **Click here to get more information on NYC Free Tax Prep and eligibility**

requirements.

FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE

The tax filing deadline has been extended due to the public health crisis

Last Day to File: **July 15th, 2020**



NYC
FREE
TAX PREP

Trusted,
Professional
Filing

"If you earned \$64,000 or less last tax year, the City can help you file your taxes for free. You can file for free online or in person, depending on your individual or family income."

"Due to COVID-19, all in-person tax prep services have been suspended under the NYC Free Tax Prep program. Prepare and file your federal income tax return for free using tax preparation and filing software through IRS Free File."

Click the button below for more information on NYC Free tax prep filing software ↓

"In light of the most recent developments around COVID-19, including the new workforce restrictions shared by Governor Cuomo, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all tax services until further notice. This includes all in-person and virtual sites. The IRS has extended the federal tax filing deadline to July 15. We will resume our VITA program as soon as it is safe to do so, and plan to provide services through the extended tax season this summer."



Click the button below to get more information on the NYC Food Bank free filing effort ↓

4. **On Wednesday, July 8 from 10 am to noon, Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster is co-sponsoring a virtual workshop with the NYC Emergency Management & Person-Centered Care Services on Becoming a Disability Ally and Accessibility Preparedness Training for Community-Based Organizations. [Click here to register!](#)**

BECOMING A DISABILITY ALLY
&
ACCESSIBILITY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING
FOR COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS



Hosted by NYC Emergency Management & Person Centered Care Services

Presentation Objectives:

- Defining disability & the Person-Centered approach
- Action steps to be an ally to people with disabilities
- Best practices and resources for including people with disabilities and others with access & functional needs (DAFN) in preparedness and response
- Skills practice through scenario exercises
- Highlighting the importance of including DAFN organizations and considerations in planning and response
- Provide resources and best practices that will assist organizations when planning for people with disabilities

Wednesday, July 8th, 2020
10am - 12pm

Register Today:
<https://bit.ly/SIAccessibilityPreparednessTraining>

- This Will Be A Web-Based Training Only



Have Questions? Contact
Alyssa D'Agostino: adagostino@gccny.org | (718) 370.1088 Ext. 219

5. **Community Health Action** provides free services to Staten Island veterans in need of assistance with insurance paperwork, determining eligibility for benefits, the delivery of

pantry and grocery items, connections to primary care and telemedicine. **For more information, please call John at 646-623-1044.**



COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION
OF STATEN ISLAND
A member of Hudson River Health Care

WELCOME TO WELLNESS



SUPPORT
TO HELP
VETERANS

Veterans Services

CHASI offers **FREE** services for Staten Islanders who have served in the armed forces.



Do you work with veterans who need extra support? We can help your clients with:

- Insurance paperwork
- Determining eligibility for benefits
- Delivery of pantry and grocery items
- Connections to primary care and telemedicine



Staten Island
Performing Provider System

For more information, please call John at 646.623.1044.

Find Your Brightspot: [CommunityHealthAction](#) | [@brightspotNYC](#) | [StatenIsland](#) | [Community-Health-Action](#)

6. **The NYS Assembly's Grant Action Newsletter** is a resource shared monthly with updated state, federal and private grants, **[click here to learn about current grant opportunities!](#)**
7. **The City is seeking Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), including Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), to promote Test & Trace.** This initiative will focus on ensuring that communities have direct access to COVID-19-related information and services that are accessible, culturally and linguistically responsive, and trauma- and resilience-informed. CBOs and FBOs situated in or serving communities most impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to apply.
 - This Request for Proposals will accept responses until 12pm on Monday, July 13, 2020. **[Click here for more information.](#)**
8. To celebrate the accomplishments of Staten Island business people, **the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2021 Louis R. Miller Awards.** If you know someone that you believe is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award, **[click here to access the nomination form.](#)**

How To Help

1. The need for blood has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, but blood supply is dangerously low. **Donors can call 800-933-2566 or schedule an appointment online now.**

2. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.** Go to **my2020census.gov**, call **(844) 330-2020**, or respond using the paper form sent to your home.



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

#CensusCompletedChallenge

Three Methods to Respond:

- **Online:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
- **Mail:** Mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.
- **Call:** 844-330-2020 to complete via phone.

Challenge 5 family members and friends!

Everyone counts, infants, the elderly and everyone in-between.

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Wishing you all health and safety,



Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946
DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942