

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

July 18, 2020

District 61 News

Summer Mobile Office Hours

This week, my staff and I held mobile offices in Tompkinsville, Park Hill, and Port Richmond. We connected with nearly one-hundred and fifty constituents and several businesses on the North Shore to distribute face masks and hand sanitizer. With the help of the New York Center for Interpersonal Development, dozens of people were also able to complete the 2020 Census. Currently, 42% of Staten Islanders still need to be counted! Fill out your census today and remind your friends and family to get counted. This funding is crucial for our schools, transportation, and infrastructure. See the flyer below to find out which neighborhoods we will visit next week.

Tompkinsville Mobile Office



Park Hill Mobile Office





Port Richmond Mobile Office



Upcoming Mobile Office Hours



New York Giants Civic Engagement

I was invited to participate in a discussion with the New York Giants about civic engagement and opportunities for athletes to use their influence to encourage more civic engagement within our communities. I spoke with the players about the unique community concerns facing the North Shore, the importance of local government, and the significance of the 2020 US Census. I look forward to working with the organization and players to bring more resources and awareness to the North Shore.



Positive Community Contributions

This week's positive community contribution is dedicated to Tyrice Williams. Tyrice is one of three interns working in my office this summer through the DYCD Learn & Earn program. Tyrice grew up in Mariners Harbor and attended P.S 44, I.S 51, and recently graduated with honors from Port Richmond High School with the class of 2020. This fall, Tyrice will be attending Iona College on a \$60,000 scholarship. He intends to major in business with a minor in computer science. Tyrice and I first met when he participated in The North Shore Youth Assembly, an initiative sponsored by my office and organized by United Activities Unlimited, to educate young people about local government and civic engagement. Tyrice and one-hundred North Shore youth traveled to Albany for the NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus weekend.

Before he heads off to college, Tyrice wants to make a change for the better in his neighborhood and I believe his internship with my office will offer him the chance to do just that. My office works to have a positive influence on the youth of Staten Island, and we are grateful to have Tyrice with us!



Updates From Albany

Preparing for the Final Week of the 2020 NYS Assembly Session

During the 2020 NYS legislative session, I proposed four legislative bills based on several health and safety concerns affecting constituents on the North Shore. Below are the four bills that I am working with Assembly Central Staff to move out of committee, for a full Assembly vote.

Bill A.7820-A(Fall) S.7215-A-(Savino):

• This bill would require the Department of Homeless Services to conduct a public hearing to voice any potential concerns about a proposed homeless shelter site. This is about accountability and transparency when community leaders, elected officials, and residents raise public safety, transportation, and educational accessibility concerns with sites of homeless shelters. This bill is about increasing transparency; it is not about preventing the less fortunate from receiving the care they deserve.

Bill A.10470-A-(Fall)- S.8719 (Savino):

- The legislation would also require operators of a healthcare facility to give a 30-day notice to the Department of Health and local officials on the closure, relocation, or decertification of the facility.
- This bill proposes that the commissioner of health conducts a study of the delivery of ambulatory care on Staten Island. With no public hospitals located on Staten Island, many residents rely on clinics, urgent care, and ambulatory health care for a wide variety of medical services, this makes it prevalent that we examine the impact of the respective entities on the delivery, quality, accessibility, and cost of ambulatory health care on Staten Island. With this data, the commissioner shall make recommendations to improve ambulatory health care services required by the community.

Bill A.10603-A (Fall)-S.8575-A-(Savino):

- This legislation is to prevent and deter individuals who live out of New York State from entering the state to cause acts of rioting, looting, and vandalism during peaceful and just protests.
- There would be increased fines for those entering New York to riot, loot, and vandalize.

Bill A.10806 Office of Court Administration Departmental

• This bill would clarify an existing law from 2008 on medical misconduct reporting to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct.



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

1. Phase 4 of NYC reopening is scheduled to begin on Monday, July 20, 2020

- This phase will permit some art and entertainment venues, like zoos and botanical gardens, to open for outdoor activities at a limited capacity. Restrictions will also be eased to allow the resumption of outdoor film production and professional sports without audiences and malls are not included in this stage of reopening NYC.
- 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 call **311 or 1-212-436-0381.**
- For a full overview of the industries reopening click here.
- 2. Governor Cuomo announced new restrictions on bars and restaurants to enforce compliance with social distancing protocols. Establishments are now only permitted to serve alcohol to customers who order food.
- 3. Governor Cuomo announced **an emergency COVID-19 rental assistance program to help keep lowincome families throughout New York in their homes**. The program, which is designed to reach individuals and families with the greatest need, will provide direct aid for tenants who lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new rental assistance program is administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal. <u>Click here to access the application- the deadline is in two weeks!</u>
- 4. NYS has released data-driven guidance for reopening schools in New York State. Schools may reopen if that region is in Phase 4 and if the daily infection rate remains below 5% or lower using a 14-day average since PAUSE orders were lifted. Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9%, using a 7-day average, after August 1. Districts and schools in NYS must submit plans to reopen schools by July 31.
 - <u>Click here to access the state guidance and guiding principles for reopening schools.</u>
 - Parents and guardians can begin to opt their children in for a fully remote learning model by filling out this form.
 - 5. Mayor de Blasio announces free childcare for 100,000 students this Fall
 - New York City is planning to provide quality safe, free childcare options for 100,000 children this fall for families who cannot stay home or find alternate care for their children on days they are not in school buildings.
 - Childcare will be made available for children in 3K through 8th grade, and there will be approximately 50,000 seats available each day.
 - The Administration is working to identify locations and maximize available space for childcare in schools, community centers, libraries, cultural organizations, and more. New Yorkers with available space that could potentially be utilized for childcare should visit <u>click here for more information.</u>

- 6. Individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 must quarantine for 14-days from the time of the last contact within the identified state.
 - Here is the list of states flagged on the travel advisory: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin

7. 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- 8 pm or Saturday through Sunday 8 am-12 pm, through Friday, July 24. <u>Click here to make an appointment</u> or by call 888-279-0967.
- Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.
- Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (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. <u>Click here to learn more</u>, or call (844) 692-4692.
- Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19, residents of the Stapleton Houses NYCHA can receive free testing for COVID-19 or free general medical evaluations. Call (888) 727-7014 to set up an appointment. See the flyer below for more information.



8. First mosquitos with West Nile virus have been detected in NYC.

- The Health Department has detected mosquitoes with West Nile virus in the Bronx and on Staten Island, however, no human cases have been reported to date.
- One helicopter-based larviciding event in the marsh areas of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx was conducted this month.
- Every year, as a part of normal outreach, the Health Department also conducts 80 to 90 presentations to educate communities about mosquito-borne illnesses. <u>You can request</u> <u>community presentations on West Nile virus and other health topics</u>. For more information about West Nile virus, or to report standing water, click here or call 311.

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

- 1. Business Center For New Americans is continuing to accept and process Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan applications from all eligible New York businesses, including small businesses, corporations, non-profits, sole proprietors, self-employed workers and professionals.
 - The deadline to apply for PPP loans is now August 8. Please contact Juan González, Senior, Loan Office at jgonzalez@nybcna.org or call one of BCNA's offices Manhattan: 212-898-4167, Queens: 347-649-1488 by August 6 to have your application processed in time.
 - <u>Click here to apply for the U.S. Small Business Administration PPP</u>
- 2. **Project Hospitality** is offering legal services, if you or anyone you know is in need please contact **mrivera@projecthospitality.org** with your name, phone number, and the type of legal service you need to book a virtual appointment with one of their legal providers.
- 3. 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 4 pm 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.
 - <u>Click here to review the CAMBA COVID-19 Resource Guide</u>

4. 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. <u>Click here for more information on the NYC Small</u> <u>Business Emergency Grant Program.</u>

- The NYC Department of Small Business Services has developed a Reopening Guide, a helpful palm card: <u>NYC Means Business: Reopen & Stay Safe at Work</u> and a dedicated Business Restart Hotline: 888-SBS-4NYC.
- 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.

Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

SHARE Cancer Support provides free, peer support to women with breast and ovarian cancer in 29 languages through their helplines at 844-ASK-SHARE. All their support groups and education programs are currently virtual, and they have added new programs to provide women facing cancer with information they need about COVID-19, including a new initiative for women with uterine cancer. And because it disproportionately affects Black women, one of the support groups is specifically for women of African descent. For more information, visit the SHARE website.



2. Adapt Community Network is a not-for-profit providing programs and services for people with disabilities. They have many career opportunities on the North Shore of Staten Island and all across the city. For more employment information click here.



3. Snug Harbor hosts Wellness Wednesday programming each Wednesday from 4:30 pm to 7 pm to help restore your mind, body, and spirit of residents this summer! Each week there will be free classes, tastings, and music. With an abundance of space and all of these fun activities, Snug Harbor is a great spot for anyone looking to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors. <u>Click here for more information.</u>



4. 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.



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.



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 <u>schedule an appointment online now.</u>**
- 42% of all Staten Island residents have not been counted in the 2020 census! <u>Fill out your US Census</u> today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to our community. Go to my2020census.gov, call (844) 330-2020, or respond using the paper form sent to your home.



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