

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

March 31, 2023



Week In Review

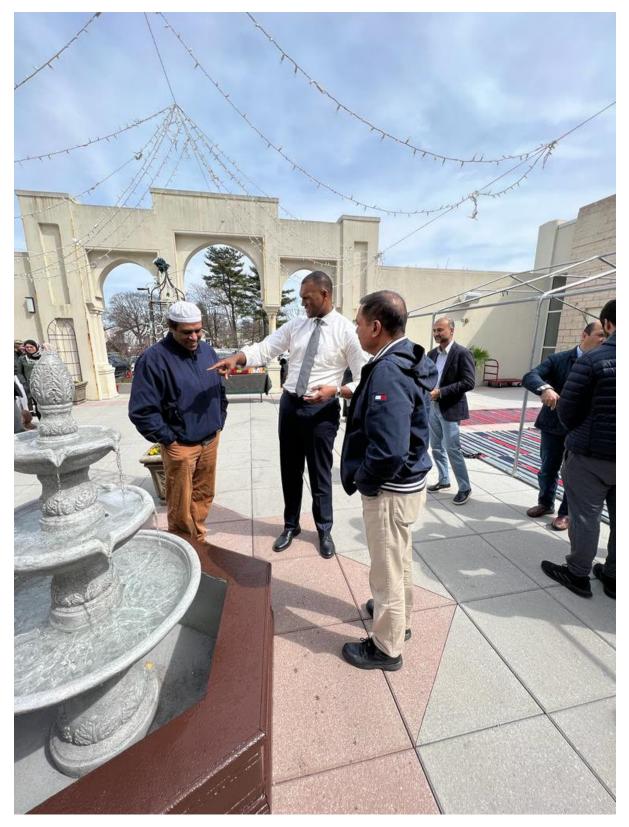


March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The best way to prevent Colorectal Cancer is to start screening at 45 and stay on schedule. Proud to partner with Interscience Diagnostic Labs and the Malik family in raising awareness. Learn more at <u>http://health.ny.gov/</u> <u>coloncancer</u>



Checked in on my neighbors at Fellowship Baptist Church this week as well as joining the congregation at Mt. Sinai United Christian Church lead by my good friend Bishop Victor Brown. I'm grateful for the

fellowship!



Enjoyed a rewarding first Friday of the holy month of Ramadan while

also making sure that our houses of worship have the necessary resources they need to help better serve our communities. Wishing everyone a blessed month ahead.



Proud to stand with my colleagues in government & members of law enforcement to announce the Blue Alert System. This legislation was modeled after National Blue Alert Act in honor of the NYPD Officers who were killed in the line of duty. Special thank you to my colleague, Assemblymember Steve Stern.

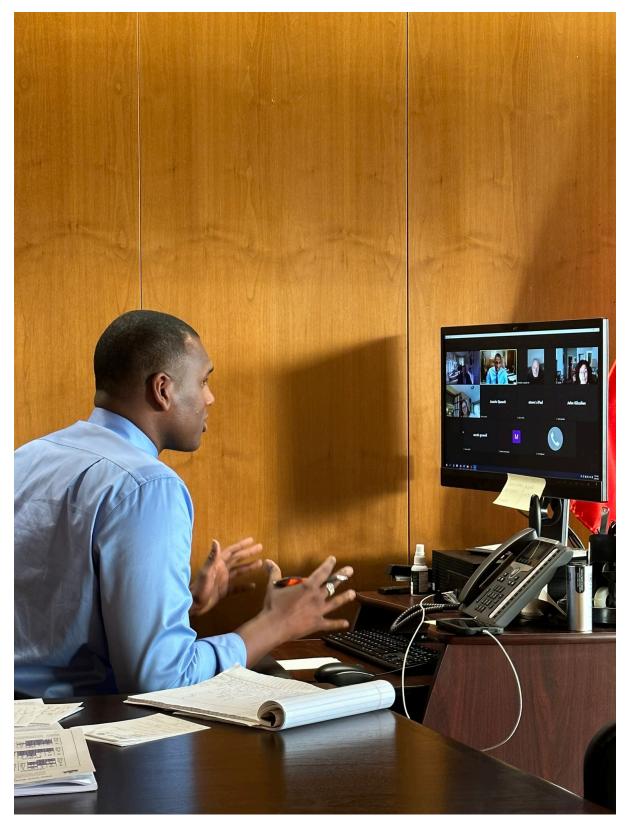


Great visit from members of the Staten Island Urban Center and TREEage team advocating for a clean economy, union jobs and strengthening urban environment through youth & community

involvement.



It was a pleasure joining Manhattan Community Board 1this week to provide some updates and discuss key items in this year's budget.

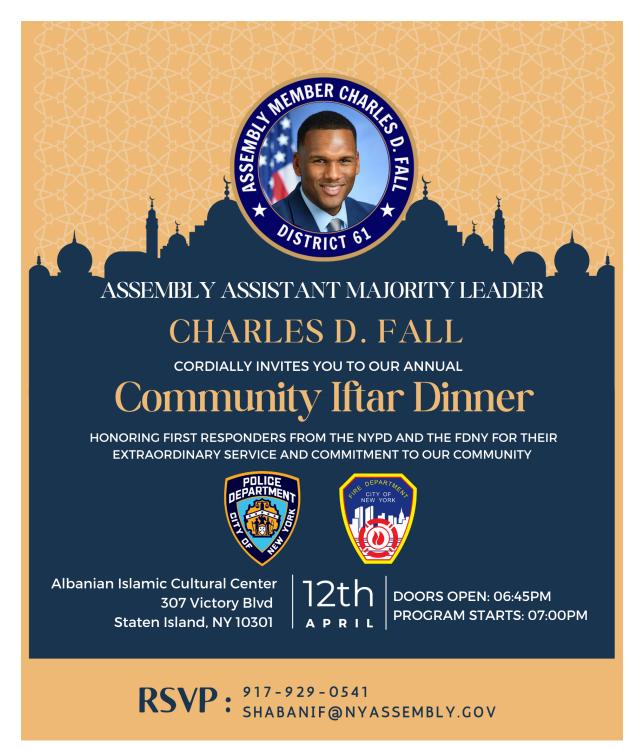


Glad to check in with everyone at the Staten Island Community Board 1 waterfront and transportation committee to highlight some updates from Albany as well as addressing concerns in the North Shore.

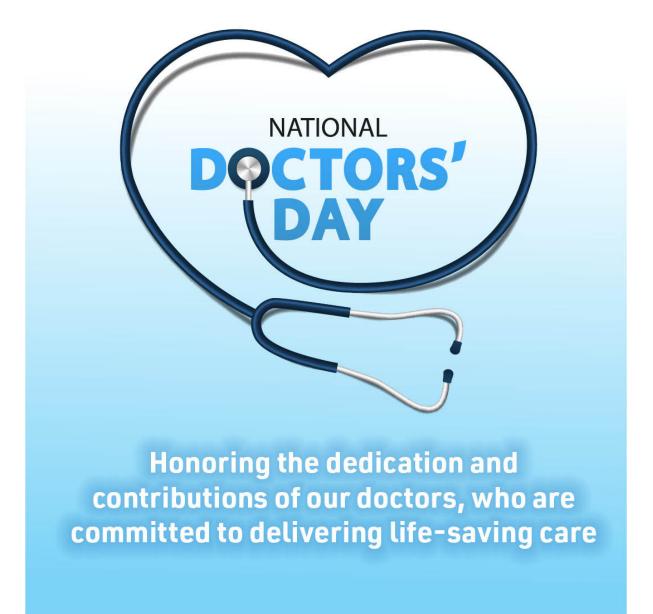


It was an honor to meet Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of the late Malcom X. Her father last visited the Assembly Chambers in 1965 studying the political process in all it's tedium and glory. Thank

you Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz for continuing to carry the legacy.



Please join us on April 12th as we honor and celebrate our first responders from the NYPD and FDNY during our Annual Community Iftar Dinner.



Happy National Doctors Day.

Health, safety, and wellness has become more important than ever before. I am thankful to all of our health care workers for everything they do for our community to keep people healthy.

Governor Hochul Announces Availability of \$2.2 Million for Programs to Connect New Yorkers with Addiction Services

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the availability of \$2.2 million through the state's Opioid Settlement Fund to help connect

vulnerable New Yorkers to addiction services and other critical supports. Administered by the state Office of Addiction Services and Supports, the "Connections to Care" initiative will provide up to 11 grants for eligible providers to connect individuals in high-need and underserved populations to the services that will support long-term substance use disorder recovery and overall well-being.

"Part of our all-hands-on-deck approach to the addiction and overdose epidemic is to ensure all New Yorkers battling substance use disorder have access to the critical services that can support them on the path to recovery," Governo Hochul said. "These grants will help bridge the gap between those in our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and the lifesaving services that can help them overcome addiction."

OASAS Commissioner Chinazo Cunningham said, "We continue to focus on reaching high-need individuals, who may face increased barriers to accessing care for addiction. This funding will allow us to better connect them to comprehensive medical services to support their overall health and wellness, as well as link them to other services that are vital to recovery."

The initiative will provide up to 11 awards of \$200,000 to support harm reduction, physical and behavioral health services, along with other supports, including connections to transportation, supportive housing programs, and legal services. Services through this initiative may be provided by peers, case managers, or clinical staff, either through telehealth or in person.

Target populations for these services include pregnant or postpartum women; transitional youth or individuals between the age of 18 and 25; individuals 55 or older; and those diagnosed with or suspected of having a traumatic brain injury or a developmental disability. The services are also aimed at assisting individuals returning to the community from incarceration and those transitioning from stabilization and withdrawal services or inpatient rehabilitation services.

Funding will be awarded through a request for applications process. Eligibility details are outlined in the <u>request for applications</u>.

State Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "Connecting individuals with mental health and substance use issues to services is absolutely critical, especially for individuals in high-needs and underserved regions. This funding, and the connections to care they support, will help eliminate obstacles to healthcare so more people can get the treatment and services they need to make their way on the road to recovery."

New York State will receive more than \$2 billion through various settlement agreements with opioid manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies that were secured by Attorney General Letitia James. A portion of the funding from these settlements will go directly to municipalities, with the remainder deposited into a dedicated fund to support prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery efforts to address the ongoing opioid epidemic.

The same legislation that established the dedicated fund also created the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board, which is tasked with making recommendations on how settlement dollars should be allocated to best serve those in need. Board members issued their first recommendations on November 1, 2022, identifying the expansion of harm reduction services and treatment as top priorities.

New York State has instituted an aggressive, multi-pronged approach to addressing the overdose epidemic, and created a nation-leading continuum of addiction care with full prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services. The state has worked to expand access to traditional services, including crisis services, inpatient, outpatient, and residential treatment programs, as well as medication to treat addiction, and mobile treatment and transportation services.

Governor Hochul was a member of the New York State Heroin and Opioid Task Force, which in 2016, recommended new, non-traditional services, including recovery centers, youth clubhouses, expanded peer services, and open access centers, which provide immediate assessments and referrals to care. These services have since been established in numerous communities around the state and have helped people in need access care closer to where they live.

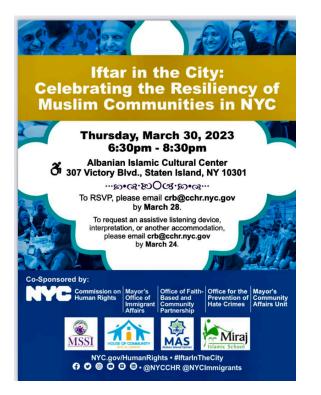
OASAS oversees one of the nation's largest systems of care for substance use disorder, with approximately 1,700 prevention, treatment and recovery programs serving more than 731,000 individuals per year. This includes the direct operation of 12 addiction treatment centers, where doctors, nurses, and clinical staff provide inpatient and residential services to approximately 8,000 individuals per year.

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

Available addiction treatment including crisis/detox, inpatient, residential, or outpatient care can be found using the NYS OASAS Treatment Availability Dashboard at <u>FindAddictionTreatment.ny.gov</u> or through the <u>OASAS website</u>.

If you, or a loved one, have experienced insurance obstacles related to treatment or need help filing an appeal for a denied claim, contact the CHAMP helpline by phone at 888-614-5400 or email at <u>ombuds@oasas.ny.gov</u>.

Resources for the 61st District















NYC Parks is hiring for the summer!

Help keep New York City's green spaces beautiful and safe! We offer a range of seasonal job opportunities, including positions in:

Maintenance

Security

Recreation

Visit nyc.gov/parks for more information and to apply.



For Resources Click Here

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Sincerely,

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Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

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