



### Dear Neighbor,

There are so many reasons to love New York—our wealth of cultural institutions, the wonderful range of higher education offerings, the food, the diversity, and of course our role as a financial, media, and entertainment center have made the city a destination for people all over the world, whether it's to live or to visit. All of which makes for a very crowded city!

Whether on the subway, our buses, or our streets, New Yorkers are constantly faced with the stresses on our transit system and concerns about pedestrian safety. Personally, I love our transit system. While parts of New York have remained all too segregated, the subways and buses are a place where the city can feel like a true melting pot. Our transit system is one of the few places where people from all communities and walks of life interact and connect, whether it's to ask for directions or commiserate about how long it will be before the train moves when you're trapped underground.

Above ground, however, the streets are changing. One of the biggest recent shifts is the growth in cycling – more people are cycling, and because the infrastructure for bicycles is easier to create, bike lanes are taking those who can ride out of the subway system and into the streets. With those changes comes a renewed responsibility to make our streets safer for everyone.

Figuring out how pedestrians, bikers, and drivers can share the road safely is an important challenge for New Yorkers to tackle. Surprisingly, it's also an effort that can face a lot of opposition. Everyone wants to get where they're going fast, and even modest safety measures are often greeted with outrage. For example, we all know speed kills, but passing a commonsense proposal like the installation of speed cameras in school zones took years and a change in the State Senate leadership, mostly because of driver opposition. Responding to the loudest voices is a time-honored tradition of civic engagement. However, as we seek to make the city a better place to live and share our limited space more equitably, a renewed commitment to the greater good should be the goal.

Periodically, I have published a Share the Road chart in this newsletter to remind everyone that at different times we are either a pedestrian, passenger or driver of a vehicle, or a cyclist. In each of those roles we have an obligation to keep in mind the safety of others. If you are in a vehicle, keeping a sharp lookout for pedestrians and cyclists is not only important - it can be lifesaving. But the same is true if you are a cyclist - riding the wrong way on a one-way street might save you time, but it also means that you endanger a pedestrian who is looking out for traffic traveling in the proper direction.

As the city continues to evolve, whether it be through the creation of more pedestrian plazas, protected bike lanes, or initiatives like the 14th Street busway, I look forward to working with my constituents and colleagues across the city to improve safety. We all have a part to play in keeping one another safe and following basic rules of the road is a great place to start.

Sincerely,

Deborah

## 2020 Legislative Preview

After the historically productive 2019 legislative session, it is time to turn our focus to priorities for 2020. I am eager to build on the great successes we accomplished this past year for our district and for New York State. As your voice in Albany, I want to share with you my list of priorities for the coming year.

### State Budget

Perhaps one of the most important functions of state government is the crafting of the annual budget. Every year, I take very seriously my responsibility that the concerns of our district are vigorously represented as the yearly spending plan is formulated. As the Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, another key focus is advocating on behalf of our world-class public higher education institutions, the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY), as well as a vibrant network of independent colleges and universities. SUNY and CUNY are key generators of economic mobility for New Yorkers, and the state must ensure that they are appropriately supported to educate and train the next generation of thought leaders and innovators, without financial barriers that lead to delays in graduation, or crushing debt.

### Environmental Protection

In November, I conducted a public hearing to examine the environmental footprint of New York's colleges and universities. The preeminent challenge of our generation is combating global climate change and the protection of clean air, water, and the natural landscape. With 64 campuses and nearly 500,000 enrolled students this past year at SUNY and 25 campuses and nearly 275,000 students at CUNY, it is critical to utilize the research potential of the talented faculty and students and maximize the energy efficiency of these campuses. It was so important to hear from campuses' faculty and staff, as well as student organizations from SUNY, CUNY, and private colleges about how New York's higher education institutions are working to support our ambitious climate goals and how the state can be of assistance to them.

I will be prioritizing the passage of legislation I sponsor which will phase out the use of firearm ammunition made from lead. Lead is extremely poisonous to humans and wildlife, and can cause damage to the central nervous system, be passed from a pregnant mother in utero, and can cause death. Over the past few decades, we as a country have systematically removed lead from consumer goods, most notably in gasoline and paint.



*I was delighted to participate in BMCC's LGBT PRIDE Kick Off Celebration this fall.*

Yet the vast majority of ammunition sold to this day is composed of lead. Spent ammunition litters the environment; leftover "gut piles" of animals killed with lead ammunition can poison the wildlife that feeds on the tainted remains; and people who eat meat harvested from an animal killed with lead ammunition are at risk of consuming leftover shrapnel from the lead bullet. This is a commonsense bill that will take another step toward removing lead from our environment.

As we strive to stop and reverse the damage done to our planet, it is important that we not forget that wildlife, especially pollinators, are integral components of the ecosystem. Experts have recently brought to the public's attention the alarming rate of disappearance of the world's bird population. One of the leading causes of bird fatalities are collisions with glass facades of buildings. I have carried legislation to require the use



Paying tribute to Lucy and Lenny Cecere, beloved Village fixtures, with colleagues and community members as we co-name a section of street in their honor.



Presiding over my November 13th joint hearing on Higher Education and Environmental Conservation, where we heard from colleges and universities about their campuses' environmental impact, and their academic and research programs that focus on addressing environmental issues.

## Exposing the Truth About Fake Clinics

Access to reproductive healthcare is a fundamental right, and without it, pregnant people are simply not equal under the law. While abortion rights continue to be under attack nationally, with the passage of my long fought for bill, the Reproductive Health Act, earlier this year, New York State is taking important steps to ensure that New York remains a place where pregnant people have the right to self-determination and a full range of medical care. Even so, the anti-choice movement is active in the state, and is working to prevent pregnant people from accessing abortion even if it means deceiving and misleading them.

One of the most pernicious examples of the lengths the anti-choice movement will go to is the operation of fake clinics, as described in my legislative preview. These clinics, also known as crisis pregnancy centers, market themselves as medical facilities where pregnant people can access free or low-cost tests. However, they often have no medical staff, and their true purpose is to lure in pregnant people seeking free pregnancy tests and provide them with anti-choice counseling. Fake clinics often won't disclose their true purpose and are known to instead use manipulation and false or misleading information to try to dissuade pregnant people from seeking abortion. They use names that sound legitimate, and frequently set up shop close to actual abortion providers, hoping visitors get lost or confused and wander into their location instead.

Many New Yorkers know that fake clinics like these exist but believe they aren't a problem here. In fact, there are over 120 fake clinics in New York State (dozens of which are in New York City), far outnumbering the number of legitimate abortion providers. These clinics target vulnerable populations, such as low-income and immigrant communities that may be drawn in by offers of free healthcare services, and use coercion and falsehoods to deny their constitutionally afforded rights. It's an egregious practice, and one that needs to change. That's why I'm sponsoring the previously described legislation this session to help protect pregnant New Yorkers from fake clinics. Presenting pregnant people who are seeking legitimate healthcare with anti-choice arguments in order to prevent them from exercising their constitutionally afforded rights is wrong, and I will be fighting for these bills and the protection of pregnant people this legislative session and beyond.

## Increased Transparency by the State Liquor Authority

Over the past year there have been changes to the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) that will hopefully increase transparency at the agency and improve the public's interaction with the licensing structure for bars and restaurants. In early October, the governor signed bill A4315/S55—that I carried in the Assembly along with Senator Brad Hoylman—which mandates that all records surrounding a licensed premises be kept in an online database managed by the SLA. This key change will improve how members of the public, community boards, and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) access information about bars and restaurants on a range of concerns. Once a local community board's state liquor licensing committee hears from an applicant and negotiates stipulations, those recommendations go to the Full Board of the State Liquor Authority where they are finalized. Oftentimes, those stipulations may be changed and then the local community is unaware of what was ultimately passed and the only way to ascertain that information is to submit a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, which can take weeks to be fulfilled. This newly mandated database is intended to make that process more transparent and ensure that the public can look up the stipulations a bar should abide by in real time.

## 2020 Legislative Preview continued...

of bird collision deterrence measures in New York City, including the use of "bird friendly glass" and I will be working with my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate to enact this legislation this coming year. New buildings in New York City need to be designed with the goal of minimizing their adverse impact on their natural surroundings. With designing forethought, we can drastically cut down on the deaths of birds who live in or travel the flyway through New York City.

I will also be working on enacting legislation to end wildlife killing contests, and prohibiting the hunting of non-native big game animals in fenced areas, which are commonly referred to as canned hunts.

### Reproductive Freedom & Gender Equality

This year's passage of my Reproductive Health Act legislation was a huge win for the continuing struggle for women's reproductive autonomy. This coming session I plan to build on this progress by prioritizing two bills I carry to bring transparency and public understanding of the negative effects of so-called "limited service pregnancy centers" or "crisis pregnancy centers." You can read more about them in this newsletter. Many of these centers masquerade as abortion providers despite their religious or philosophical opposition to offering abortions. Through the use of dishonest tactics and emotional pressuring, these centers attempt to dissuade women from getting abortions or accessing birth control. I will be fighting for the passage of my crisis pregnancy disclosure bill, which will require all such centers to inform all who seek their services that they will not perform or refer for an abortion or birth control. I will also be advocating on

behalf of my crisis pregnancy center reporting bill, which will require the NY Department of Health to collect data regarding the prevalence of crisis pregnancy centers statewide, and what federal, state, and local funding they are receiving. This legislation will help us better understand how these centers are operating in New York.

2019 was an important year for gender equality in New York, but there still remains work to be done. Building on the success of the passage of the Equal Pay Act, I will be striving for the passage of legislation I authored that requires the disclosure of equal pay data for all businesses that wish to contract with the state. This bill leverages the contracting power of New York State as a force for pay equality.

### Public Transportation

A cornerstone of the functioning and livability of any city is a reliable public transportation system. Due to various factors including but not limited to city and state funding shortages and the rise of app-based ride-hail platforms like Uber and Lyft, New York City's train and bus systems are inexcusably antiquated and unreliable. With current and future influxes of much-needed revenue now heading to the MTA, it is critically important that the MTA is held to a high standard in using raised money with fiscal responsibility, transparency, and promptness. I will be working for the passage of my bill that will require the MTA to annually report to the Legislature and the Governor all project cost overruns of over \$1 million. Passage of this bill will send a clear signal to the MTA that their stewardship of money raised from New Yorkers is being closely watched.



Joining my state government colleagues to prepare for this year's CUNY Women's Leadership Conference in November.



I was pleased to join Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymember Barbara Lipton in visiting members of the Cornell Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at Cornell University.

## Resources for Those Experiencing Student Loan Debt

There has been a great deal of news coverage about our country's student loan debt crisis. From my own interactions with students and education advocacy groups, it's become apparent that student loan debt is one of the most pressing challenges facing millennials in the 21st Century. Higher education is often viewed as the golden ticket out of poverty and a stepping-stone to a higher income and career trajectory. It's disheartening to see many of our college students enter the work force with such a high level of debt, especially because society had messaged that they should go to college at any cost.

According to Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, an estimated 45.1 million people across the United States are experiencing some form of student debt. In New York State, 58 percent of students graduating from public and private colleges have loan debt. If you are experiencing such debt or are in the process of seeking student loans, you may find the following resources useful:

- To gain financial literacy tools, discuss payment options and find resources available to you, visit the "Be Real about Student Loans" page at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/media/Be-Real-About-Student-Loans-Campaign.page>
- The NYS Higher Education Services Corporation offers a wide range of information about potential financial support, and can help you manage, and even get ahead of student loan debt: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov>
- The Community Service Society is developing a program called the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program, to help people navigate bankruptcy and loan defaults: <https://www.cssny.org/campaigns/entry/student-loan-consumer-assistance-program>

## Enhanced Driver's License Requirements

As a result of the Federal REAL ID Act, as of October 1, 2020 you will need a new standard of identification in order to board domestic flights or enter federal buildings, if you have typically relied on your driver's license as identification for domestic travel. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) now has three options for a driver's license, permit, or non-driver ID:

- The Standard NYS license, permit, or non-driver ID will still be able to be used for photo identification purposes, but after October 1, 2020 you will need a second form of identification to board a domestic flight and enter a federal building or military base.
- The REAL ID license, permit, or non-driver ID is no additional cost from the Standard NYS license and will be able to be used for photo identification purposes as well as to board a domestic flight and enter federal buildings or military bases. To obtain the REAL ID, you will need additional documentation from the Standard ID and will need to visit the DMV.
- The Enhanced license, permit, or non-driver ID has an additional cost of \$30. In addition to the access granted by the REAL ID, the Enhanced ID allows one to cross a U.S. border coming from Canada or Mexico. As with the REAL ID, additional documentation is needed along with a personal trip to your DMV.

In order to ensure your ID is appropriately up to date, it's advised to begin the process of updating it well before the October 1, 2020 deadline. DMV form (ID-44) (<https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/id44.pdf>) lists acceptable proofs of identification for driver's licenses and non-driver ID cards of any type (Standard, REAL ID, and Enhanced).

## Correspondence Corner

Letters play an essential role in the offices of elected officials – we write to formally state positions on important issues, ask key questions, and express both our concerns and our appreciation. I want to highlight some of the letters my office has sent in the past few months to share this important part of our work with you.

**Federal Government Weakens Protections of the Endangered Species Act:** Recently, I wrote to Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing my outrage at the recent actions by the federal government to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Introducing cost-benefit analyses to the decision-making process demonstrates the current administration's prioritization of profit over the well-being of our planet. The changes also try to discourage scientists from weighing the impacts of climate change, a revealing attempt to suppress logic and reason. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has strongly condemned these new regulations, and I surely express my support for all efforts by Congress to repeal them.

**Rolling Back the Legal Definition of Gender:** The Affordable Care Act currently prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, providing important acknowledgment and protections to transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is trying to pursue a new legal definition of gender, using science as their justification. Yet science already tells us that the spectrum of biological diversity found in humans is vast. I wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services, asking them to rescind any attempts to change these new definitions and, by extension, any changes to regulations that currently protect the safety and well-being of transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people: they exist, and they cannot be made to disappear simply through government semantics.

**The Problem with Ending the Ban on New Hostels in NYC:** In 2010, there was a ban on the licensure of new hostels within New York City. Recently, City Council Members have put forward a proposal that would end the ban. As many of my constituents know, I have long been opposed to short-term illegal rentals that weaken long-term affordable housing. While the argument that the bill will expand affordable options for travelers is a reasonable one, I remain concerned that there will be an effort to convert Airbnb listings into licensed hostels, and exacerbate the reduction of previously regulated apartments. In a recent letter to Speaker Johnson, I ask him to oppose this legislation in its current form and work with the Council Members to promote the permanency of regulated housing.

**Request to Invest in CUNY and SUNY:** In October, I wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo regarding the need to invest in higher education, and reminding him there is no better way to support the upstate economy than by investing in SUNY, which will provide work for local contractors and boost local economies. In NYC, CUNY is an engine of social mobility, as higher education is critical for economic advancement for low-income and working class New Yorkers, immigrants, and first-generation college students. With the upcoming legislative session, I urge Governor Cuomo to invest in CUNY and SUNY as a vehicle to contribute to the state's economy and tax revenue.



With Village Preservation Executive Director Andrew Berman at a recent Town Hall on the Greenwich Village Historic District.

## Spotlight on CUNY and SUNY: Arts Programs

Degrees in science and technology, public policy, and business administration help contribute to the economic engine of New York State. Although these degree programs are excellent choices, an education in the arts is also a great way for people to use their creative talents to add context, beauty, and depth to a wide range of fields, and CUNY and SUNY schools provide a robust array of strong arts programs.

For instance, at the Purchase College State University of New York, students explore their creative passions at the School of Art + Design, studying sculpture, painting and drawing, graphic design, photography, and printmaking. At Purchase, students can combine their arts education interests with a focus on political science, art history, and creative writing to blend career path possibilities. For more information on the programs at Purchase, visit <https://www.purchase.edu/academics/art-and-design/>.

At Potsdam State University of New York's critically acclaimed Crane School of Music, students are able to receive the guidance and attention needed to craft a degree that combines an arts-based curriculum side-by-side with another major, like psychology, for instance. Learn more about how music and other fields can be combined by visiting <https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/crane-school-music>.

New York needs engineers and scientists, but with our thriving film and television industry, wealth of museums, and dynamic performing arts landscape, we need artists too. Explore an arts education - you may find that it is one of the best decisions you've made in your pursuit of higher education.

## Nonprofit Organization Grant Opportunities

New York State offers many grant opportunities for nonprofit organizations through a range of funding streams administered by the Legislature, Governor's office, and various agencies. Additionally, there is now a way that nonprofits can prequalify for grant opportunities by registering with the state and being vetted prior to entering the competitive bidding process. This can streamline the application process when grants become available and make it easier for individual organizations to receive funding. Please visit <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/get-prequalified> for more information, and sign up to receive the Grants Action News newsletter at <https://nyassembly.gov/gan/> for up-to-date information on available opportunities.

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Deborah Glick's

## NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE



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## It's True: Dogs Get Cold, Too

As we move from fall to winter this year, please remember that if you are putting on a coat and boots to go outside, our furry friends also need appropriate protection. A layer of fur doesn't always equate to the same warm feeling of your parka, so try to have a sweater or jacket for your dog when they need to use the facilities outdoors. Snow and ice can also be hazardous to little paws, especially when the streets and sidewalks are salted and sanded for traction. We may not notice the corrosive effects of salt underfoot when wearing thick boots, but our animals certainly feel it in their paw-pads. Rubber booties are always a good idea, especially after a wind and ice storm when a downed powerline may conduct current through shallow water or ice. And as always, snow may melt but what your dog leaves behind does not, so please clean up after your beloved pets even in a snowstorm.

