



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

UPPER WEST SIDE ▪ MORNINGSIDES HEIGHTS ▪ MANHATTAN VALLEY

Summer 2024



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As your representative in the New York State Assembly, I am always working on your behalf to stand up for our values and improve our lives. Please say hello when you see me or call or email my office to share your thoughts on state and local policy.

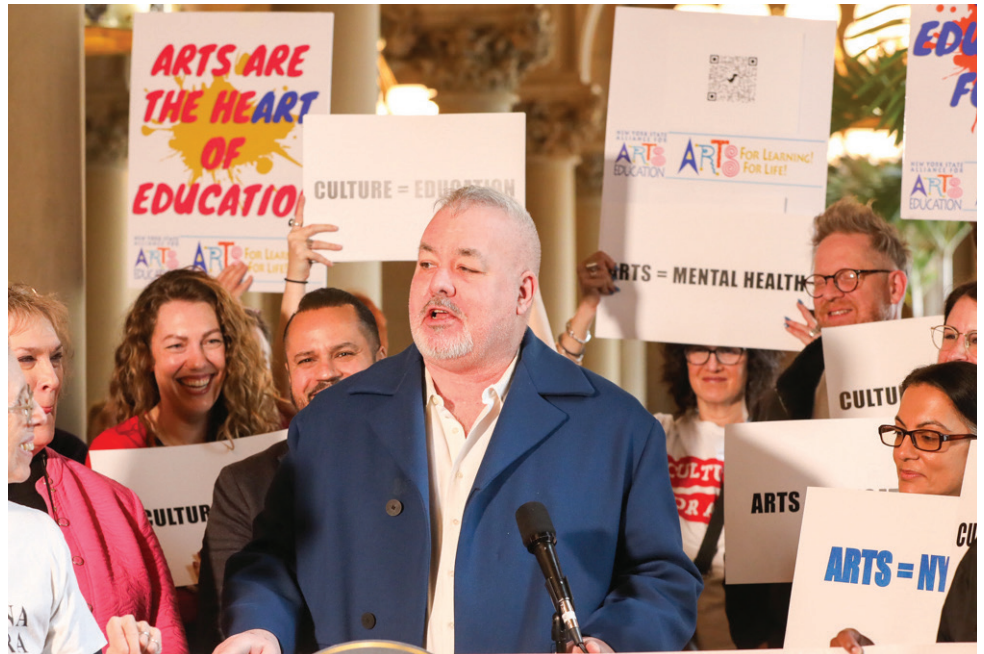
My office and I are here to assist you. My team includes constituent liaisons with experience navigating unemployment, state benefits, specific housing problems, and other community-wide concerns.

Call us at 212-866-3970, or email us at odonnell@nyassembly.gov. Contact me to join my e-list for regular updates on Albany and the 69th District.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



A.6425: Epi-Pen Coverage and Affordability

I am proud to announce that my bill, The Epinephrine Coverage and Affordability Act, has overwhelmingly passed the Legislature. Over the past 15 years, the cost of epinephrine auto-injector devices (commonly known by the brand name “epi-pen”) has risen to over \$350 annually, and in some cases, over \$700. This bill would require insurance plans in New York to provide coverage for at least 2 epi-pens per year, and to cap the co-pay at \$100 annually. For too long, these devices have been out of reach for millions of New Yorkers, putting lives at risk. This bill affirms that financial means should never be a barrier to life-saving medicine.

A.8527: The Litter Reduction Act

As the sponsor of The Litter Reduction Act, I am proud to announce its passage this year. This bill updates and clarifies prohibitions on littering and the dumping of commercial or industrial waste, practices which significantly harm our landscape, environment, wildlife, and public health due to pollution. By setting appropriate penalties for these violations, this legislation underscores our commitment to preserving our parks and communities, ensuring they remain clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of responsible waste management and environmental stewardship, paving the way for a cleaner and more sustainable New York.

PRIORITY BILLS

A.5318: The Student Suicide Prevention Act

This bill requires local education agencies to develop and implement comprehensive suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention policies for middle and high school students. By prioritizing the welfare of our students, with a particular focus on supporting high-risk LGBTQ+ students, this legislation aims to foster safer and more supportive school environments across New York State.

A.3704: Alcohol Sale in Movie Theaters

This bill removes unnecessary barriers to the economic viability of movie theaters across our state, particularly in light of the proliferation of streaming services. The Alcohol Sale in Movie Theatres Act allows theaters to apply for special licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption with specific guidelines to ensure safe consumption.

A.5524: Potable Water Testing

This bill requires state parks to regularly test their public drinking water for lead and abate any contamination within 90 days. This law aims to protect our public green spaces and the people who enjoy them from harmful exposures.

A.8452: Lead Dust Contamination Standards

This bill directs the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health to propose stricter standards for lead dust contamination in soil, floors, and windowsills. It focuses on protecting public health, particularly the health of children, from harmful lead exposure.

A.4905: Farmers Market in State Parks

This bill promotes farmers' markets in state parks by encouraging the Department of Parks to post information, identify opportunities, and coordinate with other state agencies to increase the number of farmers' markets and improve access to locally grown food for New Yorkers in every corner of our state.

BUDGET AND FUNDING VICTORIES



Supporting the Soul of Our State: Arts

As Chair of the Arts Committee, I am proud to have helped secure over \$160 million for New York State's arts and culture sector in the FY24-25 budget. This includes \$80 million for capital projects and \$80.6 million for programmatic support. This substantial investment will propel capital projects, enrich communities, support small businesses, and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enhance the accessibility and vitality of New York's art community, ensuring that our state's rich cultural heritage continues to thrive for generations to come.

Building Across the 69th

During my tenure in the Assembly, I have successfully helped secure \$21,164,491 in state capital funding for Upper West Side organizations. This year, we successfully disbursed capital funds to the following organizations.

LOCAL FUNDING VICTORIES

- ☑ \$1,000,000 to The Center at West Park, Inc.
- ☑ \$200,000 to The Riverside Park Conservancy
- ☑ \$250,000 to The NY Foundling
- ☑ \$1,350,000 to P.S. 125 - The Ralph Bunche School
- ☑ \$275,000 to The Bloomingdale School of Music
- ☑ \$50,000 to Harlem Grown
- ☑ \$85,000 to Valley Restoration Local Dev. Corp.
- ☑ \$1,260,000 to Goddard Riverside Community Center
- ☑ \$30,000 to The Broadway Malls Association
- ☑ \$5,000,000 **To Be Announced!**

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Countless local nonprofits serve the district and provide invaluable resources and opportunities to our community. Supporting these organizations has always been a top priority for me. With gratitude for the hard work of my dedicated Legislative & Budget Director Ankeith Prince, we were able to direct programmatic funding to the following organizations:

The Children's Aid Society – \$25k

These funds will bolster programming at the Frederick Douglass Community Center which aims to enhance student learning, strengthen families, and foster healthy communities.

Service Program for Older People – \$50k

This allocation will support mental healthcare services and programs for low-income older adults. Services include individual and group psychotherapy in English and Spanish, psychiatry, and medication management.

PA'LANTE Harlem – \$100k

These funds will support PA'LANTE Harlem's homeless prevention and legal services programs, offering vital legal services and information to the community.

Education Through Music – \$50k

This contribution will expand access to music classes and extracurriculars to 55 under-resourced schools in New York City. Around 20,000 students will benefit from band, orchestra, and chorus each week.

Barnard College's STEAM in the City – \$25k

These funds will support STEAM in the City, a training fellowship program for K-12 educators in Harlem and Morningside Heights. This support will enable local teachers to partner with Barnard scholars and create experience-based learning opportunities for students in STEAM fields.

CELEBRATING ART IN THE DISTRICT

Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School – A Mosaic of Talent

The Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School recently finished a mural project uniting students, faculty, and the broader community to celebrate creativity. This mural owes its inception to Veronika Herman Bromberg, an artist and the school's Art teacher, who was the visionary behind the project. Inspired by her visit to San Miguel de Allende, where she encountered vivid local school murals, she partnered with local artist Tova Snyder and collaborated with the Strycker's Bay Apartments. Together, they designed and executed a mural based on the four seasons in Central Park, a theme inspired by the park's role as a safe haven during COVID-19. The project, embraced by students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community, fosters a sense of ownership and belonging. Now completed, the mural stands as a testament to the district's collaborative spirit and cultural exchange. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and take in this wonderful work of art.

The Center at West Park – Preserving History and Cultivating the Arts

Nestled within the district, the Center at West Park continues the legacy of the historic West Park Presbyterian Church it inhabits. This iconic building, with over a century of history, has been instrumental in the performing arts sector, serving community organizations, emerging artists, and movements such as the LGBTQ+ rights movement. It has also housed renowned theater companies like the Shakespeare Center and Riverside Shakespeare Company. The Center at West Park is dedicated to preserving this rich heritage, championing diverse arts programming, and providing affordable event spaces. In support of its mission, I am proud to help allocate one million dollars in state capital funding. This investment not only bolsters the Center at West Park's mission but also aims to preserve this historic landmark.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Living in a neighborhood that you love is always a great feeling. However, when you come across issues that seem to be never-ending, it puts a damper on things. Thankfully, there are government organizations dedicated to helping you solve those problems. Whether it's maintaining clean sidewalks, combating employer discrimination, or tackling consumer fraud, these organizations are ready to step in. So, the next time you see an issue that needs addressing, don't hesitate to contact one of these amazing agencies for support!

- NY Department of Public Service at <https://dps.ny.gov/file-complaint> or call 800-342-3377
- NYS Attorney General's Office at <https://ag.ny.gov/file-complaint> or call 1-800-771-7755
- Non-Emergency Municipal Services at <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/report-problems/> or call 311

Still have questions? Contact my office at **212-866-3970** or odonnell@nyassembly.gov and we can help you.

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ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**DANIEL
O'DONNELL**

**Legislative Session
Newsletter**

Daniel O'Donnell, Assembly Member, 69th District
Upper West Side ■ Morningside Heights ■ Manhattan Valley

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