



# Assembly Member **AL TAYLOR** *Reports to You*



71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Spring 2018

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## **New York State Legislature Passes Fiscal Budget for 2018-2019; Includes Funding for NYCHA, Education, Opioid Abuse Treatment Programs and More**

The \$168 billion 2018-2019 budget was passed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The budget included tax reforms meant to protect New Yorkers from the effects of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, increased education spending, funding for NYCHA and programs to fight opioid addiction and measures to prevent workplace sexual harassment.

Although the budget has passed ahead of the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Child Victims Act was not included. The Act is supported greatly by many of my constituents including rabbinical student, Daniel Atwood, who has continuously worked with me in bringing it to the tables of my colleagues. As a survivor myself, I vehemently oppose the move to pass the budget without the Act and will continue to fight for its passing and funding in the near future.



*Assemblyman Taylor pictured with (L-R) Daniel Atwood, Director of Community Organization at Zaakah Asher Lovy, Rose Suaerzopf, Arther J. McGrath and Paula Acuti, who met with the Assemblyman in Albany regarding support for the Child Victims Act.*

## **Assemblyman Taylor Appointed Chair to the Subcommittee on Regulated Mortgage**

Along with serving on the Committees of Aging, Banks, Cities, Election Law and Housing, Speaker Heastie appointed me as Chair to the Subcommittee on Regulated Mortgage Lenders on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. I am working with community leaders and activists to discuss their concerns and support their efforts both in the District and in Albany. I will continue to be your voice in Albany on the issues of affordable housing, education and transportation, as I believe these issues to be the most important concerns in our district.

### **Assemblyman Al Taylor Secures Unparalleled, \$5 Million Funding for Capital Improvements**

With the alarming increase in mail-related theft, I have secured funding for the replacement, repair and addition of security measures and mailboxes totaling about \$5 million:

- \$500,000 for security camera addition and installation at the Harlem River Housing
- \$500,000 for security camera addition and installation at the Fort Washington Senior Center
- \$1.5 million for mailbox repair and replacement at the Rangel Housing
- \$1.8 million for the NYCHA properties located at 1945 Amsterdam Avenue, 1970 Amsterdam Avenue and 2850 Eighth Avenue

Talks for the funding began while my predecessor, Herman “Denny” Farrell, was still in office and have come to a conclusion now. I am committed to safeguarding the residents of my district and with this funding, I can guarantee more resources will be designated to do just that.

### **Assemblyman Taylor’s New Bill Pushing for Rent Reform (No. A09816) Passes in the Assembly**

Landlords are required to file an annual rent regulation statement with the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to support rent charges to tenants of rent-stabilized units. However, some landlords either fail to file rent overcharges or file multiple backdated annual rent regulation statements in a single year. In doing so, they can obscure rent overcharges or other abuses. The purpose of this bill is to protect tenants against rent overcharges by allowing a court or the DHCR to determine the legal regulated rent for a year when the landlord did not timely file an annual rent registration statement. It also allows the tenants a four year statute of limitations on rent overcharges where the landlord of a housing accommodation acts in a wrongful or fraudulent manner. The bill was passed in the Assembly on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and has been delivered to the Senate. I will continue to work towards safeguarding the rights of tenants and push for the bill to become law.



## 2018 State Primary Date Moved to Ensure All Can Vote

I voted to move the 2018 state primary election date from Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 out of respect for those who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, as well as those celebrating Rosh Hashanah. September 11<sup>th</sup> will forever be a day of remembrance, a time to mourn our fellow New Yorkers whose lives were taken far too soon by an unforgivable act of terrorism. It is also a day to honor the brave firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who showed us the best of America during our darkest hours. Moving the primary election two days allows us to come together to show our respect to those who died and those who came to the rescue.

## Feminine Hygiene Products Now Required in New York Public Schools, Assemblyman Taylor Co-Sponsors a Bill of Accountability to this Accessibility (Bill No. A00521)

As part of the 2018-2019 budget, all public schools in New York State are now required to provide free feminine hygiene products for students in grades 6 through 12. Gov. Andrew Cuomo expressed his support for the legislation via Twitter on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. While Assemblyman Taylor supports this effort, he would like to go a step further by making free feminine hygiene products available at all public institutions. Additionally, Assemblyman Taylor is working with WE ACT, an organization that supports environmental health and protection, to pass legislation that mandates thorough labeling of feminine hygiene products and to ensure that the available products are non-toxic and environmentally friendly. The idea that women are using products that do not explicitly state the materials used or even worse, include toxic ingredients, is alarming. If such commonly used products contain hazardous materials, women need to know! This legislation is incumbent to increasing awareness and safeguarding the health of women.



Assemblyman Taylor joins countless New Yorkers in marching for women and women's rights through the streets of New York City on Saturday, January 20, 2018.

## Tackling Gun Violence In Albany and In the Community



### Post-Florida School Shooting, NYS Assembly Bolting Down on Gun Regulation

The Assembly passed a package of five bills on March 6, 2018, a day after the state Senate passed fifteen bills focused on improving school security following February's shooting at Florida school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The bills contain measures that would keep firearms out of the hands of people deemed a danger to themselves or others, set a longer waiting period for delivery of a gun to a person who hasn't cleared a background check and prevent people convicted of domestic violence from buying a firearm. The bills would also ban bump stocks and require out-of-state residents to prove they are mentally fit to own a gun in New York State. As a longtime proponent of anti-gun violence, I whole heartedly support this initiative of the Assembly and will continue to work towards a promising future for our children.

### Violence Workshop with Assemblymembers Al Taylor and Diana Richardson Hold Anti-Gun Violence Workshop in Albany during Caucus Weekend

Gun-related violence and deaths have been on a rise in our country, affecting our young generation and people of color the most. Some studies have even approached the rise of gun violence as a unique public health epidemic and a crisis of constitutional significance. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Assemblywoman Richardson of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District and I hosted a workshop on gun violence with many specialists, during the Caucus weekend in Albany. Coupled with legislation, I believe that availability of accurate information and education through workshops and literature is imperative in furthering our fight against gun violence.

### Coming Together for "Love Your Community Day"

I have committed my time advocating for the residents of this community, working towards fighting against the hate and bigotry that is too prevalent in our daily lives. As an extension of this, I organized Love Your Community Day, a day dedicated to community service in our district, which took place on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We commenced the day at the NYCHA Polo Grounds Senior Center, where we began cleaning, restoring and beautifying the surrounding neighborhoods of Polo Grounds and Rangel Housing. Under the guidance of Principal Keri-Ann Hazell, the students of Arthur Tappan School (PS/MS 46) also beautified their gates, fences and grounds in support of Love Your Community Day. The presence and participation of residents, community members and elected officials further solidified our resolve in upholding our community's resilience and beauty.

### Joining CUNY City College and Public School Students on their Anti-Gun Violence Rally

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was "National Day of Action Against Gun Violence in Schools" and the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Columbine Shooting. Students from neighboring schools and universities joined together to ask their local and state officials to push for gun control reform in light of the increase in gun-related, violent school shootings. I was front and center as these students raised awareness of gun violence in the community and will continue to be a constant support and proponent of progressive policies that will reduce gun violence in our nation.



## Residents Express Multiple Concerns with MTA Services; Assemblyman Taylor Resolving Many Concerns before 60 Days in Office!

Constituents have consistently struggled with the lack of adequate services provided by the MTA at the various train and bus stations throughout our district. With a growing senior population, it is alarming to see stations that are not ADA approved and are thus inaccessible to them. Information on train stations and service closures are also improperly disseminated, continually frustrating residents. Due to this, I conducted a Listening Tour with MTA Representatives Roberto Marino and Marcus Book at the beginning of my term. After the tour, my staff and I were able to secure the following:

- **M102 Bus Line:** As of January 14<sup>th</sup>, the M102 is allowed loop privileges. You can now board the M102 at 147<sup>th</sup> and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd!
- **148<sup>th</sup> Street Station:** MTA Maintenance Team will repair the slanting stairs to the train platform beginning March 2018.
- **145<sup>th</sup> Street Station:** Under “State of Good Repair,” the station will be enhanced with new furniture, lighting and technology. The 145<sup>th</sup> Street Station is also part of a 32-station package awaiting ADA status approval that will allow more access to disabled and elderly travelers.



Furthermore, Assemblywoman De La Rosa and I met with Tim Ellis, MTA Director of State Legislative Affairs, in Albany to express our concerns at the insufficient distribution of information regarding the closing of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Station that adversely and directly affects our constituents. Additionally, the station is being renovated without making it ADA compliant. I will continue to meet with MTA representatives to ensure that our constituents will be properly informed and taken care of.

## Standing with Fellow Elected Leaders in Announcing the Legal Challenge to the U.S. Census Bureau

Seventeen states, the District of Columbia and New York State Attorney General (AG) filed the lawsuit against the U.S. Census Bureau to block the Trump administration’s demand for citizenship information in the upcoming 2020 census on April 3, 2018, saying a plan to add a citizenship demand to the census questionnaire is unconstitutional. I will continue to support and fight for the immigrants in our great nation alongside my peers.



*Assemblyman Taylor stands in support with Assemblywoman Carmen De La Rosa on her Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Cuomo to proclaim January 26, 2018 as the 205<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Juan Pablo Duarte Day in the State of New York.*

## Important Services Offered through the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA)

I am proud to represent a very jubilant and proactive senior population from my district. Below are some of the very important programs that I think will be of great interest to you.

### DFTA’s ThriveNYC

New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray and Mayor Bill de Blasio’s ThriveNYC is raising awareness about mental health issues, removing stigmas, and improving access to care. The DFTA has two ThriveNYC programs: the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative at senior centers and the in-home Friendly Visiting Program. To learn more about ThriveNYC, please call 311 or visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/thrivenyc-at-dfta.page>

### DFTA’s Senior Employment Services (SESU)

SESU is a part of the federal Senior Community Service Employment Program and has decades of experience placing older adults in jobs in data processing, administrative work, customer service, security services, airport services, home care, and other fields. SESU prepares trainees for employment through classes on computers, customer service, job-search techniques, resume-writing, and interviewing. For more information, call 212-602-6958 or 311 and ask for “Senior Employment Services.”

## Internships and Other Opportunities for Students

### Intern with the Assemblyman’s District Office!

My staff and I are looking for capable and qualified individuals to intern at my district office. I began my career as an intern with the former Assemblymember Herman Denny Farrell and it is my belief that strong mentorship and opportunities can transform livelihoods. Though unpaid, internships with my office offer candidates invaluable work experience and mentorship. The position offers flexible hours to accommodate student schedules, but is generally during office times (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please consider the following applicant requirements before you apply:

- Have a background in journalism, public relations, public administration or advertisement
- Possess general office etiquette and strong writing skills
- Be well-versed in using multiple social media platforms

Interested candidates can forward their resumes and cover letters to [ruedam@nyassembly.gov](mailto:ruedam@nyassembly.gov) for further instructions on how to apply.

### Programs Available through the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)

While the DYCD’s Summer Youth Employment and Ladders for Leaders programs have an early application due date in March, there are plenty of other programs offering ongoing enrollment that the youth can apply to for the summer. Please visit [www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships.page) for more information on qualifications and applications.



*Assemblyman Taylor pictured with Akeem Browder, brother of Kalief Browder who committed suicide post his 1000-day stay at Rikers Island without trial, at the rally organized by the Haitian community on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. This rally was in response to the discriminatory remarks made by President Trump regarding people of color at Times Square. The Assemblyman gave an inspirational speech emphasizing American values that are an attestation to the respect we owe one another regardless of the color of our skin.*

## Listening Tours to be held in June 2018

At the beginning of my term, I conducted four listening tours throughout the district. They were held at the Hebrew Tabernacle, Esplanade Gardens, Polo Grounds and Church of Intercession on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively. My staff and I facilitated the presence of representatives from city and state agencies, as well as the other elected officials of the community. In an effort to assure that the constituents were heard and their concerns taken care of, representatives and elected officials had an open discussion with them, answered any questions that were raised and addressed their concerns. Following are the dates for my second Listening Tour to take place in June; I hope to see you there!

### Hebrew Tabernacle

551 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, New York 10033  
Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Esplanade Gardens

North Community Room  
129-133 W 147<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10039  
Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Polo Grounds

3005 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue New York, New York 10039  
Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Church of Intercession

550 W 155<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10032  
Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 • 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

### Monthly Round Table Discussions

In an effort to ensure that I am available to my constituents, I conduct monthly Round Table discussions at various locations within the district. Constituents have this opportunity to convey their troubles and opinions on legislation and other community-based issues. I look forward to meeting with more of my constituents for the next Round Table. For more information, please contact the office at 212-234-1430.



## Assemblyman Taylor and U.S. Delegation Evacuated During Protest in Ramallah



A New York State Assembly delegation came under attack by Palestinian protesters while visiting Ramallah in February of this year. The group of lawmakers included Assemblyman Taylor and were led by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York to meet with Palestinian pollster and researcher Dr. Khalil Shikaki at the offices of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Research Survey (PCPRS) in Ramallah. During the meeting, a group of protesters burst into the building, holding up signs, and chanting slogans including “Americans are not welcome in Palestine,” as they tried to make their way into the offices. As the crowd of protesters outside on the street grew, Palestinian security forces were alerted to manage the situation and they cleared an exit path where the delegation boarded Palestinian security vans to get to an Israeli checkpoint. Although the vans were pummeled with raw eggs and rocks, the delegation returned back safely.

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Albany, New York 12248

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## The Honorable Judge Acosta swore in Assemblyman Taylor on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Vivian and Seymour Heart Center of New York Presbyterian Hospital amidst family, friends and mentors.

*(Photographs by Linda Royster Photography)*

