



71ST Assembly District

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

AL TAYLOR

REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

Community Board 9
September 2018

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THIS MONTH IN THE DISTRICT

Victory in Opposition to Methadone Clinic



At the press conference where Argus announced they were not proceeding with plan for methadone clinic

I, Assemblymember Al Taylor, am proud to announce that the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has denied Argus Community Inc.'s application to operate a methadone clinic at 730 St. Nicholas Avenue. This victory was won because of the concerted efforts of the West 147th Street Block Association and the Sugar Hill Neighborhood Coalition lead by Carolyn Brown together with your elected officials who were in the forefront of this fight with me. The team consisted of Community Board 9, representatives and elected officials including Congressman Adriano Espaillat,

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Senator Brian Benjamin, Assembly member Inez Dickens, New York State Comptroller Scott Stringer, and Public Advocate Letitia James. When I first learned of Argus' plan to open a methadone clinic at 730 St. Nicholas Avenue, I was among the first to join the community to voice our joint concerns for the historic preservation of a landmarked brownstone. While I am supportive of programs to assist our community, the location of the landmarked brownstone was too close in proximity to our schools and churches. We voiced our concerns for the safety of our children and the elderly living in the Sugar Hill area. After careful research of the issues, I learned that there is an oversaturation of programs in the St. Nicholas Avenue corridor, which should instead be disbursed throughout the City of New York. Darlene Bruce, Esq., my counsel, is to be commended for her tireless efforts to assist the community to organize and build relationships with City and State administrators. – Assemblymember Al Taylor

Protect Yourself from Legionnaires' Disease

On July 11, 2018, The New York City Health Department first notified the public of an outbreak of the potentially lethal Legionnaires' disease in the lower Washington Heights area. Twenty-seven community members were sickened in this outbreak and unfortunately, we lost a life. The source of the outbreak was Legionella bacteria in a cooling tower at the Sugar Hill Project on St. Nicholas Avenue and West 155th Street. The bacteria can live in cooling towers, hot tubs, humidifiers, hot water tanks, and large air-conditioning systems. Please be aware of the symptoms, which include fever, cough, chills, muscle aches, headache, fatigue, loss of appetite, confusion and diarrhea and generally surface two to 10 days after contact with the bacteria. See a doctor right away if you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms.

Fighting Against the HDFC Crisis

The crisis in Housing Development Fund Company cooperative buildings (HDFCs) developed over a number of years and is growing exponentially in the 71st Assembly District. In response to the crisis, the Office of Assemblymember Taylor is hosting a four-



HDFC Forum on August 27, 2018 at New York-Presbyterian Hospital

part forum series for constituents to voice concerns and to work with experts to develop solutions via legislation, litigation or negotiation. The first forum was already held on August 27, 2018 in the Myrna L.

Daniels Auditorium at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital to address concerns about HDFC foreclosure. Panelists included Edwin Vega from Legal Aid Society, Glory Kerstein from the HDFC Coalition, Shimlee Lambert, Treasurer to 936-938 Cliffcrest HDFC, Yetta Kurland, Attorney for 936-938 Cliffcrest HDFC. Assemblymember Al Taylor and Darlene Bruce, Esq. moderated the event. WeAct and Neighborhood Housing Services also were present to table and

act as resources for HDFC residents. Three more meetings are scheduled at New York-Presbyterian Hospital to discuss regulatory agreements (September 24, 2018, 6-8pm), predatory lending (October 15, 2018, 6-8pm), and the HDFC environment and quality of life (November 5, 2018, 6-8pm). The feedback from these forums will be taken back to the appropriate committees to help produce legislative solutions. As the Chair of the New York State Assembly Subcommittee on Regulated Mortgage Lenders, Assemblymember Taylor wants to hear from constituents to produce positive results and pledges to fight to stabilize buildings, empower the community and bring an end to the crisis facing HDFCs.

June Listening Tour at Church of the Intercession Recap

On June 23, 2018 from 12:30pm to 2pm, Assemblymember Taylor held a listening tour at the Church of the Intercession. The tour offered constituents the opportunity to talk to with representatives from the offices of elected officials and New York City government agencies face-to-face. In attendance were representatives from the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption/Disability Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE/DRIE) Unit from the New York City Department of Finance, also known as the New York City Rent Freeze Program, the New York City Parks Department, the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, the Office of New York City Councilmember Mark Levine, the Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Constituents were able to voice concerns and ask questions and the Assemblymember and panel members were able to respond and address constituents' comments and issues.



June Listening Tour at the Church of the Intercession

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Assemblymember Taylor is looking for qualified individuals to intern at his District Office

The internship typically runs throughout the year and offers flexible hours to accommodate student schedules, but is generally during office times (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm). Though unpaid, the position offers invaluable work experience and mentorship. 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 for further instructions on how to apply.

Summer Review in Pictures



1. At the Stop the Violence Rally: Let's Unite Against Gun Violence with the 30th Precinct, 07/02/2018 | **2.** At the Annual Battleground Park Family & Friends Reunion between 151st and 152nd Streets on Amsterdam Avenue, 07/14/2018 | **3.** At the Legionnaire's Press Conference at St. Luke A.M.E. Church, 07/11/2018 | **4.** At Argus Methadone Clinic Rally, 07/11/2018| **5.** With Det. Osvaldo Collado, Commissioner James O'Neil, and Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Community Board 9 member, at National Night Out, 08/07/2018 | **6.** With Community Affairs P.O. Jasmin Sosa, Former 32nd Precinct Deputy Inspector Michael Baker, 30th Precinct Community Council President, Len McTier, 30th Precinct Captain Lourdes Soto and Precinct Community Council Vice-President, Joyce Adewumim, at National Night Out, 08/07/2018 | **7.** At Amsterdam Avenue & W. 150th Street's Block Party and Friendship Garden celebration with Block Association President, Hon. Signe Mortensen, 08/18/2018 | **8.** At first Mobile Office in front of Sisters Uptown Book Store with Janifer P. Wilson, owner, 07/12/2018 | **9.** At the Assembly district office meeting to discuss the Argus methadone clinic, 07/13/2018