



## **Community Update**

Dear friends,

I hope you're looking forward to a joyful and restful Thanksgiving!

With the election over I am pleased to share that the voters of the 75th district have sent me back to Albany as your Assemblymember! I'm honored and humbled to serve you for a 2nd term and continue our work to deliver more affordable housing, better transit, and safer streets. I will always work my heart out for you!

With the privilege to continue serving the west side of Manhattan, I will return to Albany with a renewed charge. I commit to defend against the attacks that are sure to come. New York State must step up and lead the charge to ensure all can make a living and succeed here.

It falls on us to build the homes to solve the housing crisis. It falls on us to invest in and rebuild our public transportation. It falls on us to solve the dual crisis of mental illness and substance use on our streets. It falls on us to make our city safe for everyone. Our fight is not only for us but for our brothers and sisters who will be under attack across the nation. Women will be under attack. The LGBTQ community will be under attack. Immigrants will be under attack. The working class will be under attack.

Our fight is to prove that the rule of law and democracy can still lift us up, so that we do not turn further towards fear, division, and autocracy. As my mom has always told me, in our darkest times we must never give up! We must always keep going!

My Community Office at 214 West 29th Street, 212-807-7900, [Simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Simonet@nyassembly.gov) is here to help you in any way we can. Please contact us if you're having a problem with a government agency, your landlord, a utility, or if you have concerns about the neighborhood.

We are always looking for solutions to make NY a more affordable, livable, healthier, and safer state for everyone. Never hesitate to reach out with your ideas.

I hope that everyone has a happy Thanksgiving. From my family to yours, I wish you a wonderful holiday with lots of delicious food!

Thank you!  
Tony



## **Public Safety**

Homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse are at a crisis point on the west side and throughout NYC.

Many on the west side fear simply leaving their home or taking their child to the park. These rising concerns culminated in a horrific stabbing spree on November 18th. I am appalled at the violence that occurred in my district and spread to the east side of Manhattan recently. My heart goes out to the individuals and families impacted by this tragedy. I am grateful for the swift actions of the NYPD that prevented further carnage from being wrought by the attacker.

This case illuminates the failures in our corrections and mental health systems. Anyone who poses such a clear threat of violence to the public should not be allowed on our streets. I joined my colleagues in [demanding answers](#) as to why this tragedy occurred. We must fully understand what went wrong at every level in order to ensure this never happens again.

As I prepare for the legislative session to return in the new year, I will continue to identify ways to ensure that every leaver of government is focused on addressing the intersecting issues of public safety and mental illness. We have much work to do. Our path forward must and will respect the dignity of the neighborhoods and communities directly impacted by this crisis.

I am working with colleagues to update our involuntary commitment laws and hospital practices to center around our community's realities and ensure those who may pose a threat of violence due to their mental illness are in treatment and not on our streets.

This is my top priority when I return to Albany, and I will be making it clear that what we have currently is failing, and it is time for bold new approaches.

In the time before the legislative session returns, I have been working hard to identify and support solutions that work. I joined Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to [provide a \\$600,000 grant to Care For the Homeless](#) as they continue their work addressing mental health and substance use disorders in the unhoused community.



**Presenting a \$600K grant for Care for the Homeless to support their work addressing mental health and substance use disorders in the unhoused community**

To get people suffering from severe mental illness off of the streets and connected with support we must get them into supportive housing with adequate services. I had the opportunity to join St. Francis Friends of the Poor at one of their permanent supportive housing facilities. Their facility is a pioneer in the field of supportive housing. Their services help keep our most vulnerable neighbors healthy and housed. I learned about how their program gets people with chronic mental illness the support they need and uplifts the surrounding neighborhood.



## Visiting St. Francis Friends of the Poor

I will continue meeting with leaders from all levels of government, service providers, law enforcement, and members of our community to finally tackle this critical problem.

### City Charter Revision

We checked the balance and saw we had to balance the executive's power and empower New Yorkers in the charter revision process. I held a [press conference](#) on my [Charter Revision Reform Bill](#) with cosponsor Senator Liz Krueger, City Council Speaker Adams, Citizens Union NY, New York Public Interest Research Group, No Power Grab NYC, New York Civil Liberties Union, and Reinvent Albany. My Charter Revision Reform Bill does two things that will empower everyday New Yorkers: ([click here for explainer video](#))

1: Removes the “bumping” provision which allows a mayor to unilaterally remove a ballot proposal from the council or people. If two competing proposals are on the ballot the one that receives the most votes wins.

2: Establishes reasonable timelines to ensure public engagement and voter awareness. Charter commissions must be formed at least 180 days before submitting a final ballot proposal and all proposals can be submitted no less than 30 days before the final deadline.

As I said to Morgan McKay when [I spoke with her on Fox 05](#), this is not about any one mayor or administration, this is about ensuring the voices of every day New Yorkers are heard.



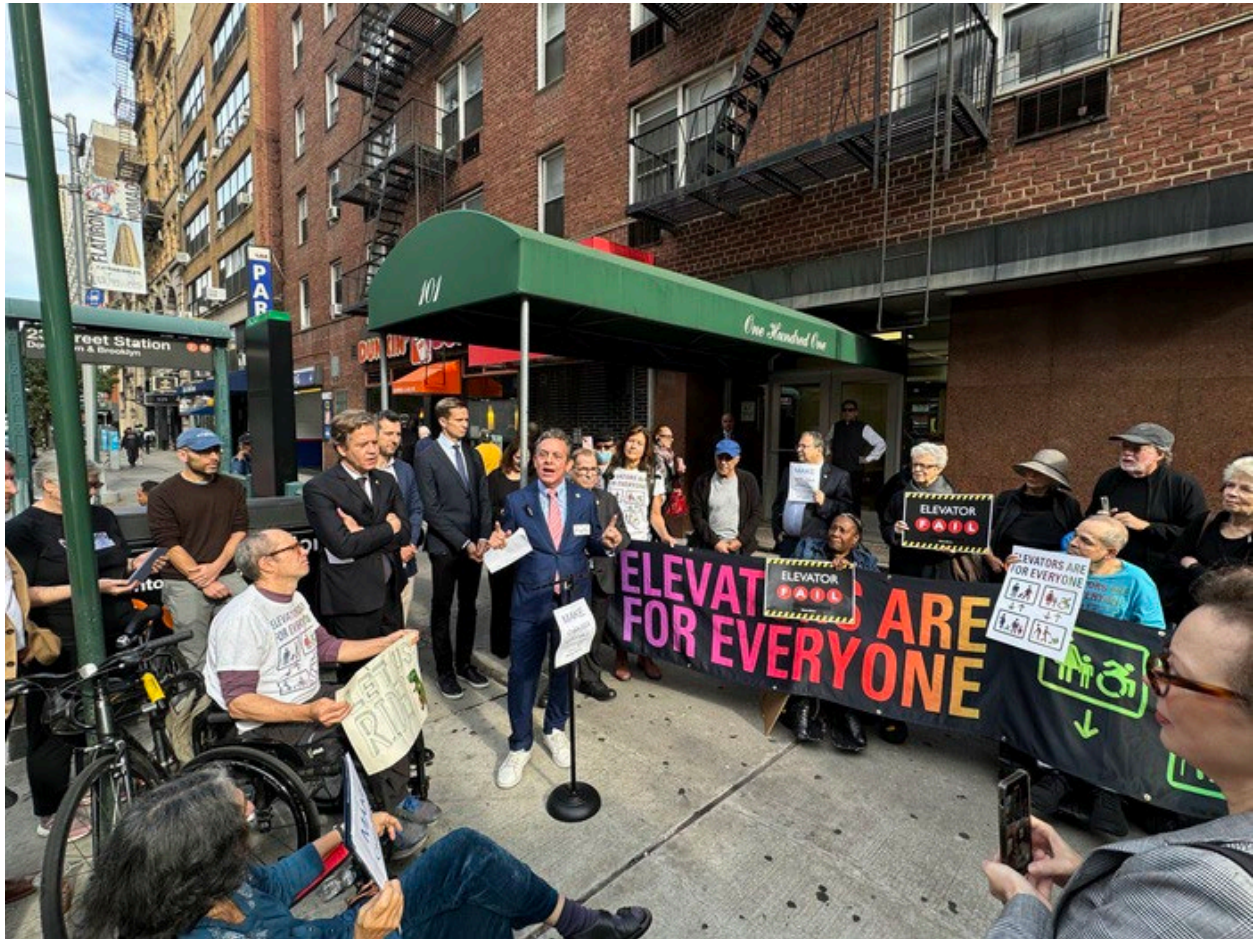
**Speaking at the Charter Revision Bill Press Conference on the Steps of City Hall with Senator Liz Krueger, City Council Speaker Adams, Colleagues, and Advocates**

## Prop 1 Win

Through diligent and [sustained grass-roots outreach](#), Proposition 1 was successfully passed by voters to amend the state constitution. Reproductive freedom and protection from discrimination based on sexuality, gender identity, age, ethnicity, national origin, disability, and pregnancy is now enshrined in our state constitution! New York stands strong as the freedom state. To learn more about what Prop 1 will do the New York City Bar Association created an [informational page](#). To learn more about what Prop 1 will do the New York City Bar Association created an informational page.



## Congestion Pricing



### **Speaking at our elevator and congestion pricing rally in Chelsea**

[I applaud Governor Hochul for bringing congestion pricing online at this pivotal moment for our transit system.](#) There is not, has never been, and never will be a substitute for the funding promised through congestion pricing. Mass transit is the backbone of our city and state, which are the economic engine for the nation.

I have always advocated for a residential waiver and will continue to do so, just like successful, international models of congestion pricing. I believe that the data will prove that in zone residents are not a driver of congestion.

Congestion pricing is a working class issue. Our public transit system supports our working class and congestion pricing funds transit. It will speed up emergency response times, which saves lives, make deliveries easier, which is good for business, and reduce emissions, which is good for the planet. Estimates from The Partnership for New York City show that collectively this adds up to over \$20 billion annually in lost economic activity and inefficiencies due to congestion.



This funding is critical to making our system fully accessible, improving service, delivering the infrastructure to increase residential density to combat the housing crisis, create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, and induce billions of dollars of investment. On January 05, we will at last flip the switch!

You can learn more about the Governor's new plan [here](#).

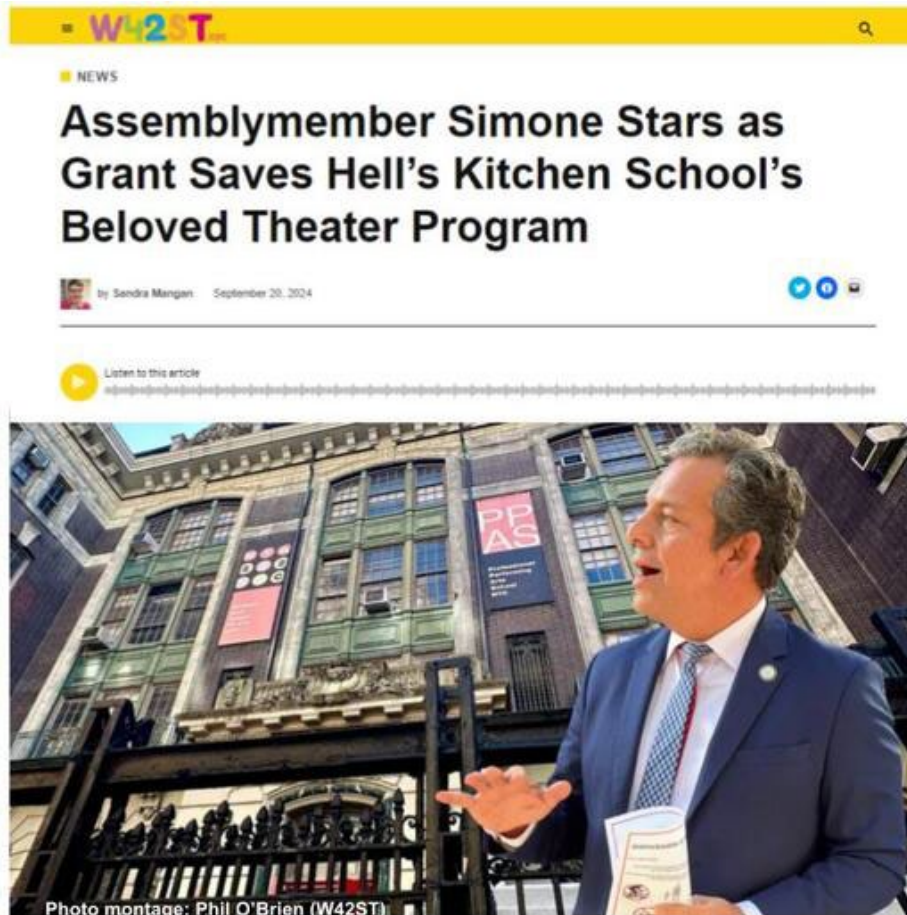


**Speaking at the congestion pricing press conference at the MTA HQ**

## **Bringing State Funding to Our District**

### **\$632,000 for Performing Arts**

I was proud to announce that with the support of Speaker Carl E. Heastie, I secured a [\\$632k grant for the Professional Performing Arts School](#), a school in Hell's Kitchen whose theater program was threatened last year after budget shortfalls. With this money, PPAS will continue to educate the next generation of theater artists!



PPAS is a prestigious school that focuses on providing the skills to pursue careers in acting, dancing, and singing. With notable graduates like Alicia Keys, Jeremy Allen White, and more, PPAS has been shaping artists for nearly 25 years.

### **\$75,000 for Small Manufacturers**

I was also proud to secure \$75K in the state budget to support small manufacturers in the district! I [presented the check to ITAC](#) while visiting Adaptive Designs Inc., a small manufacturer in the garment district. Adaptive Designs creates custom adaptations for people living with disabilities.



**Presenting a \$75K check for ITAC to support small manufacturers in the district**

## **Community Events**

### **Shred Truck**

Thanks to the help of our great partners at NYC Sanitation we helped Hell's Kitchen residents securely dispose of personal documents. Stay on the lookout for future shred events coming back to the west side!





## **Vaccine Clinic**

In partnership with Councilmember Erik Bottcher and Walgreens Pharmacy, we helped to get over 50 of our neighbors vaccinated at our office in advance of the Flu and COVID season.



**Getting my COVID-19 and Flu vaccination with Councilmember Erik Bottcher at our joint vaccination clinic**

## **Vanderbilt University Coming to Chelsea**

[Grab your cowboy hat, boots, and denim](#), Vanderbilt University is coming to West Chelsea! I know the students that will walk these halls will fit right in!

I am pleased to share that Vanderbilt University will be coming to West Chelsea in the beautiful and storied General Theological Seminary. I look forward to new partnerships, community opportunities, and the renewed vitality of this historic campus!



**Speaking at the General Theological Seminary while celebrating Vanderbilt Universities assumption of ownership of the property and arrival in the Chelsea Community**



**Meeting Vanderbilt Alumni, NBC's Willie Geist at the Vanderbilt University Announcement**



## Halloween

Last month, I unveiled our first local business trick or treat map! Over 100 businesses in Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen participated, allowing kids from across the district to follow our map through the neighborhood to collect the most candy! Keep an eye out next year for our new annual tradition!



## **Resources & Upcoming Events**

### **Medicare Resource Fair**

Questions about enrollment? Want lower Rx costs? Need help maximizing entitlements? Join me at my Medicare enrollment info session, hosted in partnership with Esco Pharmacy and Hudson Guild. Come by and have your questions answered by a Certified Medicare Insurance Planner!

Date: Wednesday, December 4th

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Location: Hudson Guild Elliott Center (441 West 26th Street)

For sign up & questions:

Call: 212-807-7900

Email: [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov)

[Click here to RSVP](#)



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**TONY SIMONE**

Questions about enrollment? Want lower Rx costs?  
Need help maximizing entitlements?

**MEDICARE ENROLLMENT  
INFO SESSION**

Have your questions answered by a Certified  
Medicare Insurance Planner!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
at  
Hudson Guild Elliott Center  
441 West 26th Street

**ESCO** Drug Company | hudson guild

**SIGN UP AND INFO:**

212-807-7900 | [bit.ly/Simone-Medicare](https://bit.ly/Simone-Medicare)  
[simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov)

## Holiday Toy Drive & Open House

I will be hosting a Holiday Open House and Toy Drive at my community office on December 17th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Meet our team and enjoy holiday treats with neighbors! I encourage you to come by and donate a new toy to brighten the season for local families!

You can drop off donations any time on or before December 17th!

Date: Tuesday, December 17th

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Tony Simone Community Office (214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401)



**HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE  
&  
TOY DRIVE**

**December 17th 5PM-7PM**

**Assemblymember Tony Simone is spreading  
holiday cheer with an open house event on  
December 17th!**

**We're also hosting a toy drive!  
Please donate *new* toys to brighten the season for  
local families.**

**Drop off your donations anytime from now until  
December 17th!**

**LOCATION  
214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401**

 [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov)  **212-807-7900**



