

June 21, 2019

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

In the final days of session, we achieved the strongest tenant protections in history with the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, prioritized our environment with the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, revamped workplace discrimination statutes, decriminalized marijuana possession, strengthened the rights of the LGBTQ+ community by banning the "Gay and Trans Panic" defense, and reformed our primary elections in New York State.

It has been a historic year for the New York State Legislature. Working together, the Assembly and Senate were able to move landmark legislation forward. We began the session winning for women with the passage of the Reproductive Health Act, enshrining Roe v. Wade into New York State law; banning conversion therapy; the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), protecting trans and gender non-conforming individuals from acts of hateful discrimination; the DREAM Act to support college-bound children of undocumented immigrants; and the Child Victims Act allowing survivors of childhood sexual abuse in New York State to seek justice.

We look forward to our continued work with colleagues, advocates and constituents toward resolution on issues that were not addressed this session.

If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Onward,

Rebecca



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This Week: Seawright-Sponsored Bills Passing Both Houses

Women on Corporate Boards A6330

Assembly Bill 6330 will require the Department of State, in collaboration with the Department of Taxation and Finance, to conduct a study on the number of women serving on each board of directors of domestic and foreign corporations authorized to do business in New York State.

"New York State is one of the largest economies in the world and as such,

sets a global example for corporate responsibility. In taking a proactive approach, corporations will identify where they are lacking in diversity. This is a major step forward to ensure that women have a voice in the discussions and decisions that will affect corporate actions and profitability,” said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

Updating Family Court Procedures A8033

Assembly Bill 8033 will ensure that all persons legally responsible for a minor child, regardless of gender or status as a parent or legal guardian, will receive equal notice of that minor child’s right to support.

Currently, New York State law does not reflect the diverse family structures that exist throughout the State and does not treat parents and legal guardians equitably under the law.

“As an advocate for LGBTQ+ families, it is with the highest regard for children, families and the family court proceedings that I sponsored this bill for the Office of Court Administration to ensure equity in assignment of responsibility in support of minor children,” said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

Spotlight On Constituent Advocates

Big Win For Adoptee Advocates: Records Unsealed in 2020



The Assembly passed legislation that will allow adoptees 18 years and older to obtain a certified copy of their original long form birth certificate (**A5494**).

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright cosponsored and voted for this critical legislation to give her constituent, Joyce Bahr, President of New York Statewide Adoption Reform's Unsealed Initiative, and all adoptees, the right to know their heritage and medical histories.

Seawright congratulates Joyce Bahr and acknowledges her unwavering and dedicated activism for this legislation over decades. Bahr’s long term work at Adoption Reform's Unsealed Initiative has been crucial in passing this legislation to give all adoptees their human right to self-identifying information.

If the adopted person is deceased, the adopted person's direct line descendants, or the lawful representative of such adopted person, or lawful representatives of such deceased adopted person's direct line descendants will be able to receive the birth

Major Victories For New York State

End of Session Legislative Update

Assembly Member Seawright is proud to have cosponsored the following measures that were passed in the final days and final hours of legislative session:

Housing Stability and Tenant Protection act of 2019 (A8281) - implements measures to abolish vacancy decontrol, expand the Emergency Tenant Protection Act statewide and diminished the ability of the landlords to raise the rent after renovations of a building or apartment unit.

Co-op/Condo Tax Abatement Extender (A8383) - Housing Affordability is one of Assembly Member Seawright's top priorities. Many young families, retirees living on a fixed income and others rely on the New York City coop and condo tax abatement program to stay in their homes. Seawright is cosponsored Assembly Bill 8383 to extend the property tax abatement for New York City coop and condo homeowners to for two more years.

New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (A8429) - will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, implement the state's renewable energy goals for 2030, support disadvantaged communities and invest in green energy projects that pay prevailing wages.

Banning the 'Gay and Trans Panic' Defense (A8375) - to prevent the use of a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as an affirmative defense in an effort to reduce a charge of murder to manslaughter.

The "Times Up" Workplace Discrimination Act (A8421/A8424) - putting an end to the "severe or pervasive" standard for discriminatory harassment - by eliminating the archaic standard for harassment; we can crackdown and hold employers accountable regardless of how the reports are made. The law will extend protections for all employees working for all employers, public and private across the state, including domestic workers and independent contractors under all protected classes, not just sex. We are enshrining safeguards for race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation and other protected classes under New York State law.

Extend the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault Survivors (A8412) - to extend the criminal and civil statutes of limitations for rape or criminal sexual act in the second or third degree. This bill extends the statute of limitations to twenty years for rape in the second degree and criminal sexual act in the second degree, to ten years for rape in the third degree and criminal sexual act in the third degree, and would make conforming changes to incest in the first and second degrees. Further, this bill would increase the time period in which the victim could bring a civil suit for these offenses to twenty years.

Expand Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Programs to promote economic growth (A8414) - to extend and improve the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program, which helps ensure these businesses have fair and equal access to state contracts.

Primary Election Reform- to make it easier for voters to change party affiliation so they can vote in their preferred party's primary (**A8228B**), and set next year's presidential primary election date as April 28, 2020, (**A8176**).

Decriminalization of Possession of Marijuana (A8420A) - allows for the expungement of certain marijuana convictions and eliminates the "public view" statute that has allowed New Yorkers to be charged with misdemeanor possession, regardless of the quantity possessed, exacerbating an injustice that's put disproportionately more

Progress and Promise

The Fight For Equity Continues

Assembly Member Seawright and her colleagues will continue to work on the following issues that will be taken up again when the Legislature convenes:

New York State Constitutional Amendment (A271/ A272B)

The expansion of equal rights in the New York State Constitution is long overdue. We will continue to work with colleagues in the Assembly and the Senate to move towards a constitutional amendment so that the voters of New York can decide at the ballot box.

Continuing the Conversation on Reproductive Surrogacy (A6959A)

It is with the highest regard for evolving family archetypes and for the health and well-being of women that we continue the conversation surrounding legal surrogacy in New York State. We look forward to hearing the important feedback from constituents and advocates in shaping the outcome of legislation that is in the best interest of all involved parties.

Automatic Voter Registration (A8280A)

Due to a significant technical issue with the Automatic Voter Registration Act that would have impacted the intent of the legislation, the Senate Majority will recall the bill and introduce a corrected version. We will pass this updated bill at the next available opportunity when we are in legislative session. This action will not impact the implementation of this corrected legislation because, like the original legislation, it does not go into effect until 2021.

Preservation of the Specialty High School Admissions Test (A2173)

As a member of the Assembly Education Committee, Assembly Member Seawright voted “No” in the Education Committee on Assembly Bill 2173 which aims to change the admissions criteria of specialized high schools in New York City and to eliminate the Specialized High School Admissions Test. We must be thoughtful and look at the issue holistically, with all stakeholders present before making a decision which will impact thousands of children and families in New York City for decades to come. All students deserve access to high-quality educational opportunities and to take advantage of specialized high schools in New York City if they merit the opportunity.

Electric Scooter and Bike Legalization (A7431B)

Constituents of the 76th District have continued to voice their objection and reservations about the legalization of e-bikes and e-scooters in our district. Seawright strongly opposes the legislation and the proliferation of share programs, surpassing the resources for enforcement and safety measures.

DecrimNY Decriminalization of the Sex Trades

A654 - would repeal New York’s loitering for the purposes of prostitution law, which was enacted in 1976 and has been incredibly damaging to the lives of countless New Yorkers by cycling them in and out of the criminal legal system.

A6983 - would expand the relief available to survivors of human trafficking who have criminal records for crimes their traffickers have compelled them to commit.

Roosevelt Island Updates

RIOC Board Appointments Confirmed by Senate

This week, the NYS Senate confirmed Governor Cuomo’s appointments to fill vacancies of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s Board of Directors including Jeffrey R.

Escobar, Conway S. Ekpo, and David E. Kapell.

"I am pleased to announce this positive outcome of our persistent efforts with Senator José Serrano. When I was first elected, I urged the appointing authority to fill these vacancies with Roosevelt Island residents. We need to do more than what is minimally required by law but rather meet the demands of my constituency who need to be fairly represented in their local government. Just last week at our Roosevelt Island Town Hall, the resounding question from constituents was 'when will the RIOC vacancies be filled?' We will work with the new appointees to ensure that they are fully familiar with and responsive to the concerns of Roosevelt Island residents," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

Roosevelt Island is governed by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). RIOC is a Public Authority with its own Board of Directors. Currently, there are five board members Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas, Director of Budget Robert Mujica, and public members: Robert Kraut, Howard Polivy, and Michael Shinozaki.

News You Can Use

Have a creative idea for addressing homelessness in NYC? Apply for the

NEXTGEN INNOVATION AWARD

This \$5,000 award supports the work of an emerging leader who is advancing innovative approaches related to homelessness in New York City.

Applications are due October 15th, 2019

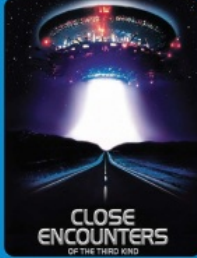
Learn more and apply at

www.ncsinc.org/nextgen-award



Upcoming Events

The Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation Presents
**2019 OUTDOOR
SUMMER MOVIE SERIES**



**SPIDER-MAN:
INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE**
Friday, June 21
CRAZY RICH ASIANS
Friday, July 12
**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
OF THE THIRD KIND**
Friday, July 26

CAPTAIN MARVEL
Saturday, July 27
READY PLAYER ONE
Friday, AUGUST 2
CLUELESS
Friday, August 23

*Possible rain dates
July 19, August 9 & 30*



Southpoint Park
(South of the Tram & Cornell Tech)

Movie Night Fun Begins at 7pm
(showing begins after sunset)

Food vendors on site. Bring blankets & lawn chairs!

212-832-4540 | rioc.ny.gov



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation



SHRED-A-THON

SO-GLAD-YOU'RE-BACK
92ND STREET EDITION



Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright



Council Member
Keith Powers



Council Member
Ben Kallos

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

10:00AM-2:00PM

92ND STREET GREENMARKET

(1ST AVENUE BTWN 92ND AND 93RD STREETS)



Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 212-288-4607

Office of Council Member Keith Powers, 212-818-0580

Office of Council Member Ben Kallos, 212-860-1950



Presents Oscar Wilde's

The IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Two Ways



7pm, Tuesday through Sunday, June 25th – 30th
Carl Schurz Park at East 86th & East End Ave


Join us as we ask, "Who really *wears the pants* in 19th century England?"
At every other performance, the *entire cast* switches genders & roles.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays are traditional casting.
Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays are reversed.

FREE RESERVATION at nyclassical.org/earnest
Receive Advance Program and RAIN CANCELTION NOITCE

Sponsored in part by Council Member Ben Kallos






Sign up to march with Assembly Member Seawright 2019



Save The Date!

Join us for FREE:
Live Music • Giveaways
 Ice Cream & Cotton Candy • Food & Refreshments
 Arts & Crafts • Meet your Neighborhood Police
 Activities for All Ages & Pets

For more information call:
 (212) 452-0613   @NYPD19Pct



NYPD
 19th Precinct
TUESDAY
AUGUST 6th
 5:30 - 8PM
Carl Schurz Park
 East 86th Street & East End Avenue

Join the **NYPD**,
 19th Pct. Community Council,
 & Your **Neighbors** to Build A
 Stronger & **Safer** Community!

Construction Updates

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center & CUNY/Hunter College Construction Advisory East 73rd/74th Street and FDR Drive Site

Necessary construction activity will take place at the site on Saturday, June 22, 7:00 am– 6:00 pm.

Please call the project's Construction Information Line at **212-639-4444** with any questions or comments.