

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

We welcome this opportunity to connect with you to provide updates and resources you may not have seen already in the news surrounding COVID-19.

Join us on Tuesdays for Tele-Townhalls with special guests to answer your questions surrounding the COVID-19 response. Send us your questions and we will line up guests based on your feedback! I hope you enjoy our new feature "New Yorkers Rising," featuring the dedicated people who are "essential" to our lives and adapting to respond during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our office has heard from many individuals regarding unemployment and housing insecurity in the wake of the unprecedented closure of workplaces, layoffs and furlough of workers. I am co-sponsoring Assembly Bill 10224 to suspend rent for residential and commercial tenants who are facing hardship as a result of COVID-19 for 90 days. Be aware that you are not the only one getting coronavirus robocalls! Scammers are preying on the pandemic, pushing robocalls and robotexts that promise cures, test kits and protective masks, and offer fraudulent advice on health insurance and student loans.

This week the Governor announced the State is scouting even more sites for temporary hospitals to support existing hospital capacity and critical patients. The state is also working to prepare spaces like college dorms and hotels for emergency beds. There are 44,635 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York State with 25,398 confirmed cases in New York City. Over 50,000 people have responded to the plea for volunteers including retirees, students and mental health professionals. A new hotline for New Yorkers to access free mental health services has been established. Call 1-844-863-9314 to schedule a free appointment. We are expecting the US Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, to arrive on Monday.

We hope you find the information below to be informative and helpful. If you are in need of information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We regretfully have suspended in person appointments and meetings, due to public health considerations. We are eager to continue assisting constituents by telephone and email. Please leave a message on our voicemail with your name, address and phone number and our staff will return your call:

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca



Click to Visit Our Website

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**
TELE-TOWNHALL
TUESDAYS



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES
TUESDAY NIGHTS @ 7:00PM
HOSTED BY:
THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

You can participate through your computer or by dialing in on your phone. Join us for a town hall with Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright on the New York State response to COVID-19

The meeting will start at 7, but it is highly suggested that you log on by 6:45 to secure your spot and work through any technical issues. The link will be open starting at 6pm for anyone who is using Zoom for the first time and wants help connecting.

Joining Instructions (3 Options)

Join on your computer using the URL: <https://zoom.us/j/131837787>

Join by phone: dial 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 131 837 787 followed by #, then press # to enter the call.

One tap mobile- +16465588656,,131837787# US (New York)

The meeting will be recorded and posted to our Assembly website for those who are unable to connect or join us at that time.

Seawright Cosponsors the Rent Suspension Bill

As many New Yorkers are facing income insecurity and housing instability, there is a moratorium on evictions. Rebecca is co-sponsoring Assembly Bill 10224 to waive commercial and residential rent for 90 days for tenants who have lost employment or been forced to close their place of business as a result of government ordered



restrictions in response to COVID-19, and waive certain mortgage payments for 90 days for mortgagors who experience financial hardship due to COVID-19.

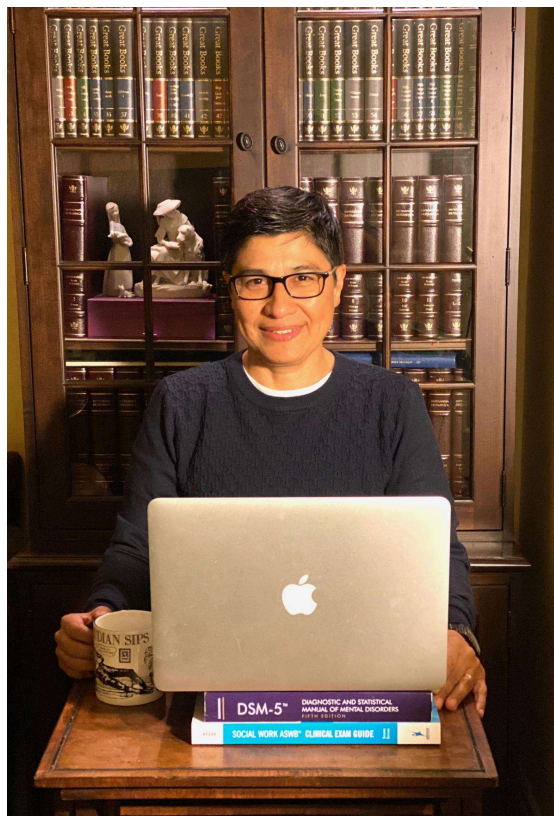
New Yorkers Rising!

New Yorkers have a reputation for strength in times of crisis and that resilience has been on display in the last few weeks. The Office of Assembly Member Seawright would like to hear your stories of goodwill and positivity in confronting the challenges of COVID-19. In each edition of our newsletter we will share a photo and blurb from constituents living or working on the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island. *Send us your submission for New Yorkers Rising!*

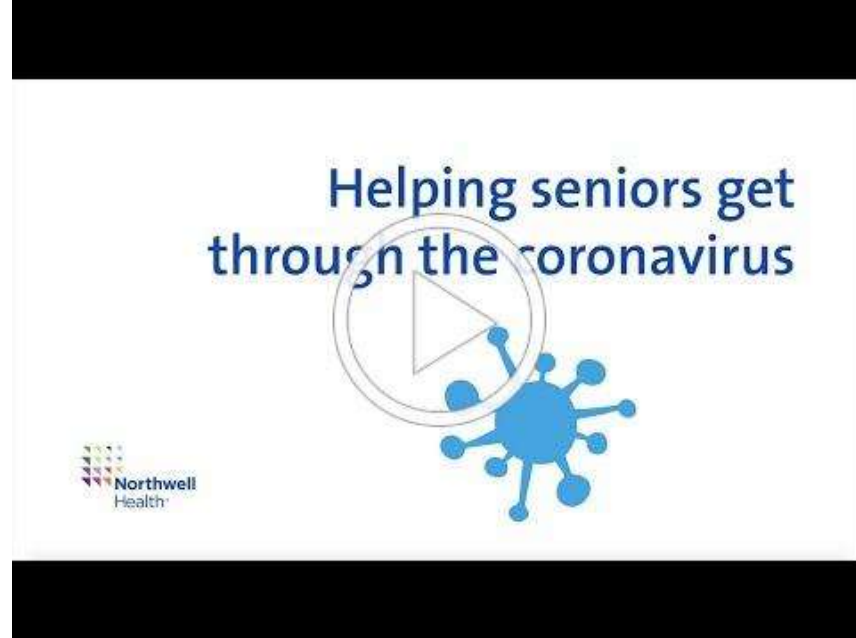
HOPE DOES NOT QUARANTINE!

*Flor de Maria Eilets
Psychotherapist, Upper East Side*

"It happened very fast, in less than two days I had to transition patients from in-person to remote sessions. Social connections are vital during periods of anxiety, fear, uncertainty, and intense stress; but, paradoxically we are instead asked to practice social distancing and self-isolation. Teletherapy provides some of the connection in an environment that otherwise feels intensely isolating. I try to make the transition as positive and supportive as possible, keeping the therapeutic alliance intact. This is a trying time for all of us, however let's not forget that HOPE DOES NOT QUARANTINE!"



Seniors: Don't be frightened, but do stay home



Hear Dr. Battinelli's tips for the elderly to help deal with the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Emotional Support

New York State has launched the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline. This is a stressful time for many New Yorkers. Many of us are concerned about family and friends, all while experiencing drastic changes to our daily routines. Trained volunteers are standing by to provide free counseling and emotional support during the COVID-19 emergency. Please call the hotline to schedule an appointment at 1-844-863-9314.

Domestic Violence

The Manhattan Family Justice Center is closed, but victims and survivors can reach the MFJC staff virtually over the phone from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. by calling its main line: 212-602-2800.

During off-hours and weekends, victims and survivors can access help and resources by: NYC's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline (800-621-4673);

The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

<https://www.thehotline.org/what-is-live-chat/>; or visiting the NYC HOPE resource directory online at www.nyc.gov/NYCHOPE

Labor and Workers Rights

COVID-19 Sick Leave Application

<https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/if-you-are-quarantined-yourself>

DOL Complaint Process Related to COVID-19

<https://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/coronavirus-complaints.shtm>

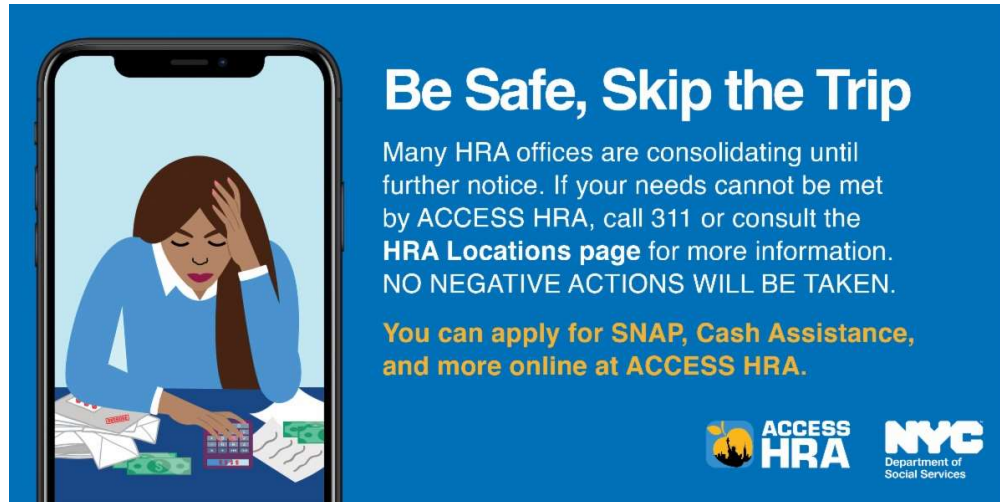
Retaliation and discrimination are illegal. *Created by the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), this publication includes a summary of City labor laws for employers and employees as you deal with the impact of COVID-19 on your workplace.*

Regional Enrichment Centers (“RECs”) will be expanded to also serve grocery

and pharmacy workers. These centers are currently serving the kids of healthcare workers, first responders, transit workers, and other essential staff.

Access HRA

All in-person HRA appointments have been canceled, and no negative actions will be taken on a client's case. For the safety of clients and staff, they are asking all New Yorkers who need services to do as much as they can through ACCESS HRA and by calling 311. You can download the ACCESS HRA mobile app or visit nyc.gov/accesshra or go to nyc.gov/hra and click on the 'Locations' tab for more information on the consolidated HRA office locations.



Be Safe, Skip the Trip

Many HRA offices are consolidating until further notice. If your needs cannot be met by ACCESS HRA, call 311 or consult the **HRA Locations page** for more information. **NO NEGATIVE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN.**

You can apply for SNAP, Cash Assistance, and more online at ACCESS HRA.

ACCESS HRA
Department of Social Services

For Those In Need

[COVID-19 Services & Resources](#)

[Many food pantries are continuing to distribute food throughout the city.](#)

[Interested in volunteering? Isaacs Center needs volunteers in the kitchen and to help with meal delivery. Contact them at \[communitysupport@isaacscenter.org\]\(mailto:communitysupport@isaacscenter.org\)](#)

[Other volunteer opportunities](#)

Senior Centers

Most senior centers are still open for grab-and-go meals. However, DFTA is currently transitioning to meal delivery. More information about Senior Center Meal Provision [here](#). Social adult day cares should all be closed.

New Yorkers with Disabilities

During this crisis, New Yorkers can reach out on Twitter to @NYCDisabilities, 311 or visit [The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities](#) for more information. Deaf New Yorkers can also connect via video phone at 646-396-5830. Help us spread the word by retweet the info here: @NYCMayor.

Transportation

The MTA has announced that transportation services are operating on an Essential Service Plan reduced schedule.

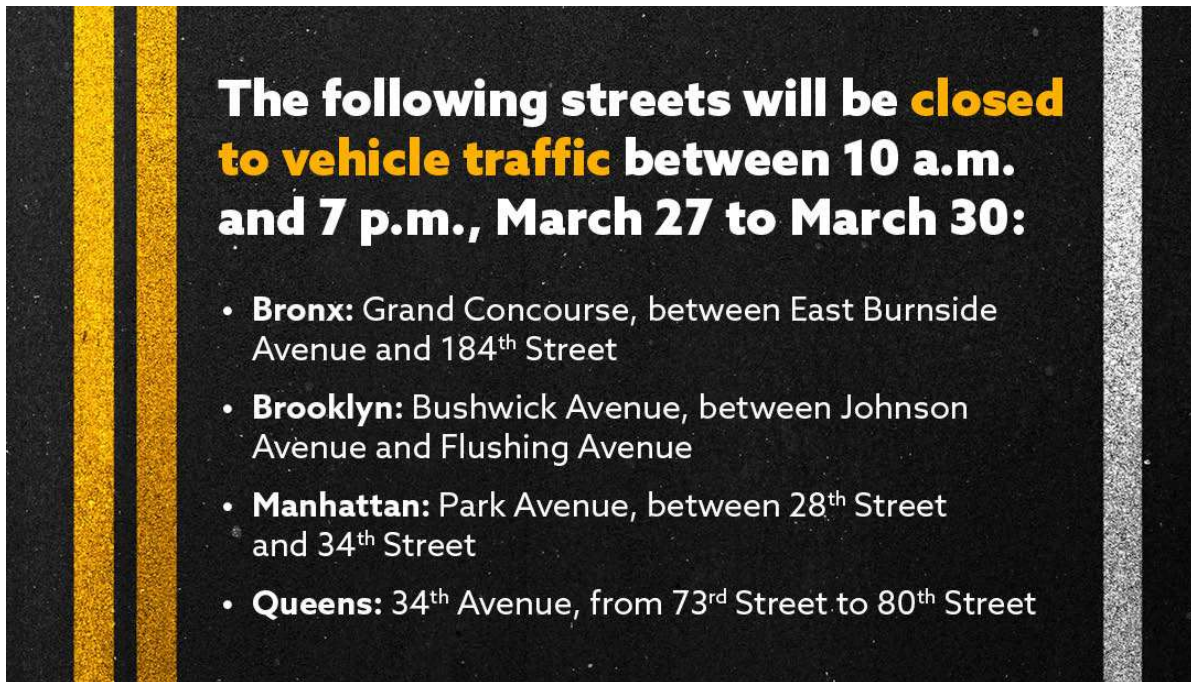
[Citibike is providing the first-responder, healthcare, and transit workforce with a free month of Citi Bike membership.](#)

Job Opportunities

[The City's Workforce1 Career Center launched a virtual center to help New Yorkers prepare for and connect to jobs across New York City. Current employment opportunities include Stop & Shop, Fresh Direct, and PBM Guardian Industry Services.](#)

New York City is recruiting TLC-licensed drivers to help with COVID-19 related work, such as delivering food to older adults. This work will be paid \$15/hour + reimbursement for gas and tolls. Drivers will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Parks and Open Spaces



New York City will pilot closing streets to vehicles and opening them to pedestrians as part of the city's plan to address the lack of adherence to social distancing protocols. In Manhattan: Park Ave, between 28th and 34th will be closed.

NYPD officers have been educating people about social distancing and ensuring adherence to NY State on PAUSE. If you hear of areas where an unsafe number of people are congregating in parks or other areas, please let our office know by emailing SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov.

NYC Parks' 2020 tennis season is delayed until further notice. NYC Parks tennis courts are currently closed to tennis play, and tennis nets are being removed from courts. NYC Parks tennis permit sales have been suspended. In the event an NYC Parks 2020 season tennis permit has been previously purchased, it will be valid through the 2021 season.

The citywide enforcement effort to encourage social distancing among parkgoers remains in place, involving multiple City agencies, including NYPD, OSE, the Sheriff's Office, DEP, DSNY, DOB, and FDNY. The City will continue to monitor conditions and determine if more severe restrictions are necessary.

For all updates on park service changes and closures, please refer to the NYC Parks website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.

Housing and Tenants' Rights

HUD Subsidized Multifamily Tenants' Rights During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Did you lose your job as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

If you live in a development or building where Section 8 pays some of your rent, you have the right to get your **rent reduced** starting on **the 1st day of the month** after you report this income reduction.

1. Report your job loss to your property manager in writing right away.

Usually, your rent is calculated once every year during your annual recertification. But, if your income changes by more than \$200 a month, you have the right to an **interim recertification**, meaning you can get your rent reduced right away without waiting for your annual lease signing/recertification. **The first step is to write letter, send an e-mail, or send a text message to your property manager telling them about the income loss and what day it started.** Specifically ask for an "interim recertification."

2. Save a copy of your letter, e-mail, or text message.

During the pandemic, it might take your property manager a little longer to adjust your rent. However, if you report your job loss by the end of the month, your reduced rent should start on 1st of the following month even if it takes your property manager a few more weeks to process. **Save a copy of your letter, e-mail or text message showing the date you sent it, so you can prove that you reported your job loss or income reduction before the end of the month.**

3. Send and sign documents electronically.

You have the right to sign your interim recertification lease amendment electronically during the pandemic, either over e-mail or text, as long as you agree to sign it in person at a later date. **Your property manager may need documents verifying your loss of income, such as a letter from your employer.** You can also send those in electronically.

4. Call a lawyer.

If you have any trouble getting your rent reduced, call a legal aid lawyer to ask about your rights. At Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, you can call Molly Rockett at **(617) 863 6213** (cell) or **(212) 218 0334** (office).

Legal Disclaimer: The information contained on this flyer does not constitute legal advice and must not be used as a substitute for the advice of a lawyer qualified to give advice on legal issues pertaining to housing.

2020 Census

U.S. Census Bureau has made some necessary changes to help keep residents safe while still working to ensure a complete census count. This includes extending the national deadline for the count from July 31 to August 14 and postponing all door-to-door outreach campaigns until May. With the majority of our businesses and libraries closed across the state, this gives local communities more time to adjust their outreach plans and helps prevent our state from being put at an unfair disadvantage.

Resources to Connect

ATT is responding to COVID-19 by offering low cost internet service

#AskMyMayor

The Mayor has a new Daily Message available on *Twitter*, *Facebook*, *Instagram* and *YouTube* every morning. If your constituents have questions, comments or concerns, they want him to respond to, they can send them using the hashtag #AskMyMayor.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Price Gouging hotline: 800-697-1220

24-Hour Coronavirus hotline: 1-888-364-3065

NYS DOH website regarding Coronavirus:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

NYS COVID-19 Email Alert Sign Up

<https://now.ny.gov/page/s/coronavirus-updates>

To file a complaint with the NYS Department of Human Rights

<https://dhr.ny.gov/complaint#file>

NYS Mental Health Hotline: 1-844-863-9314 (to schedule a free appointment)

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Previous Editions of Our COVID-19 Special Report

[*MARCH 19, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT*](#)

[*MARCH 25, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT*](#)