

Rebecca Seawright



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT
Wishes you a...
**Happy Passover and
Happy Easter**



Dear Neighbor,

*Wishing you and your families a **happy and healthy Passover and Easter holiday**. Whether you are hosting a virtual seder or hunting eggs with your family on facetime, I hope you enjoy your time together even as we need to be apart.*

*The statewide total of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 159,937 across our state with 87,028 cases in New York City. Officials report that there is a flattening of the curve with hospitalizations decreasing but the death toll continues. **We are advised to continue to "PAUSE" for the health of ourselves and others until April 29.***

Renters are struggling and many have called for a rent freeze or rent cancellation. We are working to relieve renters and to ensure that buildings continue to provide essential operations like heat, hot water and maintenance. This week, I signed-on to co-sponsor legislation to prohibit landlords from seeking or obtaining evictions for unpaid rent from

the beginning of the COVID-19 state disaster emergency through a 6 month period following the end of the emergency. **Along with my colleagues in the Assembly, we called on the New York Congressional Delegation and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to request federal stimulus finding to be directed to rental assistance and subsidies to prevent evictions and homelessness.** I sent a letter to the Governor along with my colleagues calling on the Governor to suspend Rent Guidelines Board meetings, effectively implementing a rent freeze for rent stabilized tenants across our State. **Our Tuesday housing legal clinic is back! (hosted remotely by telephone)** If you need advice on housing issues, please call **212.288.4607** or email our office at SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov to reserve a spot.

Next week, we are leading a volunteer group **to help deliver meals to senior citizens through Isaacs Center.** With a shortage of volunteers, we are lending a hand to the center to support homebound seniors who would otherwise go without food and nutrition in a pandemic.

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](tel:212.288.4607)

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca



[Click to Visit Our Website](#)

ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



VIRTUAL TOWNHALL TUESDAYS

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14 @ 7:00PM
ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

**INSPECTOR
KATHLEEN WALSH**



Commanding Officer
NYPD 19th Precinct

**CHIEF
KEVIN BROWN**



Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
Public Safety Department

Join on your computer using the URL:

<https://zoom.us/j/131837787>

Join by phone:

1. dial 646-558-8656
2. enter Meeting ID: 131 837 787 followed by #
3. press # to enter the call



  @SEAWRIGHTFORNY

 FB.COM/REBECCAASEAWRIGHT

 [HTTPS://NYASSEMBLY.GOV/MEM/REBECCA-A-SEAWRIGHT/](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/rebecca-a-seawright/)

RSVP HERE!

**In Case You Missed It (ICYMI): This Week's
Tuesday Town Hall on Seniors and Homebound
Elders**



A Message From Our Guest Robin Strashun at Search and Care

"This week, the COVID-19 crisis worsened. Our team of Social Workers, Care Managers, and other professionals continue to work at full throttle to ensure our older neighbors' needs are fulfilled—while providing reassurance and allaying fears. We never forget those we've helped in the past. They're our neighbors and part of our community."

This week, Search and Care Board Member, Margaret Diaz-Cruz "put on her MSW hat" and called 108 former clients, and spoke directly with 44 to offer support and assess their need for emergency food, medication, toiletries, pet food or routine calls to prevent anxiety/depression that might accompany isolation.

Although many had not requested Search and Care support in quite some time, every single one remembered us.

Margaret resolved many issues directly, including:

- *referring one very concerned client to CancerCare—currently not able to receive chemotherapy;*
- *referring another in dire need of food to our Agency Coordinator to arrange for a substantial grocery order/delivery (at no charge to the client);*
- *brought five other clients with needs to the attention of our Program Director;*
- *offered an empathetic ear to those who reported feeling lonely and appreciated someone to speak with.*

Other clients told Margaret, "With the help of Search and Care, I could become a better caregiver for my husband. One reported that the iPad coloring app she learned at Search and Care has kept 'her stable, sane, and happy, during the isolation.' Another is looking forward to the agency's re-opening since she gets 'mood boosts' from seeing such supportive, welcoming people at Search and Care."

This public health crisis is likely to become more challenging for our older neighbors. Our specialist staff members are going "above and beyond" their normal roles to ensure all feel reassured and cared for.

In the coming weeks, Margaret will call hundreds more former clients who may need our services now, or simply someone to speak with—helping to ensure no older person in our communities falls through the cracks.

If you know of an older person who may benefit from our services, please reply to this email, or call (212) 289-5300. Search and Care is glad to be their “surrogate family!”

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!*



Madison Thomas, SUNY Albany Intern for the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

"The internship has been an incredible learning experience. I have gained insight and witnessed the behind of the scenes on how our state legislature functions on an everyday basis. Since the pandemic, my work experience through internship has shifted pace to a more hands-on experience. I am more involved with the constituents and helping them navigate through this unprecedented time. Since the Assembly is the people's house I am proud to help the constituents of the 76th district."

Madison Thomas is from Elmont, in Nassau County. She is currently a senior at the University at Albany and a double major in political science and history. Graduating in May, Madison intends to go to law school to pursue a career in corporate law.

Zoe Huber, SUNY Albany Intern for the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

Zoe Huber is a senior at SUNY Albany studying Political Science and minoring in Philosophy. She is interning in Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Albany office for the Spring 2020 semester. Outside of work and school, Zoe likes to read and play videogames.



Holidays at Home

[How to Have a Virtual Easter Egg Hunt During Social Distancing](#)

[Temple Shaaray Tefila and others are hosting virtual services online.](#)

[The 92Y hosts a free digital Community Seder on Thursday 4/9 starting at 7:30 pm.](#)

Updates to Unemployment Filing Website

New York State **Department of Labor has partnered with Google** to bring a newly updated website for people trying to file for unemployment in New York State.

- The **new interface system** will allow more New Yorkers to sign up without crashing the website.
- DOL has also **hired 300 more staff** to help handle the increase case load, and that is **in addition to the 700 staff already added** during this pandemic.
- New Yorkers who file for unemployment will get **benefits back to the date of their unemployment**, regardless of a delay in registering for benefits.
- The labor department hotline **hours have been extended to 7 days a week.**
- Their number is **(888) 209-8124.**

Governor Cuomo directed the State Department of Labor to immediately make \$600 in additional weekly unemployment benefits available to all New Yorkers. The additional benefits were included in the Federal CARES Act, but, unlike other states, New York began delivering the extra unemployment insurance to unemployed individuals before Federal funds are disbursed to the states. New York is also extending the period covered by unemployment benefits for another 13 weeks, for a total of 39 weeks.

[Originally formed in 2008, the Volunteers of Legal Service Unemployed Workers Project has relaunched in response to the COVID-19 crisis. They are providing free advice to low-wage, unemployed workers in New York who are seeking to access their government benefits, including updates as state and federal rules change. Call the Unemployed Workers Project hotline at 347-521-5720 or fill our interest form here.](#)

Public Safety

[A Know Your Rights Guide for Transgender New Yorkers Navigating COVID-19](#)

[Any construction project NOT on the Dept. of Buildings' Live Tracker of essential construction can be reported 24/7 to the NYS PAUSE Enforcement hotline at \(833\) 789-0470 or through this online form.](#)

[Dog runs in NYC Parks are closed until further notice.](#)

[New York City launched a COVID-19 Engagement Portal to empower residents to self-report their health condition and provide up-to-date information to local families.](#)

[New York State is aware of multiple scams related to the coronavirus.](#)

Food Resources

[All New Yorkers are being offered three free Grab-and-Go meals Monday through Friday at 400 locations across the city. Meals are available for children and families from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and for adults from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No one will be turned away and registration or ID are not required.](#)

[To find a free meal pickup location closest to you text "NYCFOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877.](#)

The Hunter College Food Policy Center has produced 59 Coronavirus NYC Neighborhood Food Resource Guides with key information on food access for each community.

Each year, Hunger Free America produces updated Neighborhood Guides to Food & Assistance for all five boroughs, with information on how and where to access SNAP, WIC, and other resources. The Manhattan guide is available in both English and Spanish, and a Lower Manhattan Guide is available in Mandarin.

Education

All schools will remain closed until April 29.

Approximately 100 regional enrichment centers have opened across all five boroughs for children in grades 3K-12 who need somewhere to be while their parents work.

Elementary- and intermediate-level state assessments have been suspended for the remainder of this school year.

All June Regents Exams are canceled.

All New York City playgrounds are closed until further notice. City parks remain open.

DOE will no longer allow the use of Zoom for remote learning; schools and families must switch to Microsoft Teams as soon as possible. Students can use their DOE student account credentials, while staff should use their @schools.nyc.gov accounts. If you need help navigating Teams, visit the Microsoft Student Help Center or call the DOE Service Desk at 718-935-5100.

Elections

New York's presidential primary has been moved from April 28 to June 23.

Businesses

To increase social distancing, gyms, movie theaters, barber shops, hair salons, tattoo/piercing parlors, bars, restaurants and casinos are closed temporarily, but restaurants and bars can still provide takeout and delivery services.

NY State is on PAUSE – which stands for Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone – until at least April 29. It mandates that any businesses not deemed “essential” must keep 100 percent of their workforce home.

Gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies and medical facilities, to stay open.

Major pharmacy chains in New York State have agreed to offer free home delivery.

New York has closed all offices of the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Any driver's license, non-driver identification, vehicle registration, yearly vehicle inspection or 45-day temporary registration issued by auto dealers due to expire March 1 or after will be extended until further notice. Driver's license and permit tests and road tests are also suspended.

Financial assistance is available for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

The Thryv Foundation's Small Business COVID-19 Grant Program will award grants between \$2,500 and \$15,000 to qualifying small business applicants. Grants will be made on a first-come, first-served basis and applications must be submitted by April 30, 2020.

Financial Relief

Emergency Funds for Restaurant Workers

Social Security recipients will automatically receive the economic impact payment the

same way they normally receive their Social Security benefits.

The New York State Assembly's Special COVID-19 Edition of Grants Action News

Social Services recertifications are postponed and clients will get a letter in the mail when it is time to recertify.

The Governor announced an agreement with the largest student loan servicers in New York to obtain relief for student loan borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 who contact their private student loan servicer.

- *Available relief includes 90 days of deferred monthly payments, waived late fees, no negative reporting to credit agencies, and enrolling eligible borrowers in available long-term assistance program.*
- *The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, only provides relief to borrowers whose loans are owned by the federal government.*
- *This agreement with the student loan industry provides much-needed relief to these outstanding borrowers whose loans are privately owned.*

The deadline for filing your state and federal taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15.

NY State of Health is offering a special open enrollment through May 15.

Job Seekers

NYC Business Recruitment Services: SBS service to match candidates to businesses with hiring needs

Housing

Office of Rent Administration (ORA) and Tenant Protection Unit (TPU) of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) under The Rent Stabilization Law, The Emergency Tenant Protection Act, and the New York State and City Rent Control Laws.

NYCHA Rent Hardship Program - A household may qualify for a rent reduction based on rent hardship if all the following conditions are met:

- *There is at least a 5% reduction to gross income*
- *Current rent is more than 30% of net household income*

Residents can initiate an Interim Recertification via the NYCHA Self-Service Portal or by requesting a paper form to be mailed to their residence by calling respective Management Offices.

Healthcare

Resources for Pregnant People and their Families

The City Bar Justice Center's Planning & Estates Law Project (PELP) will provide free, remote legal assistance to New York City front-line health care workers in preparing simple life-planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney, designations of standby guardians and health care proxies. New York City front-line Health Care workers can apply for PELP assistance on the Justice Center's website or by calling 212-382-6756.

The American Diabetes Association is providing support and guidance to constituents impacted by diabetes, who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. You can access helpful resources, understand your risk, know your legal rights, and connect with community at diabetes.org/coronavirus. Make sure you know how to reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 and what to do if you or a loved one develops symptoms. In addition, many people are now facing unexpected financial hardships. If you are struggling to pay for insulin, the ADA has resources to help - visit InsulinHelp.org. Questions? The

American Diabetes Association is here to help during this challenging time: [click here](#) or call their Center for Information at 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383).

Keeping Calm in Quarantine

[New Yorkers can access a collection of science-backed, evidence-based guided meditations, along with at-home mindful workouts, sleep and kids content to help address rising stress and anxiety at no cost on Headspace](#)

[Enjoy "Lincoln Center at Home"](#)

[How to Talk to Kids About the New Coronavirus](#)

[BioBus at Home Programs- View all programs at \[biobus.org/events\]\(http://biobus.org/events\)](#)

[Community Board Resource: Guides for going virtual](#)

[The Woman Cards: Coloring Book - A pay-what-you-can set of coloring pages of famous women in history, including lots of LGBTQ+ figures.](#)

[The New York Public Library and WNYC — two indispensable New York institutions — are partnering to host a virtual book club to bring New Yorkers together and foster community during an unprecedented time of social separation.](#)

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

TUES. APRIL 14

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
AT 4:00 PM ATTORNEYS FROM
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST
FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE
76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, A
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE PHONE
SESSION WITH ATTENDEES.**

RSVP REQUIRED:

CALL: 212-288-4607

EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.

Stay informed about the CORONAVIRUS



Important Numbers and Links

- 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

MARCH 27, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT

MARCH 31, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT

APRIL 3, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT

APRIL 7, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT