

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As a lifelong supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, trans- New Yorkers, and human rights, I am proud to have been the first to offer my support of the "Walking While Trans" legislation as a cosponsor in the Assembly. Disturbingly, loitering for the purposes of prostitution has been in effect since 1976, and has been utilized more in recent years. The Human Rights Campaign estimated a 120% increase in arrests under this statute in 2018 in New York State, with 91% of people arrested being black or Latinx, and over 80% being women. It is unacceptable that today, our laws target the same marginalized groups that are at higher risk for sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation and abuse. Repealing this archaic law will bring us one step closer to ending discrimination against trans women and women of color, but our work is far from over.

This week, I signed a letter to support the allocation of \$500,000,000 to rent relief and to small business funding in New York City. There are already close to 3,000 businesses in New York City that have closed permanently since March 2020, based on an analysis done by the New York Times. Investing in the small business sector is an essential part of the strategy for New York's recovery. We are excited to join our favorite small business for an indoor meal on February 14. Governor Cuomo announced that assuming New York State's COVID-19 infection rate stays on its current trajectory, indoor dining in New York City can reopen at 25 percent capacity on Valentine's Day.

Join us for one of the events that I am pleased to sponsor:

- **Tuesday, February 9 @ 7:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*Join us for my virtual swearing-in ceremony featuring the sensational singer Marilyn Maye, and Roosevelt Island Girl Scout Troop 3233.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Wednesday, February 10 @ 6:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*A virtual tax preparation and financial counseling presentation with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to learn about free filing and the New York City Financial Empowerment Centers.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Thursday, February 11 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)-*No-Cost Face Covering Giveaway.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Tuesday, February 16 at 4:00 pm by telephone-*No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Wednesday, March 3 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*Freeze Your Rent Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Wednesday, March 10 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-**

Homeowners Benefits Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance. [RSVP here.](#)

Stay safe, wash your hands frequently, keep your social distance, and wear your face-covering! Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca A. Seawright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



You're Invited!

Swearing-In Ceremony for the Honorable Rebecca Seawright

Assembly Member for the 76th District

*Featuring a performance by the sensational singer
Marilyn Maye and Roosevelt Island Girl Scout Troop 3233!*



Tuesday, February 9, 2021 • 7:00 pm

[Facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/live](https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/live)

Event is free and open to the public.

*RSVP by calling 212-288-4607 or emailing
SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov.*

RSVP Seawright Swearing-In



LEARN ABOUT FREE TAX PREPARATION AND FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Join Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) representatives for a discussion about:

- NYC Free Tax Prep: free filing options for New Yorkers earning \$68,000 or less.
- NYC Financial Empowerment Centers: free one-on-one professional financial counseling for all New Yorkers

A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION ON ZOOM

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
6:00 PM**

In Partnership with ...



For information about:

NYC Free Tax Prep: Visit nyc.gov/taxprep or call 311 and ask for tax preparation assistance.

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers: Visit nyc.gov/TalkMoney or call 311 to schedule an appointment.

For all DCWP events, visit nyc.gov/dcwp. Click "About," then "Community" for the Event Calendar.

Follow DCWP on Twitter: @NYCDCA

**JOIN US! WATCH LIVE ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REBECCAASEAWRIGHT/**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED: CALL 212.288.4607
EMAIL SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

RSVP No Cost Tax Preparation Presentation

Small Business Spotlight

Arturo's Restaurant



Opened in 1982, Arturo's is one of the few remaining authentic, old-fashioned Italian Restaurants on the Upper East Side. Chef and owner Joseph Napolitano, who took over the business started by and named after his father, is proud to offer to his dedicated clientele a "no-frills" dining experience. The food at Arturo's has hints of influence from the old Italian neighborhoods in New York City and traditions that are long forgotten by many of today's more trendy Italian eateries.

"We are very lucky to be in a neighborhood where everyone is like family."

~Josephine Napolitano, Owner

Submit your favorite small business here to be featured in our next e-newsletter!

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

[Governor Cuomo announced](#) that indoor dining in New York City can reopen at 25 percent capacity on Valentine's Day, assuming New York State's COVID-19 infection rate stays on its current trajectory. The reopening will be subject to [strict state guidance, which can be found here](#).

Restaurant Week has been extended through Sunday, 2/28 with [takeout and delivery meals available](#) for \$20.21 each. Also, [indoor dining will resume](#) at 25% capacity on Sunday, 2/14.

Legislative Updates

Seawright Cosponsors and Strongly Supports the Repeal of "Walking While Trans" Loitering Law

The Assembly Majority voted to repeal the **"Walking While Trans"** loitering law that unfairly targeted trans women and women of color.



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

HON. REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT
NEW YORK COUNTY



"This is a very important piece of legislation that I am pleased to cosponsor and I want to thank the bill sponsor and the advocates. Repealing this archaic law will bring us one step

closer to ending discrimination against trans-women and Women of Color but our work is far from over. This is long overdue and I am honored to cast my vote in honor of Doris Dear, Melissa, Diana, and all of my transgender friends."

Seawright Questions Chancellor on the SUNY Executive Budget



Seawright's Question for the CUNY Chancellor on Plans for No-Cost Tuition



COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Over seven million New Yorkers are now eligible for the vaccine. Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 65 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and public safety workers.

[Visit the New York State Vaccine Site Locator](#)
Call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

or

[Visit the New York City Vaccine Site Locator](#)
Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)

New York State and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital launched a new vaccination site for eligible New Yorkers in Washington Heights. This new site, at Fort Washington Armory in Upper Manhattan, was made possible thanks to a partnership with Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University Irving Medical Center. The site is offering vaccinations to New Yorkers age 65 and up and appointments can be scheduled online through the NewYork-Presbyterian [Connect Online Patient Portal](#). Appointments are required.

Veterans 65+ currently enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care can receive their [COVID vaccine through the VA](#) New York Harbor Healthcare System. Schedule an appointment at 877-877-9267.

[Sign up here to receive the latest information on the COVID19 vaccine.](#)

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House One-On-One Tech Assistance

Free virtual technical support from the LHNH Adult Education team teaches older adult students to use Zoom, navigate their mobile devices, connect to the internet and send photos and documents via email. For more information about their remote Adult Education programs for our older adult members, please contact Sara Woodson at 212-218-0477 or swoodson@lenoxhill.org.

COVID-19 Updates and Resources

Renters Hardship Declaration

As a result of the rent relief legislation, cosponsored by Seawright and signed into law, renters who have lost income, are unable to pay increased costs or are unable to move without significant risk to their health or the health of a family member, can declare hardship and protect themselves against eviction until May 1, 2021. Tenants should sign and deliver to their landlord a hardship declaration form.

If you're behind on rent or at increased health risk from COVID-19, fill out the hardship declaration form and get protected from eviction.

Legal Resources

City Bar Justice Center Legal Hotline. The CBJC Legal Hotline is fully staffed remotely by attorneys to assist low-income callers on a range of civil legal issues including COVID-19 related matters touching on relief programs, mortgage and student loan relief, housing law, employment law, visitation, statute of limitations questions and consumer law. Staff includes bilingual attorneys (English and Spanish) and can accept calls in any language through interpreting services. **Call 212-626-7383**

City Bar Legal Referral Service. Our Legal Referral Service remains fully operational, with all attorney referral counselors and participating lawyers working remotely. Due to the pandemic, the Legal Referral Service has *waived* its initial consultation fee for all legal issues until further notice. **Call 212-626-7373 (212-626-7374 en español) or submit a lawyer referral request *online*.**

Rebecca Seawright



Freeze Your Rent Clinic

Wed., March 3
2:00pm–3:00pm

The NYC Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program, helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent.

Homeowners Benefits Clinic

Wed., March 10
2:00pm–3:00pm

The City of New York offers tax exemptions and abatements for seniors, veterans, clergy members, people with disabilities, and other homeowners. These benefits can lower your property tax bill.

Email SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov or call 212-288-4607 to RSVP



[RSVP Here](#)

Community Education Council- District 2 Guidance on Middle and High School Admissions

Here are some Middle & High School Updates for parents.



Resources:

Middle School Admissions (deadline 2/9/21):

- Video Series and all other information: schools.nyc.gov/Middle
- Middle School Admissions Presentation: <https://vimeo.com/504937291>

High School Admissions (deadline 2/23/21):

- Video Series: schools.nyc.gov/High
- Admissions guide: [Schools.nyc.gov/HSGuide](https://schools.nyc.gov/HSGuide)

High School Admissions

Presentation: <https://vimeo.com/502252425>

Unemployment Updates

1099-G Update (2/1/2021): The 1099-G tax form is available now. If you received unemployment or pandemic benefits in the calendar year 2020, you will need this form to file your taxes. To access your form online, log in to labor.ny.gov/signin, click 'Unemployment Services,' select '2020' from the dropdown menu, and click 'View/Print Your 1099-G.' If you do not have an online account with NYS DOL, you may call 1-888-209-8124 to request a 1099-G form through our automated phone service. For more information, visit on.ny.gov/1099-G.

PUA Update – 1/30/2020: New Yorkers who are enrolled in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program do not need to reapply for benefits if they continue to be unemployed when they reach the end of their initial benefit year. Instead, PUA claimants should continue to certify weekly while unemployed to continue receiving the benefits they are eligible for. Claimants who are receiving traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI), should reapply if they continue to be unemployed when their benefit year has ended. For more information about extended benefits, visit on.ny.gov/cauwa.

Partial Unemployment Update: As of January 18, 2021, New York State has modified the rules for partial unemployment eligibility so that New Yorkers can take on part-time work without losing disproportionate unemployment and pandemic benefits. For information on how this impacts weekly certifications and guidance for claiming partial benefits, refer to the [Partial Unemployment Eligibility](#) web page, social media platforms, and emails and text messages sent directly to claimants.

Aid for Small Businesses

Small Business Relief



New York State is offering grant and loan programs and other assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Visit esd.ny.gov/covid-19-business-resources to learn more.

Your business could very well be eligible for COVID-19 relief funding. View our recent [COVID-19 Relief Updates blog post](#) to understand the latest round of revisions to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, and the New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) program.

SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Through the Economic Aid Act, you may qualify for 2.5x to 3.5x your average monthly payroll in a 100% forgivable, zero-fee loan.

SBA funding is one of the preeminent SBA loan packagers in the country. Over the prior ten-year period, we've facilitated over \$2 billion in loans, helped thousands of clients during the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"), and have facilitated many thousands more in the first 10 days of the second round.

You have access to PPP funds through SBA funding's exclusive partnership with a service provider offering the most streamlined solution available. This portal will also make it easier for you when you're ready to apply for forgiveness.

- Program Highlights: Receive 2.5x your average monthly payroll costs in the one year prior to the loan or the calendar year (up to \$2 million). Hospitality businesses may qualify for 3.5x
- PPP is a 100% forgivable loan if you follow the guidelines
- Borrowers pay no fees

[Click here, add your basic contact information and be directed to the application.](#)

New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)

The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small residential landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on "PAUSE." The NYFLF targets the state's small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (90% of all businesses), nonprofits and small residential landlords who have seen a loss of rental income. The NYFLF is specifically timed to support businesses and organizations as they proceed to reopen and have upfront expenses to comply with guidelines (e.g., inventory, marketing, refitting for new social distancing guidelines) under the New York Forward Plan.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Arts and Entertainment Grants

The U.S. Small Business Administration released an [FAQ for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants](#) (formerly known as Save Our Stages). The Grant Program, which passed as part of the third stimulus package, includes \$15 billion for grants of up to \$10 million to qualified live venue operators and promoters, performing arts organizations, theatrical producers, talent representatives, movie theater operators, and non-profit museums that have auditoriums.

Immediately prepare for the application: The application section on page 5 explains how applicants should begin preparing immediately: [Register for a DUNS number](#) and then register in the federal government's SAM at www.SAM.gov. It can take two weeks to get a SAM registration, so start the process now. The SBA also says, "Gather documents that demonstrate your number of employees and monthly revenues so you can calculate the average number of qualifying employees you had over the prior 12 months. Lastly, determine the extent of gross earned revenue loss you experienced between 2019 and 2020. This and additional information such as floor plans, contract copies and other evidence will be needed to apply for an SVOG."

Question re: fixed seating: The SBA confirmed that only movie theaters and museums must have fixed seating and the fixed seating requirement does not apply to other venues. Multi-use performance venues, music venues, comedy clubs, black box theaters, and similar venues may apply so long as they have a "defined performance and audience space."

The SBA will be refreshing the FAQ as new information becomes available and additional program details are finalized. When the application is available, we will alert you. Please sign up to receive updates and information about help from our colleagues at the NYC Department of Small Business Services [on the form here](#).

Health Insurance Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31. As part of the State's ongoing response to the pandemic, the open enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31, 2021. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through the NY State of Health, New York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, or directly through insurers. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming Events

"Romaniote Memories, a Jewish Journey from Ioannina, Greece, to Manhattan: Photographs by Vincent Giordano"



The new Queens College virtual exhibition, “Romaniote Memories, a Jewish Journey from Ioannina, Greece, to Manhattan: Photographs by Vincent Giordano,” explores one of the oldest Jewish communities in existence and its presence in New York City. Romaniote Jews, a millennia-old sect that practices traditions dating to ancient Greece and Rome, emigrated from Ioannina, Greece, to New York City's Lower East Side, where they founded a synagogue in 1927. The Giordano exhibition features over 100 photographs of the community presented in ten thematic sections, including the synagogue’s art and architecture, religious rites and celebrations, as well as photographs taken during the High Holidays in Ioannina, Greece, in 2006.

Over 80% of Greece’s Jewish population perished in the Holocaust, decimating the country’s historic Romaniote communities. Of the 1,960 Jews who were deported to Auschwitz from Ioannina, Greece, 110 survived. The Romaniote language, a Greek dialect that combines words and phrases from Hebrew and Turkish, is endangered, without preservation efforts to maintain or revive it. The exhibition is presented to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Wednesday, January 27 — the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau — in commemoration of these communities.

A virtual opening reception for the exhibition, featuring a conversation with the curator, organizers, distinguished guests, and friends, is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, at 5 pm (EST).

[Please click here for more details and to register for the reception.](#)

New York City-Based Classical Dance Company Tom Gold Dance Will Return to the Church of the Heavenly Rest with a World Premiere Livestream



Tom Gold Dance World Premiere Livestream Performance

Set to the music of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů, including the Piano Trio No. 1, H. 193 and the Impromptu for violin and piano, H. 166

[Read more](#)

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

TUES. FEBRUARY 16

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!

**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**

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



**SCAN ME TO
RSVP!**

**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.

RSVP to the Legal Clinic on 2/16

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



**PROTECTIVE
FACE MASK
GIVEAWAY**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021
12:00PM-2:00PM**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREET)**

SCAN ME TO RSVP!

**OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**
PHONE: 212.288.4607
EMAIL:
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



RSVP to the Face Covering Giveaway on 2/11

[View as Webpage](#)



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/RebeccaASeawright/](https://facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/)



[instagram.com/
/seawrightforny](https://instagram.com/seawrightforny)

