



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On May 15, 2023 we honored Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day passing a package of legislation and resolutions to help pave the way to a New York where people with disabilities can thrive in more accessible and equitable communities. As Chair of the People With Disabilities Committee, I proudly sponsored the package creating and improving support systems to empower people to live as independently as possible while ensuring more equitable access to services.

We celebrated the Ninth Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony. Enclosed in this report you will find photos and the program from the evening highlighting each honorees' work and accomplishments.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

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Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Chair of People With Disabilities Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Announced Passage of Legislative Disability Awareness Day Package

"Legislation passed today that will promote inclusion, dignity, and respect for people living with disabilities," said Assembly Member Seawright.



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced the passage of legislation and resolutions in honor of Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day that establish new disability commissions, expand employment accessibility, enable disability discrimination lawsuits against the state, and honor disability advocates.

"As the Chair of the Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities, the package of bills that we passed for Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day is a step in the right direction for achieving full equality for millions of people living in New York with disabilities," Assembly Member Seawright said. "I commend Speaker Heastie and my colleagues for their support of this legislation that will promote inclusion, dignity, and respect for New Yorkers living with disabilities."

Over 25 advocacy organizations joined Awareness Day in the Well of the Assembly to exhibit their services and lobby legislators.

"I am proud to have passed legislation to increase representation of people with disabilities on our State's planning council. With the passage of this bill, sixty percent of representatives will consist of people with a disability. At least one third of representation by people with an intellectual or developmental disability," Seawright explained. "Additionally, the bill renames the 'Disabilities Planning Council' to the 'State Council on Developmental Disabilities,' bringing the State into compliance with person-first language to put the person before their disability." (A.6543, Seawright)

Included in the legislative package are bills that would make it easier for New Yorkers with disabilities to access services:

- **People with Disabilities Access to Programs Commission** - would make recommendations for new laws to help streamline the process for New Yorkers getting access to the programs and services they need.
- **Create the Commission on the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing**-which would provide deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing New Yorkers with a one stop location in state government where they can access available services and resources.
- **Create more employment opportunities for disabled people** within New York State government by allowing an individual with disabilities or disabled veteran to hold full-time or part-time positions for purposes of eligibility for recruitment for state employment.
- **Waive the state's sovereign immunity to claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act- the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act**, allowing state employees to sue New York State for damages due to violations of those laws.

- Resolution proclaiming May 15, 2023, as New York State Assembly Legislative Disability Awareness Day
- Resolution mourning the death of Judith Heumann, a tireless leader and advocate for the Disability Rights Movement.



CUNY Adaptive Sports Coach Ryan Martin spoke about the need for the bill package creates and improves support systems to empower people to live as independently as possible while ensuring more equitable access to services.



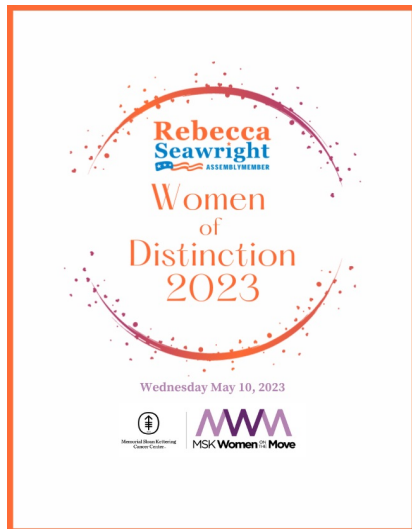
Advocates from across the state joined the Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day. Over 25 organizations presented information on their services and lobbied legislators.



Mike Schweinsburg, disability rights advocate from Manhattan in the Assembly Chamber.

Seawright Honors Women Of Distinction At Ninth Annual Awards Ceremony



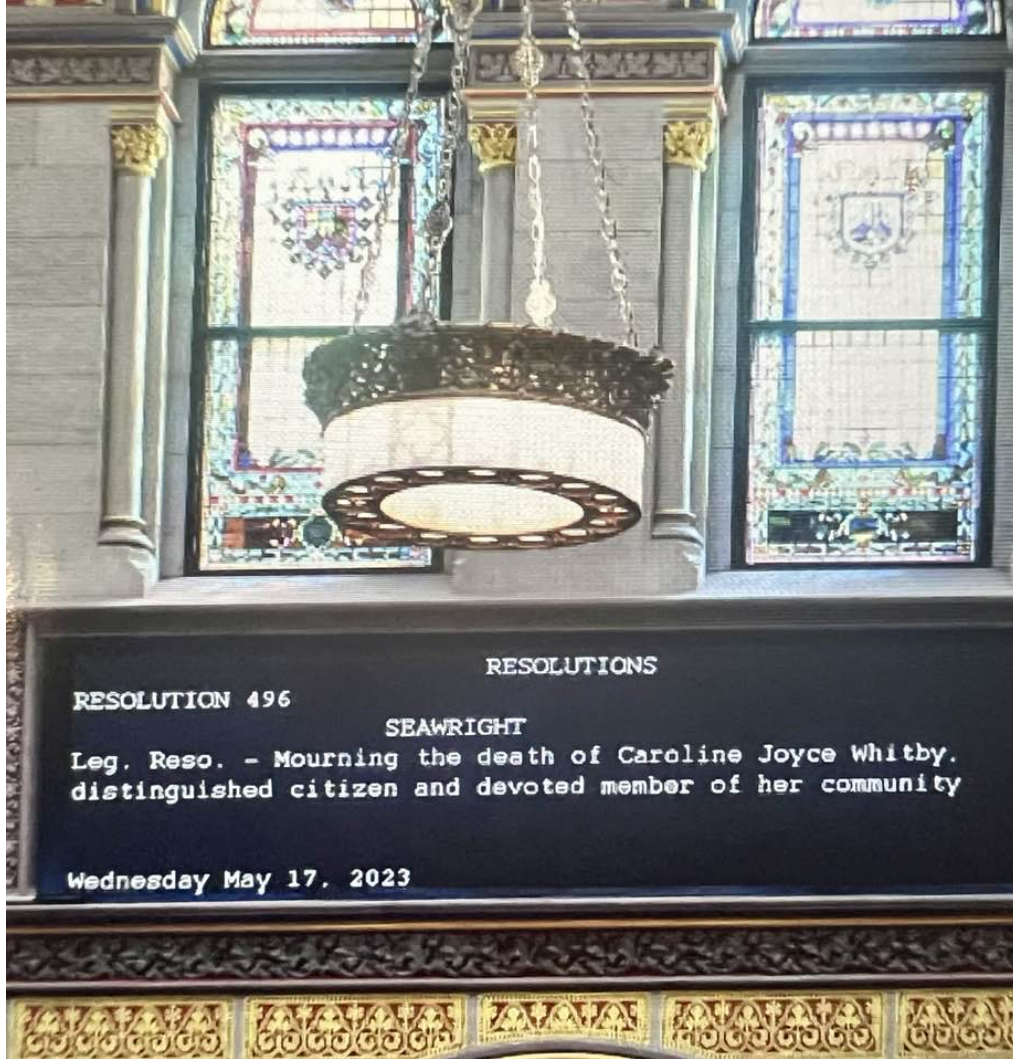


[Click here to read the full program with honoree biographies.](#)

[Click here to view all the photos from the Women of Distinction event.](#)

Seawright Passes Legislative Resolution Honoring The Life Of Joyce Whitby

Sept. 24, 1934 - April 22, 2023



Joyce Whitby was a member of the board of SAGE, an organization that advocates for and provides services to L.G.B.T.Q.+ elders, and served on the board of the Feminist Press at City University of New York, for which she edited "A Question of Choice" by Sarah Weddington, the attorney who took the Roe v. Wade case to the Supreme Court and won.

Seawright passed resolution honoring her "commitment to excellence and her spirit of humanity carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors."

Seawright Delivered Welcome To CUNY Law Class Of 2023



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is Chair of CUNY Law Board of Visitors and alumni of the Class of '92. She delivered inspiring words to the graduating class on Friday, May 12.

Championing Legislation for MWBEs

Assembly Member Seawright spoke at the press conference and a resolution was passed in the Assembly Chamber memorializing May 9 as MWBE Advocacy Day in New York State.

Through roundtables, breakout sessions with legislators and educational presentations, the MWBE Advocacy Day allowed the MWBE community to champion a legislative agenda to strengthen and improve the MWBE Program.



Second Avenue Street Fair Fun!

Team Rebecca distributed no-cost masks, sanitizer and COVID19 home tests.

Jacob, Flor and Harley were there to provide resources from the community office.

Community Office Hosts Rent Freeze Clinic

Our office hosted the first of a series of rent freeze clinics for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Call 212.288.4607 or email SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov for more information or to RSVP!



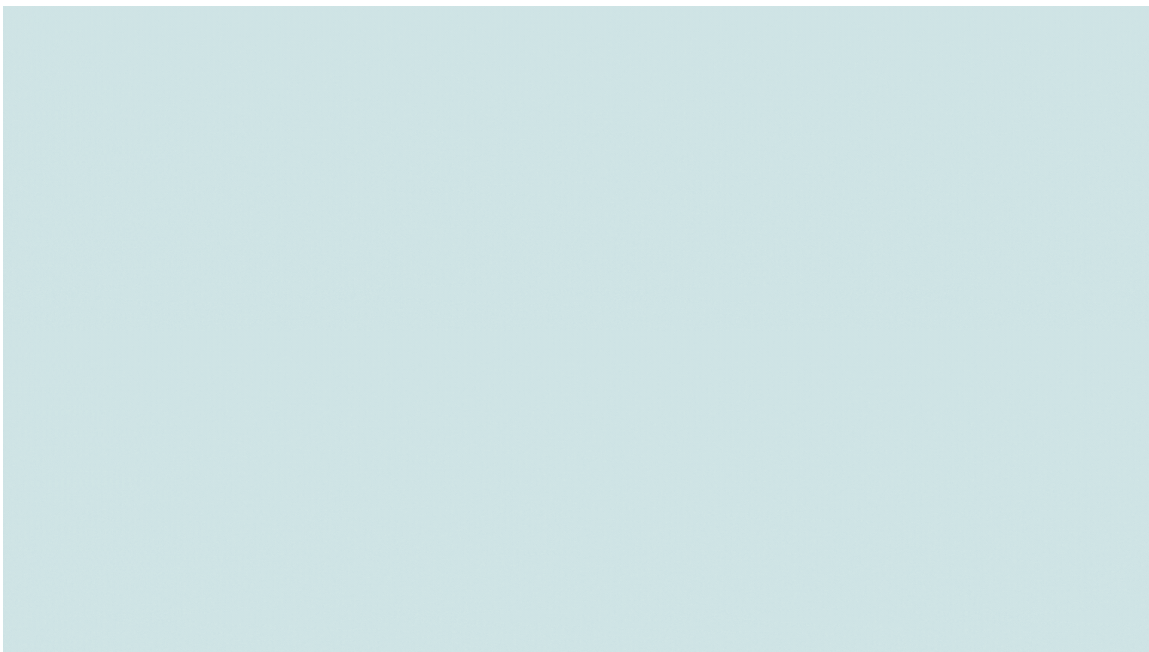


WEEKLY E-NEWS

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Consider Our Office A Resource!



Upcoming Events



Movies Under the Stars

St. Catherine's Ball Field

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Dune

Grab a blanket and come enjoy a movie in your neighborhood ball field! This spring, NYC Parks will host family-friendly movies.

Movies will begin at dusk. Estimated start time is approximately 7:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin.

St. Catherine's Park - 1245 1st Ave., New York, NY 10065

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