



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

Reports to the People of the 81st Assembly District

Este noticiario está disponible en español en nuestro sitio Web o en nuestra oficina.

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Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly preferred and will be outdoors only.

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Serving the communities of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Norwood, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield, and Woodlawn

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ MAKES GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU

Dear Neighbor:

The past twenty months living with the COVID-19 pandemic have not been easy, and I think everyone is entitled to a certain degree of cynicism about the state of the world around us. But as a lifelong Bronxite, I refuse to back down in the face of this adversity — and I know you probably feel the same way.

I have been determined to make sure that our state government works for all of us in this community, from fighting to keep people in their homes, to protecting people from deadly and preventable diseases, and everything in between. With so much divisiveness around the nation, often focused on undermining confidence in long-standing institutions, it is all the more important that people in our community understand that government can be a force for good that is put to work on behalf of you and all of your neighbors.

We have an incredible community here in the north and northwest Bronx, and each and every one of you reading this newsletter is part of the reason why. Please continue to share with me your thoughts on how our government should work for you, and I will continue to fight to make it happen.

As always, my office is available to help you with whatever it is you need. Whether you are having trouble with a bad landlord, or think an intersection would be safer with an all-way stop, or if you have a policy that you think is critically important to pass, please contact me without hesitation. We are in the office Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm (currently meeting constituents outside due to COVID), and are also available by telephone and email.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly

Standing with Healthcare Workers in Fight for Better Contract

Healthcare workers are vital to our community, but this may have never been more true than during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was proud to join picketing healthcare workers outside of Montefiore Hospital in their fight for a better contract.



Assemblyman Dinowitz speaks to a crowd of picketing healthcare workers outside of Montefiore Hospital on East Gun Hill Road before joining them on the picket line.



Assemblyman Dinowitz speaks to a gathering of concerned neighbors after a fatal bus crash at the intersection of Johnson Avenue and Kappock Street, calling for immediate pedestrian safety improvements to be made.

Scourge of Dangerous and Loud Driving

Dangerous and loud driving continue to plague our communities. Drag racing and cars with loud, modified mufflers are intolerable. Legislation that I co-sponsored goes into effect in April making it illegal to modify the muffler or exhaust system, punishable by fines of \$150 to \$1000. But we need to do more. There must be police enforcement. Many of our roads need to be redesigned to make it harder to speed, and many locations need to be examined for the possible installation of speed humps, stop signs and traffic signals.

New Murals in Our Community

It is always nice to welcome new art into our communities. I was excited to join two mural dedications this year, one at the Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy and another at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center.

Assemblyman Dinowitz standing at the new mural painted by local artist Base, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center Executive Director Margaret Della, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, and Council Member-elect Pierina Sanchez.



Assemblyman Dinowitz stands with students at the Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy along with Principal Lori O'Mara and Council Member Eric Dinowitz outside a new mural at the school.

Dinowitz Laws Keep People in Their Homes During the Pandemic

Over the past twenty-one months, New Yorkers have experienced a significant disruption to our economy and by consequence, housing stability. Keeping people in their homes has long been a top priority of mine in the Assembly, and I am pleased to have authored and passed two very significant new laws during the COVID-19 pandemic that accomplish these goals.

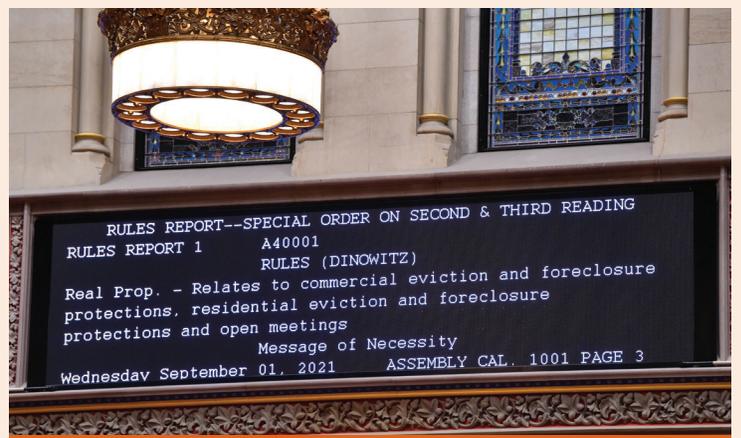
The first new law is the Tenant Safe Harbor Act (TSHA). This law offers tenants permanent eviction protections against filings based on the non-payment of rent during the COVID-19 covered period (March 7, 2020 through at least January 15, 2022), although a money judgment for the owed rent may still be issued by the courts.

The second new law is the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act (CEEFPFA). This law was a monumental achievement, and I believe it represents the strongest eviction protections in the entire nation. This law offers tenants and homeowners the ability to pause any eviction proceeding until at least January 15, 2022. This law was extended twice and expanded to include similar eviction protections for small business owners.

I am incredibly proud of these two laws, which work in tandem with rent relief programs largely funded by the federal American Rescue



Assemblyman Dinowitz questions leadership from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance about the slow rollout of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.



Screen in the Assembly chamber showing the passage of Assemblyman Dinowitz's bill up for debate during a special session on September 1, 2021 to extend the eviction and foreclosure moratoria in New York.

Plan passed under President Joe Biden. These two laws are among the most impactful laws that the Legislature has passed in recent years. Countless families have avoided evictions and homelessness due to the TSHA and CEEFPFA, which amidst a deadly pandemic may well have been a death sentence.

When we return to Albany in January, I am hopeful that there will be a more stable housing situation due to significant increases in vaccination rates throughout the state as well as the disbursement of billions of dollars in rent relief funds. However, there is always more work to be done to help keep people in their homes. For example, I support "Good Cause" legislation, which would require that most property owners provide their tenants with a legitimate reason for denying them a lease renewal offer.

My office remains available for people who are struggling with their housing situation. If we are unable help you in our government capacity, such as if you have an active legal case or are seeking new housing accommodations, we will do our best to refer you to the appropriate resources and can help guide you through whatever it is you are dealing with. Please contact us with any questions, and please remember that many issues are much easier to resolve if they get taken care of early.

Supporting Our Local Police Officers

The development of strong working relationships between police and the communities they are protecting is incredibly important, and National Night Out is an annual event to work towards this goal. I was happy to join a few of these events in our community this year, including events with the departing commanding officers at our local precincts. I am excited to get to know our new commanding officers and look forward to next year's National Night Out!



(l-r) 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Officer Crystal Reveron, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, a wonderful new young emcee, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and former Commanding Officer of the 52nd Precinct Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps.



(l-r) Bronx Community Board 8 District Manager Ciara Gannon, Bronx Community Board 8 Chair Laura Spalter, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, former Commanding Officer of the 50th Precinct Captain Emilio Melendez, and Council Member Eric Dinowitz.

At Dinowitz Request, Ridgewood Savings Bank Will Stay in Van Cortlandt Village



Assemblyman Dinowitz speaks to News12 outside of the Ridgewood Savings Bank in Van Cortlandt Village as part of his successful effort to keep the bank branch open.

Rededicating the 9/11 Memorial at Endor Gardens

Several years ago, the sign at Endor Community Gardens in northern Riverdale was destroyed. Endor Gardens was established to honor the memory of eight local heroes who perished at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Thanks to hard work from our community members, a new sign was procured and the garden was rededicated this fall.



Assemblyman Dinowitz attending the 9/11 memorial ceremony at Endor Community Gardens, organized by Laura and Rob Spalter.

Combating Hunger in Our Community

This year marked the return of our annual holiday food drive, with donations going to food pantries at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and St. Frances of Rome Church. Thank you to everyone who donated this year! We also held several food giveaway events throughout the community, with support from NY Common Pantry, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and the Kingsbridge Library.



Assemblyman Dinowitz distributing food from NY Common Pantry alongside Council Member Eric Dinowitz to community residents outside of the Kingsbridge Library.



Assemblyman Dinowitz distributing food from NY Common Pantry to community residents outside of his district office on Kingsbridge Avenue.



Assemblyman Dinowitz with helpers from Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and St. Frances of Rome food pantry collecting donations before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Taking a Stand Against Shared Rides in Access-A-Ride During Pandemic

The Access-A-Ride paratransit program has long been plagued by inadequate service, but has gotten worse during the pandemic. The continued use of shared rides during the pandemic regardless of vaccination status is alarming. No one wants to get into a car with someone else who may or may not be vaccinated. I met with the Chief Accessibility Officer for the MTA and the Director of Operations for Access-A-Ride to express my concerns, and I sent a letter, signed by forty other elected officials on this issue. Up until now the response from the MTA has been inadequate, but I will continue to advocate for improved Access-A-Ride service.

Curb Cut Victory on Fieldston Road

Sometimes the seemingly small victories make all the difference. I am very excited that my efforts, along with those of former Council Member Andrew Cohen and current Council Member Eric Dinowitz, to convince the Department of Transportation to install a curb cut at 3636 Fieldston Road were successful, and that people with accessibility needs are more able to navigate our community.



Assemblyman Dinowitz standing with local residents at the new curb cut outside of 3636 Fieldston Road.

Donations for Haiti Earthquake Relief

My office served as a donation drop-off point for a boroughwide relief effort to support Haiti after a devastating earthquake in August. Thank you to everyone who donated for this important effort!



Assemblyman Dinowitz standing with donations from people in the 81st Assembly District for a Haitian earthquake relief organized by Bronx community leader, Yves Filius.

Marble Hill Family Day 2021

I was excited to join the return of Family Day at Marble Hill Houses this year! Although the event was a little different due to the pandemic, it was still great to see neighbors at Marble Hill who were distributing and collecting meals-to-go. I can't wait to come back after the pandemic when the barbeque is back roaring!



Assemblyman Dinowitz stands with members of the Marble Hill Tenants Association who helped organize Family Day 2021.

Back To School In Norwood

Kids headed back to school this fall, and to help get them ready my office organized a back-to-school giveaway event at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center. We distributed backpacks and other school supplies. This event was also organized by Council Member Eric Dinowitz and was supported by Target, the NYC Department of Sanitation, Montefiore Health Systems, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and LiteracyINC.



Assemblyman Dinowitz hands out backpacks to families getting ready for a new school year outside of Mosholu Montefiore Community Center in Norwood.

Dinowitz Law Part of Statewide Effort to Combat Opioid Epidemic

The Opioid epidemic has been raging worse than ever since the advent of COVID-19. I am proud that Governor Kathy Hochul signed one of my bills to encourage the use of opioid antagonists such as Naloxone as part of a package of bills to address this horrific problem. I was also pleased to join NYS Attorney General Leticia James and other elected officials for the launch of the distribution of the Opioid Settlement Fund, which will bring over \$350 million to New York City to combat the spread of the opioid epidemic, including addiction prevention, treatment and recovery.



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz receives ceremonial pen from Governor Kathy Hochul at bill signing ceremony with State Senator Jamaal Bailey, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, State Senator Brady Hoylman, Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, State Senator Pete Harckham, and advocates from VOCAL-NY and the Drug Policy Alliance.



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz stands next to Attorney General Leticia James, alongside Bronx colleagues and Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried, with a ceremonial check from the Opioid Settlement Fund.



Celebrating 40 Years of Mosholu Preservation Corp

I was proud to join the Mosholu Preservation Corporation for a celebration of their 40th anniversary. This organization was founded in order to preserve affordable housing for Bronxites in the Norwood community, and they also help support the Jerome-Gun Hill BID as well as the Norwood News. Congratulations on forty excellent years!

(l-r): Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and Mosholu Preservation Corporation Executive Director Jennifer Tausig.

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Fall 2021

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Finally Breaking Ground at the Wakefield Playground

The renovation of the Wakefield Playground has long been a priority of mine, and I am thrilled to finally break ground this summer. Several years ago, I worked with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and former Council Member Andrew Cohen to secure funding for this renovation. However, as many park projects do, it took a while to finally get started. I am very excited to see it finally getting under way and believe it will be a wonderful amenity for the Wakefield neighborhood.



Assemblyman Dinowitz poses alongside community leaders and Parks staff, including Community Board 12 District Manager George Torres, NYC Parks First Deputy Commissioner Kavanaugh, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, State Senator Jamaal Bailey, and NYC Parks Bronx Borough Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa.