



As the representative of the 108<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, the safety and well-being of my constituents is my top priority. Our district office at the Legislative Office Building will continue to remain open as normal. However we are sensitive to your exposure and therefore we kindly ask that if you are feeling ill to please refrain from in-person visits to our office. As always, our office staff is here to serve, even if not in person and therefore please do not hesitate to reach out by phone at 518-455-4474 or by email at [mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov) for any questions.

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#### **DISTRICT NEWS**

[COVID-19 Update](#)

With a growing number of positive cases confirmed in Capital Region, there are many concerns being raised regarding price gouging, precautionary measures, mass gatherings, and other questions regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Keep updated through the [\*\*NYSDOH - New York State Health Department\*\*](#) and [\*\*CDC\*\*](#) and feel free to contact my office by phone (518-455-4474) and email ([mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov)).

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there and we are here as a resource to get you the accurate information that you may need. You can also call 1-888-364-3065 for Information about Coronavirus.

With the new large event regulations in place, please make sure to call ahead before attending any gatherings. For more information on these regulations you can read the [\*\*Governor's press release here\*\*](#).

During this time, it is important that we come together as a community and remember to assist those around us in the ways that we can.

-Check in with your friends, family members, and neighbors who are elderly, disabled, or those who may need some sort of additional support to see if they need assistance (grocery deliveries, running errands for them, etc.)

-Be mindful of supporting not only your physical health but mental health as well, the CDC has guidance here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>

-National Alliance on Mental Illness guidance: <https://www.nami.org/.../NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-C...>

[COVID-19 Executive Order](#)

Governor Cuomo has [\*\*released an Executive Order\*\*](#) related to suspending regulations and laws

related to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please note the mass gathering restrictions and nursing home restrictions highlighted below. As always, feel free to contact me with questions.

Any guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health related to prevention and infection control of COVID-19 at nursing homes and adult care facilities, including but not limited to guidance on visitation, shall be effective immediately and shall supersede any prior conflicting guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health and any guidance issued by any local board of health, any local department of health, or any other political subdivision of the State related to the same subject.

Any large gathering or event for which attendance is anticipated to be in excess of five hundred people shall be cancelled or postponed for a minimum of thirty days.

Any place of business or public accommodation, and any gathering or event for which attendance is anticipated to be fewer than five hundred people, shall operate at no greater than fifty percent occupancy, and no greater than fifty percent of seating capacity, for thirty days effective on Friday, March 13, 2020, except that any theater seating five hundred or more attendees for a live performance located in a city of one million or more shall not hold any further performances after 5pm on March 12, 2020.

The two preceding directives shall not apply to a school, hospital, nursing home, other medical office or facility as determined by the Commissioner of Health, mass transit or mass transit facility, governmental facility, law enforcement facility, or retail establishments including grocery stores. The Commissioner of Health may allow for businesses that are not public gathering spaces to exceed five hundred persons if the occupancy is less than fifty percent capacity subject to public health review.

#### [Spectrum WiFi and Broadband Service](#)

Charter will be offering a new program to help ease the strain during this challenging time. They will be providing free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription (where service is available), at any service level up to 100 Mbps, as well as opening up Charter WiFi Hotspots across our footprint for public use.

For more information or to enroll in the program please contact 1-844-488-8395

#### [Utility Scam Alert](#)

Recently, National Grid has seen an increased volume of reported scam attempts concerning both residential and business customers. Below are some tips you should take if you are questioning the legitimacy of a call:

A few quick tips:

- National Grid may ask for payment over the phone in a collection situation but will leave the method of payment up to the customer. National Grid will never demand immediate payment by wire transfer, Green Dot Money-Pak, or any other pre-paid card service.
- National Grid representatives will know your account number; never offer that information to a caller. Ask the caller to provide the last five digits of your National Grid account number. If the caller doesn't know your account number and/or you have any doubt the caller is a National Grid representative, hang up immediately and call National Grid directly.
- Every National Grid employee is required to carry a photo ID card, and any contractor doing work for the company is also required to carry ID. If someone is requesting entry into your home or business and does not have a valid ID and/or you have any doubts that they are a National Grid representative, do not let them in and contact National Grid and/or local authorities.

For more information check out the [National Grid Scam Awareness Page here](#).

#### [NYS Bridge Authority Jobs](#)

The New York State Bridge Authority is accepting applications for Seasonal Laborers. Pay rate

is \$15/hour. Employment period is 5/26-8/21/20. Download an [application here](#) and return it to Human Resources no later than 4/1/20.

### [Workforce Development Initiative Funding](#)

One of the most important programs we approved last year in the state budget was the \$175 million allotment toward the Workforce Development Initiative (WDI). The program which runs year-round provides necessary job training programs to educational and nonprofit entities to prepare our workforce, especially in populations that have unacceptably high unemployment.

Locally here are this rounds funding:

Capital District Women's Employment Service, Albany, nursing, direct care, and health care training - \$199,695

Schenectady Community Action Project, Schenectady for health care industry training - \$199,156

Our Ability, Albany, training for job seekers with disabilities - \$198,460

These are great organizations working in our communities and I am glad to see the program we developed last year with the Governor is making a difference. For more information read the whole [press release here](#).

### [Albany's LIGHT Summer Youth Employment Program Registration Dates](#)

The 2020 LIGHT Program for Learning, Initiative and Gaining Headway Together - Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) will run from Monday, July 13th through Friday, August 14th, 2020 for five weeks. SYEP youth will earn minimum wage of \$ 11.80 per hour and work a total of 20 hours (Monday thru Thursday) at the assigned worksite and on Fridays attend mandatory Educational and Career Exploration Enrichment workshops.

In order to register for Light SYEP, applications must be submitted by the students at one of the following locations and times:

- Wednesday, March 11: 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Giffen Memorial Elementary School - 274 S. Pearl St. 12202
- Wednesday, March 18: 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Albany High School - 700 Washington Ave. 12203
- Saturday, March 21: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. TOAST - 94 Delaware Ave. 12202
- Saturday, March 28: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Bleecker Stadium - 721 Clinton Ave. 12206

Applications submitted by mail will not be accepted and will be mailed back to the student(s). For more information visit the [website here](#) or call (518) 438-1082

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### [Legislation Extend Receivership Protections to Tenants](#)

Working with the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), I have introduced a tenant protection bill ([A.10095](#)) seeking to expand the receivership option that is currently only available in New York City as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, and Westchester counties. The bill creates a new Article 7-c of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, expanding the applicability of the current receivership law to the entire state of New York. The bill authorizes each local government the option to initiate receivership proceedings. Additionally, the law is amended to allow receivership to be sought when there is a property maintenance condition that threatens the public's health, safety and welfare.

Addressing nuisance real property issues is frequently a difficult task in the instances when property owners and landlords are completely unresponsive to criminal and/or civil enforcement proceedings. Frequently, effective remediation may only be achieved by having a receiver appointed who has full legal authority to address the nuisance and unsafe conditions. Far too often tenants are in a position where they voice complaints about the condition of their rental to their landlord with no remedy or response. This bill aims to be another option for municipalities and tenants to ensure a safe and well-maintained living environment.

Receivership seeks to address these difficult to resolve situations that plague our communities and neighborhoods. By providing this process as an option we provide another tool in the toolbox for local governments as we seek to prevent tenants from being evicted, having their lives disrupted, and helping to prevent or address blight in the community, and potentially avoid future demolitions. This legislation builds on the efforts that I have undertaken as a legislator (and former Mayor) to improve code enforcement in our communities to raise quality of affordable housing and the bill I sponsored last year that was enacted into law that shortened the redemption process for moving abandoned property into responsible ownership and reducing blight in our neighborhoods.

Please continue reading on my [blog here](#).

## IN THE NEWS

### *[In Focus](#)*

Tune into Spectrum News In Focus with Solomon Syed this Sunday at 10:30 AM or at 3:30 PM to see my interview on the COVID-19.

### *[Capitol Pressroom](#)*

The Capitol Pressroom aired an interview earlier this week with Judith Enck regarding the legislation I carry with Senator Neil D. Breslin to implement a ban on incinerating PFAS firefighting foam in New York due to the question of how public safety and health will be impacted. Listen to the [full interview here](#).