



WHAT'S INSIDE:

[*Thinking about the people behind the masks: A call for respect and understanding*](#)

[*“Ending Gun Violence In New York” – NYS Funding for Jobs, Resources, and Support*](#)

[*Swinburne Apartments Ribbon Cutting*](#)

[*NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Public Virtual Meeting Schedule*](#)

[*NYS Attorney General Reaches a \\$1.1 Billion Settlement with Opioid Distributors*](#)

[*Living Resources Awards Ceremony*](#)

[*Unity House 50th Anniversary*](#)

[*Capital District Latinos COVID-19 Vaccination Event*](#)

[*NYS Department of Labor Unemployment Benefits Update*](#)

[Thinking about the people behind the masks: A call for respect and understanding](#)

As we see people who continue to wear masks and will likely see increased mask usage, I wrote a [CivMix blog post](#) this week with a reminder for all of us to have empathy for others.

[“Ending Gun Violence In New York” – NYS Funding for Jobs, Resources, and Support](#)

This week, I joined New York State Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Sheila Poole, Senator Neil D. Breslin, Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Albany Common Council President Corey Ellis, City of Albany Councilman Jahmel K. Robinson, Albany Common Councilmembers, Albany County Legislature Chair Andrew Joyce, and other local elected officials to discuss “Ending Gun Violence in New York.” We need to take a multi-faceted approach to address the root causes of violence and must provide support to our community members to address all of the factors that lead to violence. New York State is dedicating resources to employment, mental health support, substance abuse treatment support, family crisis support, and youth programming.

The full press release is available here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-501-jobs-available-risk-youth-capital-region-following-gun-violence>

[Swinburne Apartments Ribbon Cutting](#)



The [Swinburne Apartments are now a reality on Central Ave in Albany](#). Over ten years in the making, this workforce-to-market-rate apartment community is now a reality and it includes two commercial spaces utilizing smart growth principles. Pleased to see community partners Equinox, Inc. and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center included in this effort which was the result of a mix of funding that Senator Neil D. Breslin and I advocated for as part of our state housing funds and health care funds. The Beverwyck neighborhood in Albany had the lowest percentage of individuals participating in the health care system due to limited providers - it was a health care desert. Tapping NYS Department of Health Funds to address health care disparities, we have brought providers to the neighborhood. Often officials talk about expanding housing and health providers, and this is an example of seeing results. I am pleased to join Senator Neil D. Breslin, Daniel McCoy - Albany County Executive, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and City of Albany Common Councilmember Alfredo Balarin in not just talking about an idea but making it happen.

[NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Public Virtual Meeting Schedule](#)

The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission has scheduled public virtual events on independent redistricting. The Capital Region virtual meeting is scheduled for August 2 at 2 PM. More information is available on the website at <https://www.nyirc.gov/>

and follow the IRC on Facebook or Twitter to stay up to date.

[NYS Attorney General Reaches a \\$1.1 Billion Settlement with Opioid Distributors](#)

As reported by [Bethany Bump of the Times Union](#), the \$1.1 Billion settlement with the three major distributors of opioids, which is part of a \$21 billion national settlement will be critical for prevention, treatment, and recovery for those struggling with substance abuse. This is why I was focused the last six months on sponsoring and passing the Opioid Lock Box legislation which was signed into law by the Governor a few weeks ago, just at the right time!

[Living Resources Awards Ceremony](#)



Pleased to be honored by Living Resources as the Legislative Supporter of the Year along with community individuals such as John Murray of Rose and Kiernan and John Bennett of CDPHP by Living Resources. Kudos to their great work especially during the pandemic where dedicated staff worked hard to make sure those individuals they served were

minimally impacted by the pandemic. They are the ones who should be honored!

[Unity House 50th Anniversary](#)

Senator Neil Breslin and I had the opportunity to [recognize Unity House on its 50th anniversary this week](#). Amazing story from the start only surpasses by the amazing work they do day in and day out for those in need throughout our region. I look forward to even greater days ahead.

[Capital District Latinos COVID-19 Vaccination Event](#)



I joined Capital District Latinos for another successful COVID vaccination event this week. The woman to my left finished her series and was very happy since she wanted to get the vaccine earlier but has had COVID twice with a hospitalization. She literally cried for joy to finish the series. Great stories for sure.

[NYS Department of Labor Unemployment Benefits Update](#)

On September 5, 2021, several Federal unemployment benefit programs will be expiring across the country, per Federal law.

The Federal benefit programs that will be expiring are:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

More information is available [here](#) on the NYS DOL Twitter Page.

