



Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes led the Assembly through one of the most productive sessions in Albany in recent memory while continuing her work for the people here in her district.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the newly appointed Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly I am proud to say this legislative session was filled with major victories for the people of New York, including significant accomplishments for social and economic justice. I, along with my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate, was able to pass one of the most progressive agendas ever.

The final state budget included significant increases to school aid, made higher education more affordable, kept property taxes in check, restored funding for municipalities, boosted economic development, invested in agriculture and our farmers, protected the environment by banning the use of most carryout plastic bags by 2020, funded early voting, increased funding to combat opioid addiction, expanded access to childcare, strengthened healthcare, and restored funding to help our veterans.

Among the numerous legislative accomplishments of the 2019 session were the long awaited passage of the DREAM Act, the Green Light Bill, the Reproductive Health Act, the Gender Identity and Expression Non-Discrimination Act, the Child Victim's Act, and the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Additionally, the Legislature passed legislation to end cash bail for most defendants, reform the discovery and speedy trial process, establish historic rent and tenant protections, provide robust anti-discrimination and sexual harassment laws, prohibit conversion therapy on minors, end the "gay and trans panic" defense, implement new protections for farmworkers, and many more important measures.

Unfortunately, lawmakers failed to pass the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). The fight for marijuana justice and the MRTA is not over. One important step the Legislature took was to pass legislation that will prevent the unnecessary arrests of people for minor marijuana possession and expunge the records of hundreds of thousands individuals convicted of low level marijuana possession in the past. The enforcement of past marijuana laws has mostly impacted people of color, and this is an important first step to correct these wrongs.

It has been an amazing first year as Majority Leader. I look forward to continuing to hear from you, my constituents and community stakeholders, to help me fight to improve the quality of life for the residents of Buffalo, Western New York, and the entire State.

Sincerely,

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

Legislative Lane

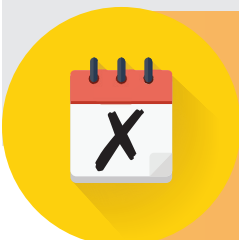
Bills That Passed Both Houses

- A.916:** Requires the Department of Corrections to provide inmates with educational information about the prevention of HIV upon discharge
- A.951:** Implements speed violation monitoring systems in school speed zones by means of photo devices in the city of Buffalo
- A.1204-A:** Relates to HIV post-exposure prophylaxis and other health care services for sexual assault victims
- A.1564:** Creates a permanent environmental justice advisory group
- A.1772-A:** Requires the assessment of a banking institution's record of performance in communities to be in writing
- A.1779:** Identifies the criteria the commissioner of environmental conservation should consider in publishing a list of high local environmental impact zones
- A.2969-A:** Prevents prescription drug formulary changes during a contract year
- A.4949-B:** Moves the election of members of the board of education of the Buffalo city school district to November rather than May
- A.7131:** Relates to an exemption for a certain property from the prohibition of alcohol sales within a certain distance from a church
- A.7496-A:** Relates to procurement contracts awarded by the Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- A.7547:** Relates to a quorum of the advisory council on lead poisoning prevention
- A.7863:** Extends the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor commission in Buffalo for one year
- A.8420-A and A.8432:** Relates to expunging the records for certain proceedings and modifies the definition of smoking

Criminal Justice Circle

New Reforms

I'm very proud of our continued work on criminal justice reform. This session we passed critical criminal justice reform legislation and provided funding. The passage of these pieces of legislation will help ensure justice for all regardless of background or socioeconomic status by expediting trials, eliminating cash bail for low-level offenses, and updating antiquated discovery laws. Additionally, the following changes were made: reducing the maximum sentence for a misdemeanor to 364 days, expanding the Rape Shield law to include sex trafficking crimes, removing certain mandatory bars to employment and licensing, requiring expanded reporting by law enforcement agencies on the use of force, limiting the public disclosure of arrest photographs, except when needed for legitimate law enforcement purposes, requiring the removal of inaccurate information from criminal history record reports, and other key reforms.



Cannabiz 103
Saturday, September 21st
10 am
Lecture Hall, Medaille College
18 Agassiz Circle

Wills & Estate Workshop
****Attendees must call to register for Intake Session.****
Intake: Saturday, October 12th
Execution: Saturday, November 16th
Location: Schiller Park Senior Center
2057 Genesee St.
Buffalo, NY 14211

Development Drive

NYS Housing and Community Renewal Projects Bringing Main Street Back to Life

Fifteen downtown Buffalo properties will get some long overdue building repairs thanks to \$500,000 from the New York Main Street Program grant from the New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal and the New York State Housing Trust Fund.

The projects include:

- **710 Main Street:** opening up the box office to improve visibility
- **664 Main Street:** Reconfiguration of the doors on the south, north, and west sides of the building
- **639 Main Street:** Repair exterior of Bijou Grille, masonry repair and cleaning, window glazing and new glass
- **622 Main Street:** Repair terracotta façade. Part of larger project to convert floors 3-5 to residential
- **11 Genesee:** Buffalo Urban League, replacement of all windows facing Genesee Street and Roosevelt Plaza
- **517 Washington:** Remodel one apartment and new roof
- **510 Washington:** Ventilation equipment and hood for restaurant space to bring up to code
- **468 Washington WNYBAC:** Repair masonry to accommodate new windows and improve restrooms
- **487 Main Street:** Update and renovate first floor to bring up to code
- **483 Main Street:** Upgrade elevator and add new awnings
- **478 Main Street/Mohawk Building:** Restoration of Main Street façade
- **410 Main Street:** Restoration of historic façade
- **300 Main Street:** Repair façade and replace window columns
- **110 Pearl Street:** Structural improvements and replace cornices
- **250 Main Street:** Repoint, seal, and waterproof, and various exterior repairs

M&T Bank Moving Technology Hub to One Seneca Tower

M&T Bank reached an agreement with developer Douglas Jemal to locate its technology hub at One Seneca Tower. The bank will occupy a significant number of floors in the vacant 38-story tower near Canal Side. The move is expected to accommodate 1,000 employees. Workers could start moving into the building as early as late fall 2019. The renovation of the tower could be complete by late 2020.



Central Library Gets a Reading Park

Construction is underway on a new Reading Park adjacent to the Downtown Central Library at the corner of Broadway and Washington. The Reading Park will feature added walking paths, public art, green space, a poetry garden, performance stage, and a variety of functional amenities.

Along with the Reading Park, the library is getting a number of significant updates, including brand new color controlled LED lights to illuminate the façade of the building. Library grounds will also get new plantings that attract pollinators like butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. The Reading Park is scheduled to open at the end of July.



New Grocery Store and Housing Coming Downtown

Ciminelli Real Estate Corp. recently received the necessary Planning and Zoning Board approvals to move forward with plans to build 201 units of affordable housing in a new residential building that will rise seven stories along Oak Street and five stories along Ellicott. It will also construct a single-story Braymiller urban market of 21,640 square feet – 9,280 square feet would be for retail and the remainder for wholesale. The development site is the surface parking lot on Clinton St. between the Central Library and NFTA Bus Terminal.



New Additions to Hertel Avenue

John and Ruth Daly are investing \$7 million to develop the vacant corner at 1585 Hertel (corner of Parkside Ave.) into a five story apartment building that also features retail and office space. The project was made possible thanks to the \$30 million Better Buffalo Fund as part of the Buffalo Billion. Construction is scheduled to be completed by 2020. Other major projects recently completed along Hertel Avenue include Lexington Co-Op Market at 1678 Hertel Ave. and Dash's Market at 1770 Hertel Ave.



Elim Townhouses Groundbreaking for Affordable Houses

In February I joined Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Mayor Byron Brown, and Buffalo Common Council President Darius Pridgen in breaking ground on the new Elim Townhomes. The \$10.7 million project will transform the former Central Park Plaza into a 30-unit affordable housing complex. State financing for the project includes federal low income housing tax credits that will generate \$6.7 million in equity and an additional \$3 million in subsidy. Elim Townhomes is the first project developed by the Elim Community Development Corporation and Elim Christian Fellowship Church.

Transportation Trail

The Thruway Authority Launches Customer Service Sessions

The Thruway Authority is now offering Cashless Tolling Customer Assistance Sessions at its WNY Welcome Center located at 1999 Alvin Road in Grand Island. Thruway Authority staff will be on hand Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm to 6pm throughout the summer to offer assistance to customers. You can get help for things like: unpaid bills, resolving violations from unpaid bills, and updating your E-ZPass account. Customer Service can also be reached by phone at 1-844-826-8400.

The current ticketed system will be transformed to cashless tolling and implemented statewide to the entire Thruway system by the end of 2020, at a cost of \$355.3 million.

New Exchange St. Amtrak Station Is Underway

The new Amtrak station on Exchange Street will be 4,800 square feet, nearly triple the size of the current 1,700 square foot facility. An expanded waiting room and a Taste NY food kiosk are some of the highlighted amenities. A design-build team of Hohl Scrufari Train Station, LLC (HSTS) was selected. The HSTS team is a joint venture with Hohl Industrial Services, Nichols Long & Moore, Scrufari Construction, Mott MacDonald & Urban Engineering, and Foit-Albert Associates, Architecture, Engineering and Surveying PC. Demolition of the old structure and construction of the new facility are underway and expected to be complete by summer of 2020 at a cost of \$27 million.



Allen Street Reconstruction Project

The \$5 million construction project is currently underway on Allen Street between Main Street and Delaware Avenue. Crews are busy transforming the street by repairing the waterline, widening the street, putting in bike lanes, adding new lighting, trees, and

benches. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed this year, the second phase is scheduled to begin Spring 2020. For information and updates on the project you can go to the website allenstreetcomplete.com.

LaSalle Station Getting Renovations

I joined Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, NFTA Executive Director Kim Minkel, and Senator Tim Kennedy to tour the NFTA LaSalle subway station. Senator Kennedy and I helped secure \$100 million from the state for some long overdue repairs to the crumbling light rail system. An additional \$6 million will go toward laying the groundwork to extend light rail service to Amherst and the UB North Campus.



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The Future of the Central Terminal

I recently interviewed with my friend Airborne Eddy Dobosiewicz about the past, present, and future of Buffalo's historic Central Terminal. We talked about the importance of the iconic structure to the community and Empire State Development's \$5 million towards restoration efforts starting Fall 2019 to return the concourse and restaurant to its former glory. The interview was part of a special documentary on WKBW-TV. On July 13th, the Terminal celebrated its 90th anniversary by hosting an event sponsored by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, M&T Bank, Central Terminal Restoration Corporation, Senator Kennedy, my office and many others. The festivities included activities and performances by local arts and cultural community groups.

Academic Avenue

The Class of 2019

I had the honor and privilege of being the commencement speaker for two high school graduations here in the City of Buffalo - Tapestry Charter and City Honors. Tapestry has been providing a high quality education to a diverse group of students since 2001. The school does an amazing job of preparing kids socially and academically for the challenges of the future. City Honors is one of Buffalo's magnet schools that offers Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. City Honors is consistently ranked as one of the best high schools in the state and the nation. Congratulations to all the graduates of the Class of 2019.

Say Yes Buffalo Named a P-16 Community by Gates Foundation

On July 11th, Say Yes Buffalo celebrated the announcement that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation selected them as a P-16 Community, awarding Say Yes Buffalo \$2.9 million. In partnership with Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo State College, SUNY Erie, Medaille College, the University at Buffalo and Villa Maria College, Say Yes Buffalo will launch new initiatives to help Buffalo students make successful transitions from high school to college and ultimately complete a postsecondary certificate or degree.



CAO Provides Youth Entrepreneur Classes

Young people are now learning the ropes of running a business as part of the Community Action Organization's Youth Entrepreneur Marketplace (YEM). Before students take their products to the streets they go through eight weeks of workshops to learn about things like branding, marketing, and budgeting. Thanks to the CAO's YEM program these young adults are learning the importance of owning and running their own businesses, building wealth, and reinvesting in their community. Interested participants can call 716-332-3773.



The Ralph C. Wilson Explore and More Children's Museum Opens at Buffalo Canal Side

Children are our future. That's why I was proud to join Governor Cuomo, Lt. Gov. Hochul, Mayor Brown, my colleague Assemblyman Sean Ryan, and Mary Wilson for the opening of the Ralph C. Wilson Explore and More Children's Museum. This fantastic museum will attract 250,000 visitors to Buffalo's Canal Side to learn more about our most precious natural resource, our waterfront, in a fun and educational way. The \$29 million project was made possible thanks to the generous support from the state and the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation.



Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center

I, along with Mayor Byron Brown and other local elected officials, joined community activists and family members to honor the legacy of Beverly Gray. Gray was a local elected official and East Side community activist who worked tirelessly for her community. The resource center named after her will honor her spirit by helping entrepreneurs and small business people succeed. The amazing portrait is a constant reminder of Gray's commitment to her community and her city.



HSBC Bank Donates to AAVM

In June HSBC Bank presented members of the African American Veterans Monument Committee (AAVM) with a \$50,000 check towards the building of a one-of-a-kind monument along Buffalo's waterfront that honors African-American Veterans. HSBC's contribution brings the total funds raised to \$1.44 million, about 93% of our goal. The target date for opening the memorial is 4th of July 2020.

425 Michigan Avenue, Suite 107, Buffalo, NY 14203



**Assemblywoman
Crystal D.
Peoples-Stokes**

Community News

Summer 2019

PRSRRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



A Wrinkle In Time
August 7 / 6:30-8:30pm
Rain Date: Wednesday, August 14

FREE

**FAMILY
MOVIE NIGHT**

Hosted by
**Majority Leader
Crystal Peoples-Stokes**

MLK PARK
(by the basketball court)



**Spiderman:
Into the Spiderverse**
August 21 / 6:30-8:30pm
Rain Date: Wednesday, August 28

Bring Lawn Chairs and Blankets

Food Trucks Will Be On Site