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Welcome

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Summer is here! Festival Season is in full gear, I hope everyone is staying safe, having fun, and enjoying this lovely weather!

It's time for my post-legislative session newsletter. I'm proud to report to you on the progress I've been making as a community servant and the New York State Assembly Majority Leader.

I look forward to your input and working with you, my constituents, and community stakeholders to help me fight to improve the quality of life for the people of Buffalo, Western New York, and the entire state.

Protecting Consumers

FAIR Business Practices Act

The Fostering Affordability and Integrity through Reasonable Business Practices Act protects New Yorkers from a wide variety of schemes and scams, including deed theft, data breaches Artificial Intelligence-based schemes and more. This the first update of New York's consumer protection law, GBL section 349, in 45 years.



Upcoming Events 2025



AUGUST 6
MLK Park (near MLK Casino/Pool)
Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, NY 14211
5:30pm - 8:15pm



AUGUST 20
North Park Theatre
1428 Hertel Ave.,
Buffalo, NY 14216
6:30pm - 8:30pm



AUGUST 13
William Emslie YMCA
585 William St., Buffalo, NY 14206
6:30pm - 8:30pm

AUGUST 27
Buffalo Central
Terminal Great
Lawn
495 Paderewski Dr.
Buffalo, NY 14211
6:30pm - 8:30pm



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
at Main-Bailey Parking Lot, University at Buffalo South Campus,
3435 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214



Assembly Majority Leader
Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



This event is free!
Join us for a fun and eco-friendly event where you can safely dispose of your unwanted paint! Don't miss this opportunity to declutter your space and contribute to a greener environment.
Registration is required. Simply sign up and secure your spot. We'll be accepting various types of paint, from latex to oil-based, so bring them all! A team of experts will be on hand to guide you through the process and ensure everything is properly recycled.
For all events, we ask that attendees stay in their cars. Event staff will direct you to drop-off lanes where we will unload everything for you. This ensures a safe and efficient process.
Spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join in. Together, let's make a positive impact on our community and the planet. Don't forget to mark your calendars for this exciting event!

Registration: <https://circular.eco/event/UB2025>

Accepted Materials: ☒

- ▶ Urethanes
- ▶ Oil-based and Latex-based Paints
- ▶ Acrylic Paint
- ▶ Varnishes, Shellacs and Lacquers
- ▶ Primers
- ▶ Clear Coatings

Not Accepted: ☐

- ▶ Spray Paints
- ▶ Household Hazardous Waste
- ▶ Electronics
- ▶ Paint Thinner
- ▶ Driveway Sealers
- ▶ Marine and Auto Paints

For more information on this event or any other community concern, please contact the Office of Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes at peoplec@nyassembly.gov (716-897-9714)

Legislative Lane

Peoples-Stokes' Bills Already Signed Into Law

- **AI 177** – Extends for one-year provisions of law providing flexibility in the sale of municipal obligations by Erie County. **[Chapter 135 of the Laws of 2025]**
- **AI 675** – Clarifies a provision of law related to former names and aliases within the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision’s electronic record-keeping applications. **[Chapter 62 of the Laws of 2025]**
- **A2734** – Extends for one-year provisions of law providing flexibility in the sale of municipal obligations by the City of Buffalo. **[Chapter 149 of the Laws of 2025]**
- **A3009C, Part TT (BUDGET)** – Authorizes the City of Buffalo to impose an occupancy tax of up to three percent per room per night. **[Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2025]**
- **A3006C, Part JJ (BUDGET)** – Established the City of Buffalo Parking Authority and provides for its powers, duties, and obligations. **[Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025]**

Peoples-Stokes' Bills That Passed Both Houses

- **AI 195A** – Requires that health insurance policies provide coverage for follow-up screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer; and that no patient cost sharing shall be imposed for such follow-up screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**
- **A4759A** – Improves and streamlines the medical cannabis program for patients, practitioners, and registered organizations. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**
- **A7613B** – Provides alternative pathways to become certified as a certified public accountant by updating the education requirements for people who want to become CPAs. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**
- **A7617** – Removes the prohibition on patient participation in multiple organ transplant programs in New York State. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**

- **A7753** – Extends for two-years Erie County’s authority to impose additional rates of sales and compensating use taxes. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**
- **A7861** – Provides police officers employed at Erie County Medical Center to elect to transfer into a new, twenty-five-year retirement plan. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**
- **A8289** – Strengthens the authority of Indian nations to protect their lands from unauthorized occupation, illegal dumping, criminal enterprises, including drug trafficking, and unpermitted business operations, and formalizes state-tribal cooperation in criminal law enforcement. **[Awaiting delivery to Governor]**

Other Significant Legislation Passed by the Legislature

The enacted State Budget will improve educational outcomes and school experiences by providing universal free meals for all students and establishing a “bell to bell” restriction of smartphones or other internet-enabled personal devices in K-12 schools across the state.

The enacted State Budget included \$8 billion to eliminate the Unemployment Trust Fund debt which will alleviate payments for thousands of small businesses and raise unemployment insurance payments for workers.

The Legislature passed the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which will put critical safety standards in place for artificial intelligence frontier models, including creating a safety plan to prevent severe risks and disclosing major security incidents. **[A6453-B/S6953-B, Awaiting delivery to Governor]**

The Legislature passed an omnibus bill to make a series of changes to New York’s corrections system, improving safety for incarcerated individuals, and promoting transparency and accountability. **[A8871/S8415 – Awaiting delivery to Governor]**

Development Drive



Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes with the first residents of the newly built Perry Homes Complex in Buffalo.

Regan Development plans to demolish the former Voelker’s Bowling Alley at 47 E. Amherst St. and erect a three-story 134-unit apartment building called Amherst Commons Apartments. The \$26 million project would feature a 139,281-square-foot building with 91 one-bedroom, 34 two-bedroom and nine three-bedroom units. Twenty units are reserved for households earning 50% of the area median income, while 99 are for households at 60% AMI. The project also includes supportive housing units, with support from Community Services for Every1.

Playter Gardens at the Market includes redevelopment of 37 vacant City owned parcels on Playter Street between Paderewski Drive and Broadway in and adjacent to the Broadway-Fillmore Historic District. The project will result in 73 new residential units in a mix of 2- to 3-story single-family dwellings, four, six and eight unit stacked dwellings, and a 33-unit stacked dwelling for a total of 11 buildings. The units will be affordable for those whose income are at or below 50-60% of AMI as well as provide support services for youth 18-25 years old that have aged out of foster care and are at risk of homelessness. The main building will house support services and amenities for the residents

which include a community room adjacent to a community park, a fitness room, computer and game room.

On July 1st, the newly rebuilt **Perry Homes Complex** welcomed its first tenants. 27 vacant buildings were demolished over one year ago to make way for new development on the property. With a \$225 million investment from the state, 405 new units are being built. Affordable housing continues to be an issue the state is finding solutions for.

The Salvation Army of Buffalo held a groundbreaking for the redevelopment of its three-acre campus along Main Street in Allentown in early March 2025. The kickoff celebration for the Hope on Main Emergency Family Shelter is the first of the three-phase, \$100 million project.

The development will include a seven-story 147-unit apartment building that will include studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units with the ground floor of the seven-story building consisting of common areas and amenities for the residents as well as program and administrative space for The Salvation Army. 2,238 sq.ft. of commercial space is proposed at the north end of the apartment building.

The emergency shelter will be comprised of 32 units for the 80 beds, and the ground floor will house program spaces to support the shelter residents along Main Street (phase I).

The Salvation Army will also construct 16 two-story townhouses along North Pearl Street. The townhouse units, gathered in groups of 3-4 units, provide a residential scale along North Pearl Street and the Allentown neighborhood. All of the townhomes are three-bedroom units.

The Hope on Main Phase II and III includes:

- The construction of 143 one- and two-bedroom permanent affordable housing apartments for families on Main Street with wrap-around services on the first floor, and 17 three-bedroom townhomes for larger families in need on North Pearl.
- The construction of the East Buffalo Salvation Army Church and Community Center, which will be home to a chapel, offices, an after-school program, summer camps, a youth mentoring program, gymnasium, fitness center, client choice food pantry, a kitchen, dining areas, and a music program.
- And the establishment of an operations endowment to ensure the sustainability of the Hope on Main projects for years to come.



Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes is joined by Governor Hochul, New York State Attorney General Letitia James and Buffalo Urban League President and CEO Thomas Beauford during the Juneteenth parade in Buffalo.



Caucus invitees gather at the Million Dollar Staircase in Albany during Caucus weekend.



Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes speaks with Buffalo Bills Owner Terry Pegula outside the new Buffalo Bills stadium in Orchard Park, NY.



Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes speaks at a Buffalo Urban League backpack and laptop giveaway in Buffalo.

Resource Road		
Legislative Initiative Funds		
AFRICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF BUFFALO, INC.	COMMUNITY RECREATION,AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CRIME PREVENTION	\$90,000
ARTS SERVICES INITIATIVE OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.	ART INSTRUCTION VIA LOCUST ST.ART, EAT OFF ART, BUFFALO ARTS STUDIO, AND BEAU FLEUVE ART FESTIVAL	\$40,000
BACK TO BASICS OUTREACH MINISTRIES	BACK TO BASICS OUTREACH - PEACEMAKERS STREET ENGAGEMENT	\$260,000
BUFFALO CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY	YOUTH EXPOSURE TO CAREER PATHWAYS, SUMMER PROGRAMMING	\$20,000
BUFFALO FUNK FEST FOUNDATION, INC.	MUSIC FESTIVAL	\$10,000
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S MARTIN HOUSE RESTORATION CORPORATION	ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NECESSARY TO EXPAND ITS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION	\$10,000
JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL, INC.	FESTIVAL SECURITY,YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING	\$15,000
METRO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	COMMUNITY RECREATION,AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CRIME PREVENTION	\$50,000
MVP - MOST VALUABLE PARENTS OF BUFFALO	PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION	\$15,000
NORTHWEST BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.	COMMUNITY RECREATION,AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CRIME PREVENTION	\$60,000
PAPPY MARTIN LEGACY JAZZ COLLECTIVE, INC.	MUSIC FESTIVAL	\$10,000
PRESERVATION BUFFALO NIAGARA	BUFFALO'S EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXTUAL STUDY FINAL REPORT	\$20,000
PRIDE CENTER OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.	PRIDE CENTER OF WNY, GLYS, AND PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL	\$20,000
TECHBUFFALO, INC	EXTRA-CURRICULAR STEM DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION FOR TECH CLUB COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING	\$20,000
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.	COMMUNITY RECREATION, AFTERSCHOOL,SUMMER YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CRIME PREVENTION	\$50,000
WESTERN NEW YORK LAW CENTER	SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROJECT	\$35,000
Capital Projects		
Mental Health Services - Erie County South East Corporation V (dba Spectrum Health and Human Services)	Construction and continued renovations at 1280 Main St.	\$4,000,000
Buffalo Arts and Technology Center, Inc.	Design and construction of the interior learning space at 368 Sycamore Street	\$500,000
T.O.P Enterprises, Inc.	Design and construction of a fine arts community center and gallery space	\$500,000
Buffalo City School District	Purchase and installation of A/V equipment at the Buffalo School for Visual and Performing Arts	\$135,000
City of Buffalo	Restoration and reconstruction of the MLK Jr. Park restrooms	\$300,000
Buffalo Go Green, Inc.	Installation of heated concrete flooring, as well as for the purchase and installation of hydroponic gardens, electrical, insulation, plumbing, and HVAC systems for the Manhattan Avenue campus	\$500,000
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation	Purchase and installation of lighting and AV equipment, as well as for upgrades to electrical and structural systems	\$160,737
Robert Coles House Foundation	Renovation and reconstruction of the Robert Coles House located at 321 Humboldt Pkwy.	\$250,000
Group Ministries	Construction of 2nd Floor for additional office space for expansion of opioid intervention programming	\$100,000

Technology Terrace



Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes speaks at the graduation of the 1st cohort from Per Scholas Buffalo.

BCAT Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology has a two-fold mission and offers two high quality, tuition-free programs under one roof: The Youth Arts Program (YAP) and the Adult Workforce Program (AWP).

BCAT serves approximately 120 youth during the school year and approximately 50 more during the summer 6-week session. BCAT youth attend the free program daily from 3pm-6pm and may select from classes in sound engineering, theater, hip-hop dance, music, photography, visual arts or digital media.

The Adult Workforce Program delivers on BCAT’s mission by addressing the training and life skill needs of those who have lost their way and are looking for new careers. BCAT offers nine-month courses to become either a Pharmacy Technician, Medical Coder, Sterile Processing Technician or

Phlebotomist. Both Sterile Processing and Phlebotomy are their two newest programs, put into place to address the needs of those 18–24-year-olds who do not go directly to college and are looking for a path into the healthcare field. Adult Day Program students are in classes from 9am-3pm daily and must complete a 6-week internship program to successfully graduate. Night classes run from 5:30pm-8:30pm twice a week.

TechBuffalo

The assignment: Use Minecraft to design a dream version of students’ neighborhoods. Within minutes, blocks are flying, skyscrapers are rising and kids who never thought of themselves as “techy” are suddenly using logic to explain the how and why behind their designs.

Launched with the crucial support of the 43North Foundation and Microsoft, the Innovation Fellowship program is our bold next step. This initiative will recruit dedicated K-8 educators from the Buffalo Public Schools and surrounding districts in Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties to become pioneers in tech-infused education. These Fellows will receive specialized training, classroom resources and stipends, allowing them to bring future-ready skills to their students – at no cost to their schools.



Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes speaks at a SUNY event during the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus weekend in Albany.

Community

Reddybike expansion. In its 10th year, the Reddy Bikeshare network consists of 128 stations and 520 bikes across Buffalo and Niagara Falls. About 20% of the fleet are Reddy+ Bikes, pedal-assist e-bikes. For East Side residents, a full year pass will cost just \$3.

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Assemblywoman
**Crystal D.
Peoples-Stokes**

Community News

Summer 2025

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Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes at the legendary WUFO Radio in Buffalo.



Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes speaks at the opening of 82-J Dispensary in Buffalo.