



# Assemblywoman STACEY PHEFFER AMATO

Legislative and Community Report for the 23rd Assembly District

YEAR AT A GLANCE 2022

*Dear Neighbors,*

I'm proud to represent you in the New York State Assembly and will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of Ozone Park, Lindenwood, Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel, Breezy Point, Roxbury, Neponsit, Belle Harbor, Rockaway Park, Rockaway Beach, Arverne, Edgemere, Bayswater, and Far Rockaway.

2022 reaffirmed what we already knew about our community: that we are resilient, strong, and will always come together during times of adversity. Whether it be the ending of Covid-19, fighting for stronger public safety, securing money for our schools, or expanding programs to our veterans, no matter what is going on; I am committed to making our neighborhood a safe and healthy place to live, work, and raise a family.

Inside this edition of the Summer 2022 Legislative and Community Report for the 23rd Assembly District are updates from over the past year, and other items that might be of interest. Your thoughts and input on issues are valuable to me, and I welcome your viewpoints. Please feel free to contact my office by phone or email, and sign up for our regular email updates by sending a note to [amatos@nyassembly.gov](mailto:amatos@nyassembly.gov) or by calling my office at 718-945-9550.

Sincerely,

Stacey Pheffer Amato

Member of Assembly, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNITY UPDATES



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato Visiting the Torah Academy for Girls' New York State Fair

### Investing in Education

Schools are not just places to learn, they are communities that help our children grow, develop new skills and find interests and passions that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. From Pre-K to graduation day, and onto college or trade school, education is a critical step to building a bright and successful future. Through the NYS budget my office has voted to secure:

- \$31.5 billion in total School Aid for School Year 2023, the highest level of State aid ever; and
- \$34 million in capital funding for libraries; and
- Passing A10018, known as Alyssa's Law, which requires schools to consider silent panic alarm systems as part of their school safety plans; and
- \$58 million for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs in private and non-public schools, a record level of funding; and
- \$150 million to expand TAP to those studying part time to cover students enrolled in six or more credits (expected to help at least 75,000 students); and
- \$53 million each for SUNY and CUNY for additional full-time faculty



Pheffer Amato with Students of MS 202 at the Start of the American Softball Season



Pheffer Amato Planting Shoreline Shrubs with Volunteers in Edgemere

### Protecting Our Environment

Preserving the environment for future generations is one of the most critical issues of our time, and we have continued to take action to preserve and protect our environment throughout the last year. Through the budget and in legislation, we secured more funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), set new standards for the environment and secured record funding for environmental infrastructure. Some of that information includes:

- \$4.2 billion for the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act\*; and
- \$400 million for the EPF; and
- Passing legislation like A5390 to create new conservation standards and A2412 which plans for the purchase or lease of zero emission vehicles for state-owned vehicle fleets; and
- \$500 million investment to develop the State's offshore wind supply chains and port infrastructure, (estimated to create 2,000 new jobs)

\* The \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act is set to be on the ballot for a vote this November in order to help reduce flood risks, protect shorelines and improve water quality





Pheffer Amato Marches with Veterans in Broad Channel During Memorial Day Parade

## Honoring Veterans and Protecting First Responders

Our country is eternally grateful for the brave men and women who choose to protect and defend our city, our nation, and the freedoms we enjoy. The budget and legislation passed helps ensure that Veterans and our first responders get the essential support they need.

This included:

- Formalizing the Division of Veterans' Services elevation to the Department of Veterans' Services to be completed in 2023, allowing for more funding and resources; and
- Extending the Hire-a-Vet tax credit and increasing the credit from 10% to 15% of wages paid to non-disabled Veterans (20% for disabled Veterans); and
- Allowing volunteer fire departments to bill insurance companies to recover costs of providing ambulance services, allowing volunteer fire departments to recover \$100 million statewide for providing these services; and
- Providing \$1 million to study incidences of leukemia in many 9/11 first responders at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; and
- Passing A1310 establishing the Korean War Commemorative Medal, A357 creating the Vietnam War Commemorative Medal and A6551 which requires specific reserved bed days at New York State Veterans' Homes for Veterans and their immediate families



Pheffer Amato Addresses Public Safety with NYPD in Ozone Park

## Strengthening Transportation and Infrastructure

This year the legislature invested billions of dollars in strengthening and repairing crumbling public transportation in our state including:

- \$1 billion for the revolutionary 'Operation Pave Our Potholes' Program; and
- An increase of \$757 million to the MTA; and
- Suspension of the State sales tax imposed on fuel from June-December 2022



Pheffer Amato Joins Cooking Program with Students at Waterside School for Leadership

## Supporting Our Businesses

Small businesses and the people they employ have been particularly impacted by the events of the past few years. Through the budget we were able to put these hardworking entrepreneurs at the forefront! The legislature has worked to help small businesses grow by including measures like:

- \$1 billion investment in the state's small businesses:
  - Including \$250 million in tax-credits for businesses to offset their expenses incurred from complying with COVID-19 safety protocols; and
  - \$100 million in tax relief for small businesses to help them keep their doors open (expected to help over 195,000 small businesses)
- New property-tax credit for 2.5 million eligible residents earning less than \$250,000



Pheffer Amato Chats with Seniors at a Golden Age Event



## Defending Affordable Healthcare, Public Health Programs, and Mental Health Resources

Healthcare has never been more important, and people need and deserve the ability to see a doctor and be cared for. That's why ensuring access to quality healthcare, public health programs, and mental health resources has become even more crucial. This year the state legislature passed bills and funded programs that would:

- Increase home care worker wages by \$3 per hour which will ensure the growth of the workforce by 20 percent over the next five years; and
- Allot \$2.4 billion to be directed to improving healthcare infrastructure and \$3.9 billion in funding to provide aid to hospitals struggling financially from the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Expand postpartum coverage for all individuals eligible for Medicaid while pregnant from 60 days to one year after they give birth



Pheffer Amato Distributes Covid-19 Tests to Keep the Community Healthy

## Appointed to New Commission on the Future of LIPA and PSEG

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato was appointed to the new legislative Commission to analyze and decide the future of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), which encompasses PSEG, the known provider of electrical power to the Rockaway Peninsula. The Commission will be able to investigate and craft potential reforms that LIPA, and it's subsidies like PSEG, would respond to in the areas of transparency, overall operations, electrical rates, storm response and many other areas in an effort to create needed change.



NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie Joins Pheffer Amato on a Tour of Jamaica Bay

## It's A Law!

The Governor signed Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato's bill, A7734, creating a first of its kind Commission to prevent childhood drowning. The Commission and its work are set to begin soon and provide our State with revolutionary answers and guidance to help prevent drowning.



Pheffer Amato Advocates for Water Safety

## Legislative Success

This year our office had tremendous success with legislation, ranging from increasing environmental protection in Jamaica Bay, providing options for women after a mastectomy, to improvements on horseracing and deductible triggers for hurricane windstorms.

<b>A10188</b>	Strengthen regulations and protecting Jamaica Bay
<b>A8537</b>	Provides coverage and information on chest wall reconstruction surgery, also known as aesthetic flat closure, after a mastectomy or partial mastectomy
<b>A7508</b>	Relates to the improvement of operations in thoroughbred racing
<b>A950</b>	Establishes standards for hurricane windstorm deductibles



Pheffer Amato Speaks at a Press Conference on Legislation





Pheffer Amato Speaks with Parents



Pheffer Amato Joins Detective Reddick and Her Family at the Halloween Parade in Howard Beach

## Mobile Office Hours

Throughout the summer our office will be holding Mobile Office Hours where you can visit us and relay your concerns directly to my office, or just stop by and say hello. For more information on when and where our events will be follow me on Twitter @Stacey23AD, on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AssemblywomanStaceyPhefferAmato/](https://www.facebook.com/AssemblywomanStaceyPhefferAmato/), call my office at 718-945-9550 or sign up for my newsletter at [amatos@nyassembly.gov](mailto:amatos@nyassembly.gov).

Below are the dates, time and locations of the first batch of Mobile Office Hours:

**Tuesday, September 6th (4 pm – 5:30 pm)**

*Peninsula Library, 92-25 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Rockaway Beach*

**Thursday, September 8th (5:30 pm – 7 pm)**

*Howard Beach Motor Club, 59 Russell Street, Howard Beach*  
**\*\*\*Before New Hamilton Beach Civic Association Meeting**

**Monday, September 12th (5:30 pm-7 pm)**

*Bayswater Jewish Center, 23-55 Healy Ave., Bayswater*  
**\*\*\*Before Bayswater Civic Association Meeting**

**Tuesday September 13th (11 am – 12:30 pm)**

*JASA Senior Center—  
 Brookdale Village, 131 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway*

**Thursday, September 15th (2:30 pm – 4 pm)**

*Food Emporium, Lindenwood Shopping Center, 82-35 153rd Ave.,  
 Howard Beach*

**Thursday, September 22nd (12 pm – 1:30 pm)**

*JASA Senior Center, 106-20 Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway Park*

**Thursday, September 29th (3 pm – 4:30 pm)**

*Tudor Park, 82nd Street and 133rd Avenue, Ozone Park*

**Thursday, October 6th (3 pm – 4:30 pm)**

*Howard Beach Library, 92-06 156th Avenue, Howard Beach*

**Tuesday, October 11th (4:30 pm – 6 pm)**

*Wavecrest Shopping Center, 239 Beach 20th Street, Far Rockaway*

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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



Assemblywoman  
**Stacey  
 Pheffer Amato**

*Legislative and Community  
 Report for the  
 23rd Assembly District*  
**YEAR AT A GLANCE 2022**

## ASSEMBLYWOMAN STACEY PHEFFER AMATO

*Assistant Majority Whip, New York State Assembly Majority Conference*

**Rockaway District Office:** 95-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Rockaway Beach, NY 11693 • 718-945-9550

**Howard Beach District Office:** 162-38 Cross Bay Blvd., Howard Beach, NY 11414 • 718-641-8755

**Albany Office:** Room 542 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4292 • **Email:** [amatos@nyassembly.gov](mailto:amatos@nyassembly.gov)

**f** <https://www.facebook.com/AssemblywomanStaceyPhefferAmato/> **t** @Stacey23AD

**Web:** <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Stacey-Pheffer-Amato/>

**If you have any concerns, please reach out to us and we will assist you:**

**Chief of Staff:**

Gregory Slade – [sladeg@nyassembly.gov](mailto:sladeg@nyassembly.gov)

**Deputy Chief of Staff:**

Jason Greenberg – [greenbergj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:greenbergj@nyassembly.gov)

**Director of Constituent Services:**

P'nina Gluck – [gluckp@nyassembly.gov](mailto:gluckp@nyassembly.gov)

**Education Specialist/Community Liaison:**

Irene Dougherty – [connollydoughertyi@nyassembly.gov](mailto:connollydoughertyi@nyassembly.gov)