

Reports to You

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Khaleel M. Anderson



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My office wishes you a festive winter! I am honored to serve Assembly District 31. As 2022 concludes, I want to reflect on previous months. This past year I have advocated for commonsense gun laws to keep our communities safe, funded mediation training to reduce conflict, and hosted a Community Conference on utility assistance.

Winter is coming so I would like to remind everyone government programs are now open for applications. The School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners. The Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) provides a reduction of 5 to 50% on New York City's real property tax to seniors aged 65 and older. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps eligible New Yorkers heat their homes and opened in November. All applications for these programs will close in March 2023. Our Far Rockaway office on 19-31 Mott Ave., Far Rockaway, 11691 will accept appointments for HEAP applications starting December 2nd, 2022. Please call us at 718-327-1845 to arrange an appointment.

Our office hosted in-person events this past summer and fall. Our office launched our second Summer Mobile Office throughout the community. Government agencies, nonprofits, and services joined us for six visits to hear directly from residents. September was the 20th Annual Senior Appreciation Month when elected officials in Southeast Queens host a series of events to honor our elderly. October was the 10th Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, a somber chance to reflect on the past and my plans to protect against future hurricanes. The sections below highlight these events in detail.

I would also like to address recent Supreme Court rulings which overturned Roe v. Wade and New York State's Concealed Carry law. I am opposed to these decisions, but the Legislature and I passed legislation to address these concerns. Abortion rights as a State Constitution amendment passed, kick-starting a multiyear process that will eventually put this question to voters statewide. Commonsense gun laws were strengthened, like raising the age limit to buy semi-auto rifles to 21, strengthen red flag laws and close loopholes on things like high-capacity magazines. I know this is crucial as our communities suffer from an epidemic of needless violence, where our youth are vulnerable and we suffer from horrific hate crimes, such as the one in Buffalo that took 10 African-American lives. I denounce all hate crimes, including the summer assaults and vandalism against my South Asian American neighbors in South Ozone Park and South Richmond Hill.

As part of my effort to reduce and de-escalate preventable violence, my office, in partnership with Community Mediation Services and Full Gospel Tabernacle, launched the Edgemere Community Mediation Program in June of 2022. Our inaugural program provided Edgemere and Arverne community leaders and residents with tools for mediation, conflict coaching, and restorative process. Participants trained to be better communicators capable of diffusing discord, disagreement and tempers. I know conflict is inevitable and will always be with us. How we choose to respond to conflict depends on our approach to resolving our issues and disagreements, which determines our ability to coexist. This program concluded in November 2022.

As the City reopens, I urge people to be vigilant of the flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and new COVID variants. The City has braved monkeypox, polio, and the Omega variant of COVID. If you reside in Assembly District 31 and need PPE, call us at 718-322-4958 or 718-327-1845.

Our office is dedicated to continued service, resource sharing, and collaboration. I encourage us all to take care of our mental health and emotional well-being as the seasons change. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Khaleel M. Anderson  
Assemblymember  
31st District

## SUPERSTORM SANDY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

### Stronger After Sandy

#### Touring Assembly District 31 with Governor Hochul

My fellow elected officials and I welcomed Governor Kathy Hochul to the 31st Assembly District as we toured businesses, and spoke to merchants and residents. She announced the creation of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, which will coordinate emergency responses for future hurricanes, rebuild after disasters, and build future resiliency.

I was thankful that at my request, she greeted and offered condolences to the family of the late Jayjon Burnett, a 15-year old killed due to senseless gun violence a few short weeks ago.



#### Small Business Recovery

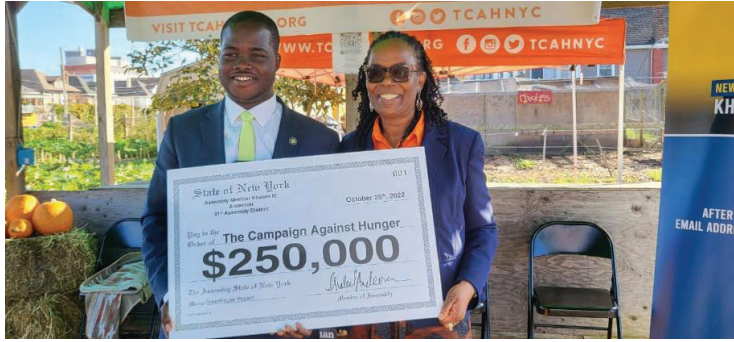
I requested State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to conduct an economic review and breakdown of the Rockaway Peninsula. This report revealed an optimistic outlook which shows the economic resiliency and recovery of our communities after the Great Recession, Superstorm Sandy, and the pandemic.



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## The Campaign Against Hunger Greenhouse

I allocated \$250,000 to fund the installation, materials, supplies, and staffing of a greenhouse with The Campaign Against Hunger to ensure fresh produce grows all year long. My goal is to develop a self-sufficient and food-sovereign system for Far Rockaway to ensure our residents have expanded access to healthier foods and streamlined food networks, while empowering local youth with agriculture training and development.



## Citizens' Preparedness Training

I hosted an Emergency Training Session on Saturday, October 29. Representatives from the NYC Office of Emergency Management, The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the National Guard heard concerns from residents about their experiences during Superstorm Sandy, including the need for a more proactive response on evacuation for future hurricanes. Attendees also received a survival kit to use for emergencies. As your Assembly Member I am committed to ensuring Assembly District 31 stands stronger after Superstorm Sandy.



## Queens Defenders Emergency Food Warehouse

I also allocated \$150,000 for the construction and rehabilitation of a food warehouse storage facility with Queens Defenders for their food distributions. This is my investment in our local food supply infrastructure to eliminate food apartheid, ease distribution of fresh produce and ensure the Peninsula has an emergency food stockpile against future Superstorm Sandys.



## Climate Justice Tour with Department of Environmental Conservation

I welcomed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Deputy Commissioner Adriana Espinoza and Region 2 Director Patrick Foster on a tour of Jamaica Bay in Far Rockaway and the Idlewild Preserve in Springfield Gardens. The tour was to show the living experiences Southeast Queens endures under climate change, with flooding and coastal hazards, while advocating for more funding.



## SENIOR APPRECIATION MONTH

The 20th Annual Senior Appreciation Month was marked with a Press Conference with my fellow elected colleagues! This yearly event celebrates our elders and their wisdom. My office held the following events in September:



## Wise Walking Warriors Program

Our "Wise Walking Warriors" program returned for another year in Springfield Park and Far Rockaway. Last fall, our program was the highest attended senior fitness course citywide. This year grocery store tours were added featuring tips on picking fresh food and a healthy nutrition element.



Our Senior Health and Wellness Resource Fair at Beach 67th and the Boardwalk featured blood pressure screening, dental care, nutrition, and free giveaways.

The "Time to Spare" Senior Bowling Day was packed with nearly two dozen of our beloved seniors from across Assembly District 31. Participants enjoyed bowling, refreshments, and goodie bags full of resources.



We were joined by 20 pet owners - and 7 dogs - at our Furry Friends Festival featuring pet wellness, animal care and goodie bags of food, leashes, tags, and PPE at Cardozo Park.

## Boogie Night

More than 50 seniors from across the district joined our Senior Boogie Night Disco Party at Brookville Park in Rosedale as we danced the night away!



# SUMMER MOBILE OFFICE HOURS



**OUR FIRST** mobile office was in Rosedale. We heard back from residents whose concerns included fixing roads, illegally parked tractor trailers, improving Snake Road, and the need for additional stop signs to combat speeding.



**OUR SECOND** mobile office was in Springfield Gardens. Residents were concerned with COVID, loud music, and other quality of life issues. We were joined by Zach and his team from Maxsip Telecoms, a provider of free internet and tablets through the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a federal program that provides access to the internet.



**OUR THIRD** mobile office was a massive resource fair in Arverne! We heard directly from 100-plus residents who voiced their concerns over quality of life issues. In attendance were various city agencies and nonprofits to address these issues.



**OUR FOURTH** mobile office was in South Ozone Park. We had representatives from the OATH, Buildings, and Sanitation to hear and answer questions and cases.



**OUR FIFTH** fantastic mobile office took place again in South Ozone Park! Representatives from Sanitation, Transportation, Buildings, Maxsip Telecommunications and Liberty Dental joined us to provide testing kits, bags, resources, and other goodies to members of the public.



**OUR FINAL** mobile office concluded in Far Rockaway with PSE&G, St. John's Episcopal Hospital, CUNY Citizenship Now and Liberty Dental engaging residents.

# EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT



We allocated \$100,000 in funding for a new van for Ocean Bay CDC! This van will enable residents' easy transportation across the Peninsula.



My staff and I had the honor of sharing morning tea with members of the Sikh Cultural Society in South Richmond Hill. We enjoyed flitters, Ghugni, and tea while hearing firsthand about the needs of our Punjabi and South Asian population here in Southeast Queens. I stand with our South Asian brothers and sisters as we seek to address quality of life issues and hate crimes.

## EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT (CONT'D)



I was honored and surprised to receive a Recognition Award from the Trinidadians and Tobagonians USA Organization here in South Ozone Park during the 60th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago independence.

I am always looking for ways we can continue to uplift and center our diverse Caribbean community. We are proud to continue to partner with this organization and many others to do the work!



This year's Queens Carnival on August 27th represented the entirety of the Caribbean at the festival with floats, music, and more!



My staff and I toured the Idlewild Park Science Center located in Springfield Gardens. Barbara Brown is our local environmental expert who has dedicated her life to educating our youth and community on nature and the wetlands here in Southeast Queens. The Center is home to a series of workshops, films, other events, and a group of reptiles.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

I would like to announce the creation of the Legislative Advisory Council (LAC). The purpose of LAC is to provide ideological, individual and community support around the Legislative priorities set forth by the Office of Assemblymember Khaleel M. Anderson.

For the 2023 Legislative Session our three primary priorities are:

1. Food Apartheid
2. Housing Insecurity
3. Structural Violence

Our Legislative Director Mone't Schultz serves as the Chair of the Legislative Advisory Council and is responsible for ensuring working groups are effectively meeting to ideate solutions, research policy, and garner support for legislation. For more information please contact [schultzm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:schultzm@nyassembly.gov).

19-31 Mott Avenue, Suite 301  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

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Assembly Member  
**Khaleel M.  
Anderson**

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**Khaleel M.  
Anderson**



### Follow your Assemblymember on social media:

**Facebook:** Assembly Member Khaleel M. Anderson

**Email:** [AndersonK@nyassembly.gov](mailto:AndersonK@nyassembly.gov)

**Website:** <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Khaleel-M-Anderson>

### District and Satellite Office Hours:

Mondays – Thursdays: 10 am – 4:30 pm; Fridays: 10 am – 3 pm

#### District Office:

19-31 Mott Avenue, Suite 301  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
718-327-1845

#### Satellite Office:

131-15 Rockaway Boulevard  
South Ozone Park, NY 11420  
718-322-4958

After Hours Phone Number: (917) 426-6199