

# 2023 YEAR-END REPORT



THE LATEST INFORMATION, ACHIEVEMENTS, & UPDATES  
FROM ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 31

PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE OF NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**KHALEEL M. ANDERSON**



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

***A WORD FROM THE  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER*** 03

***GREETING FROM FROM THE  
TEAM*** 04

***LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS*** 05

***COMMUNITY OUTREACH &  
FUNDING INITIATIVES*** 06

***CONSTITUENT SERVICES  
REPORT*** 07

***CONSTITUENT SERVICES  
HIGHLIGHT*** 08

***THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS*** 10



## A WORD FROM THE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

I am honored to present this report to you with my office's 2023 end-of-year accomplishments in Assembly District 31 as well as the opportunities for collaboration and continued advocacy and forward progress in the days ahead.

This report highlights accomplishments of Assembly District 31 and opportunities for further work, particularly for the communities represented in Neighborhood.

Please accept our report and let us know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Khaleel Anderson". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**KHALEEL ANDERSON**  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 31



From left to right: Karl A. Valere; Chief of Staff, Khaleel M. Anderson; Assemblyman Khaleel M. Anderson, William Bao; Office Manager, Mone't Schultz; Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Shantelle Atkinson; Constituent Liaison, Porcher Summers; Director of Constituent and Support Services

## GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM

The Office of New York State Assembly Member Khaleel M. Anderson is committed to uplifting and empowering the neighborhoods of the 31st Assembly District, which may be geographically isolated but share common issues such as housing, infrastructure, health and human services, economic relief, climate justice, and public safety.

We recognize the importance of working collaboratively with community leaders and local organizations to address systemic issues and create transformative change. We strongly believe in a model of co-governance through joint events, advocacy efforts, and community outreach programs to achieve our collective vision for a better future.

Please call or email our office to schedule a meeting to discuss potential collaborative opportunities. We value the expertise and contributions of our beloved community, and we look forward to working hand-in-hand with you to improve our neighborhoods for future generations.

# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

## PRIME & CO-SPONSORED BILLS INTRODUCED

A bill may be filed by any 150 members of the New York State Assembly and generally more than one legislator will sponsor a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the "prime" sponsor. Those thereafter are considered "co" sponsors.

As of June 2023, here are the prime and co-sponsored bill numbers

**Prime: 33**

**Cosponsored: 147**

Out of 33 bills, 4 bills have been passed in both the Assembly and Senate:

**A07272/ S06970 SANDERS:** Permits the submission of applications for banking development district designations regardless of the date the applicant opened, banks and trust companies need not have opened after December 31, 1996.

Signed by the Governor

**A07255/ S07057 BRESLIN:** Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions of law relating to excess medical malpractice insurance.

Signed by the Governor

**A05294/ S04862 COMRIE:** Establishes a captive insurance program for commuter vans that are engaged in the business of carrying or transporting eight to twenty-four passengers for hire; establishes the commuter van trust fund.

Vetoed by the Governor

**A06222/ S06647-A SANDERS:** Creates a banking development district working group to assess the banking development district program and provide an annual report to the governor and legislature on the strengths and weaknesses of such a program; defines unbanked and underbanked.

Vetoed by the Governor



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES

### **Seniors Health, Wellness & Recreation**

Our Wise Walking Warriors senior fitness and nutrition program leads all of New York City in attendance for senior health programming. partnership with Elizabeth Madison & Councilwoman Selvena Brooks-Powers, In September of 2023, my office also hosted the inaugural “Seniors At Sea” lunch cruise where more than 50 older adults from Assembly District 31 were treated to a joyful boat ride along the Hudson River.

### **Advocating for Better Public Transit in Southeast Queens**

In January of 2023, I rode the MTA bus across Assembly District 31 in an effort to raise awareness about the long and expensive commutes faced by riders in Southeast Queens. My office then partnered with the Riders Alliance to host a Transit Town Hall, and circulated a Community Survey on Transportation Equity and Access.

### **Barber Shop Mental Health Program**

Last Spring, my office launched a Barber Shop Mental Health Program which brought free mental health education and professional support to men and boys of color at our local barber shops. I am proud to have partnered with the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health to spearhead the first-ever such program by a lawmaker in New York State.

**Capital + Expense Funding Total = \$5,278,750  
From 2021 to 2023**



Issue Area	Funding Total
Arts, Music & Culture	\$80,000
Children, Family & Older Adult Services	\$974,000
Emergency Preparedness	\$190,000
Healthcare & Community Wellness	\$128,000
Housing	\$2,790,000
Food Insecurity	\$483,000
Schools & Education	\$445,000
Violence Prevention	\$188,750

**COMMUNITY  
FUNDING  
INITIATIVES**

Capital funding - Construction, improvement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of facilities owned by eligible entities, acquisition by eligible entities of equipment and other capital assets, including vehicles, in support of health, safety, technology, or innovation.

Operational funding - programmatic cost, employee wages, rent, utilities, marketing costs, Supplies, raw materials etc.



# CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPORT

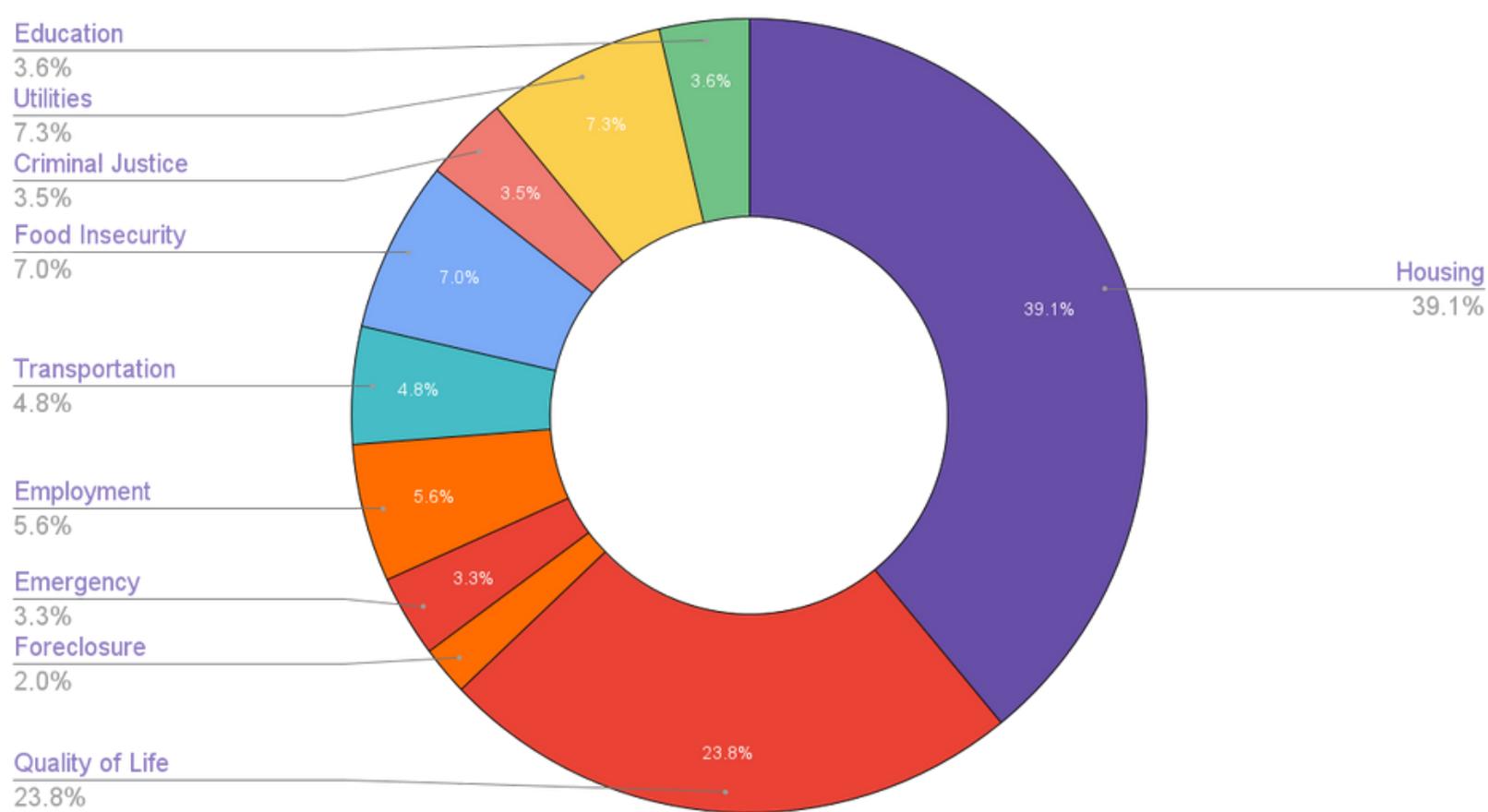
## 2300+ Constituents Engaged

Measured by phone calls, emails, appointments, referrals, and district wide outreach.

## 650 Constituent Cases

Measured by direct case resolution, transfers to non-profit partners, & referrals to City, State and/or Federal agencies.

### Issues Areas



39%

Housing

24%

Quality of Life

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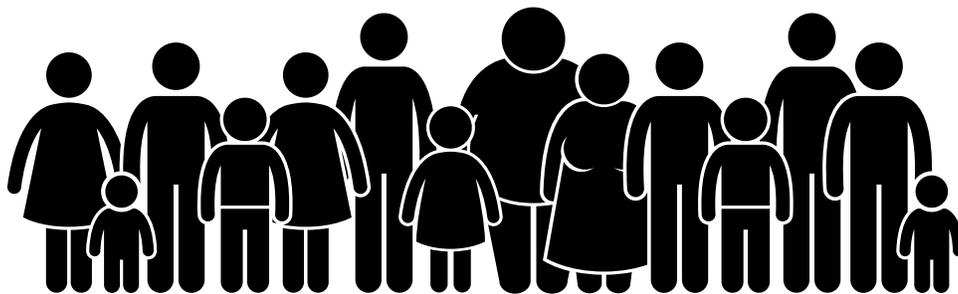
## CONSTITUENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

### **State and Federal Partnership Highlight: SNAP Benefit Theft:**

In July 2022, it was brought to my attention that many Far Rockaway residents had their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits stolen. This was a nightmare because many households were unable to provide food for their children and families. As such, I advocated day and night, and fought tirelessly with my colleagues in Albany and Washington, D.C. to get the state to reimburse the funds back to families that had their benefits stolen. After many discussions during the budget process, New York State created a fund to reimburse "skimming" victims, and a national push to include this fund as a permanent fixture was included in the U.S. Farm Bill. I worked closely with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and in August 2023, my office was notified that New York State would begin to reimburse the families that were victims of SNAP skimming crimes.

### **Community Empowerment Highlight: Arverne View Housing Clinic:**

In the early part of 2022, my office was informed that Arverne View would be increasing the rent for many of our low-income constituents. We partnered with the Tenant Association President, Kevin Morgan, who assisted with connecting our team to those affected. Many constituents were outraged because they were forced to deal with poor housing conditions, and the complaints to management fell on deaf ears. My office notified the Legal Aid Society about what was taking place, and partnered with the Legal Aid Society and NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development for a Town Hall at Arverne View on June 14, 2023. At this town hall, residents were informed about their rights as tenants and given steps on how to pursue legal action if needed.



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## CONSTITUENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS (PART 2)

### **Community Empowerment Highlight: Utility Support Services:**

On November 16, 2023 my office hosted a Health and Human Services Workshop at Springfield Educational Complex in partnership with HeartShare, National Grid, and Con Edison. We provided immediate housing and utility assistance to homeowners and renters living in Springfield Gardens, Rosedale, and South Ozone Park. The event was a huge success as many constituents walked away receiving same-day help with heating their homes, securing food & groceries, accessing mortgage and foreclosure prevention services, and paying their bills.

### **Community Based Organization Partnership Highlight: Free Legal Assistance, Tax Preparation & Food Distribution**

My office is proud to have partnered with the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) to provide free legal services for constituents at our South Ozone Park location. More than 500 residents received free legal assistance for issues such as immigration, tenant's rights, domestic violence, and healthcare. My office also partnered with Urban Upbound to offer free tax preparation services to more than 500 low-to-moderate income residents across the district. Our South Ozone Park location helped ensure that more than 300 of our "mainland" constituents from South Ozone Park to Rosedale to Springfield Gardens would have direct access to economic assistance and relief services. Lastly, our office partnered with ICNA Relief to distribute more than 200 packages of fresh produce and poultry to local families during the holiday season.





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 COMMUNITY AND AGENCY PARTNERS:

- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Urban Upbound
- CityParks Foundation
- Elizabeth Madison Nutrition/Wellness and Lifestyle Transformation Center
- Heartshare
- Public Utility Law Project
- Council for Airport Opportunity
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica
- NYC Commuter Van Association
- ICNA Relief
- Idlewild Environmental Science Center
- Cannaware Society
- Rockaway YMCA
- Regional Ready Rockaway
- Citizen Preparedness Corps
- Riders Alliance
- The Campaign Against Hunger
- St. John's Episcopal Hospital
- Arthur Ashe Institute For Urban Health
- New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
- National Grid
- Queens Defenders
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.
- Jerk King
- Flying 3Sixty NAX, Inc.
- Eastern Queens Alliance, Inc.
- Caribbean American Society of New York
- Legal Aid Society
- Cannabis Workforce Initiative
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- New York State Department of Labor
- New York State Office of Cannabis Management
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- NYC Department of Veterans' Services
- NYC Human Resources Administration
- Home Energy Assistance Program
- Mayor's Public Engagement Unit
- NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
- Queens Public Library
- Civilian Complaint Review Board

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