



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

October 3, 2019

District 61 News

Park Hill African Heritage and Cultural Festival

It was my pleasure to collaborate with members of various Staten Island African leadership organizations to unite for the inaugural Staten Island African Heritage and Cultural Festival. The Park Hill community was filled with African pride. Throughout the day, visitors experienced traditional African cuisine, clothing and culture as DJs played vibrant music. During the festival ceremony I presented certificates to several community leaders who have remained civically and culturally engaged for decades and highlighted the importance of participating in the 2020 census count.

Thank you to Borough President Oddo for officially declaring the last weekend in September as African Heritage Cultural Festival Weekend. Thank you to the many African leaders that worked diligently to ensure this event was a great success and the representatives from the NYPD community, US Census, Staten Island Veterans Center and MetroPlus for providing resources and activities at the festival. I look forward to engaging more community members and cultural groups at this annual event and other cultural events.





Community Board 1 Meeting

I attended a special Community Board 1 Meeting to speak out against the proposed development at Mount Manresa. This hundred-year-old property has already lost its nearly 400-year-old trees to a proposal to build over 160 housing units at the site. Many community members are calling for the halt of this project. I will continue to advocate alongside the Committee to Save Mount Manresa and my colleagues in government for the preservation of this land as a park and or a historical landmark.



Lifestyles for the Disabled

Lifestyles for the Disabled has served as a health center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 25 years. The organization develops programs that provide participants with suitable work settings and experiences within the Staten Island community and beyond. Each year, they serve over 400 adults and families on Staten Island. I am a proud supporter of all the wonderful contributions this organization brings to our community.



Guineans Succeeding in America (GSA) 4th Annual Conference

It was my honor to speak at the 4th Annual GSA conference held at the City College of New York. Hundreds of students, distinguished professionals, entrepreneurs and employers, were in attendance to discuss this year's conference theme 'Employment and Entrepreneurship'. It was a pleasure to share my career journey with those in attendance and emphasize the importance of education and professional development. Congratulations to the GSA for continuing to empower the Guinean-American community and introduce members of this community to variety of educational and career paths.



Updates from Albany

The second phase of the Raise the Age law went into effect on October 1, 2019.

Purpose: Phase two of Raise the Age seeks to create a fairer and more equitable justice system by removing 17-year-olds who have committed criminal acts from automatically proceeding as adults in the criminal justice system.

These youth will now be treated in age and developmentally appropriate ways and will receive needed services and treatment to avoid re-offending. Treatment will include:

- Specialized therapeutic programs
- Academic transition plans
- Substance abuse treatments
- Upon the age of 18, offenders who are transferred to a state prison will receive a transitional plan

Phase one of Raise the Age was implemented in 2018. Similarly, the legislation removed 16-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system. Raise the Age provides opportunities for diversion and community-based services for 16- and 17-year-old youth who can safely remain in their communities.

- When the court orders pre-trial or pre-sentencing detention, youth are now housed in one of six specialized and secure statewide detention facilities instead of in adult jails.
- Youth sentenced to less than one year may also be placed in specialized secure detention.
- Two Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) facilities have been adapted to house 16- and 17-year-old adolescent offenders with sentences longer than one year. The facilities provide services and programming specially designed for adolescent offenders.
- Raise the Age also provides for former justice-involved individuals to have their records sealed if they have remained conviction-free for 10 years.
- Since this provision took effect in October of 2017, over one thousand individuals have successfully petitioned the courts to have their cases sealed, thus removing barriers to employment, housing and other opportunities.
- **This provision does not apply to individuals sentenced for violent felony offenses, class A felonies, sex offenses or those with sex offender status.**

Raise the Age which was passed before I entered office allows 16 and 17-year-old children to be included in the juvenile system and give them greater access to crucial educational and technical training. I believe this will lead to better opportunities upon release and an increased chance for them youth to grow into responsible, productive adults.

Community Resources

New York City Request for Expression Information Opportunities:

NYC agencies frequently solicit Requests for Expressions of Interest (RFI) from interested vendors to collect written information about the capabilities of various suppliers to help decide on what steps to take next. The current RFI's are:

1. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

The EFAP was established in 1983 to address food insecurity by providing food (non-perishable and frozen), administrative funding (for non-food related expenses), and technical assistance throughout NYC, free-of-charge to community kitchens and food pantries that are members of the EFAP program. The Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (HRA) invites interested vendors to help inform future models of the emergency food program and is seeking industry perspective and feedback on different food distribution models the City can leverage to distribute food to over 600 food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the five boroughs.

The RFI must be submitted in writing and electronically by 2:00 pm on October 18.

2. New York City Burial Program

The NYC Department of Social Services (DSS) has released an RFI for interested vendors to help inform the expansion and redevelopment of the City's indigent burial program to address the need for respectful and responsible disposition of remains of indigent and unclaimed deceased NYC residents. Burial space is limited and in approximately 8 to 10 years, Hart Island will reach its maximum capacity.

DSS will also hold a public hearing on **October 24th from 4:00 pm until 6:30 pm** at 125 Worth Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium to provide the public an opportunity to comment on and make recommendations regarding changes to the laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures related to public burial.

The RFI must be submitted in writing and electronically by 2:00 pm on October 30.

For more information on both RFI's contact Anna-Kay Blackwood, eiscontracts@hra.nyc.gov

The Staten Island Children’s Museum is accepting nominations for its annual “**Kid of Achievement**” Award. The SI Children’s Museum’s **Circle of Friends Awards Luncheon**, now in its 28th year, recognizes people and organizations that have significantly contributed to the lives of Staten Island’s children. At the Luncheon, the Children’s Museum honors a “**Kid of Achievement**,” and is seeking nominations from the public.

- Children and teens up to age 17 who are involved in volunteerism, have overcome obstacles and challenges to help others and who display leadership qualities are what the “Kid of Achievement” award is all about.
- The public is invited to send their recommendations to the Children’s Museum by **Friday, October 11**. The **Nomination Form is available online** and should include the nominee’s name, contact information and a brief description of their accomplishments.
- Email jdudley@sichildrensmuseum.org for more information.

Love Your Block is an initiative of NYC Service and the Citizens Committee for New York City that provides a unique opportunity for neighborhood groups to transform and improve their communities through local action while leveraging City services.

- Resident-led volunteer groups are eligible for \$1,000 grants to help improve their block. In addition to the grant and City services, groups receive project planning and community building assistance as well as support with local media coverage for the project.
- Applications are accepted from volunteer-led groups based primarily in low-income neighborhoods in all five boroughs of New York City.
- **Apply here by: November 15**. Contact Di at DCui@citizensnyc.org or call 212-822-9563 for more information

The City Parks Foundation is offering funding via a **Capacity Fund Grant** for park group’s with ideas and efforts to improve NYC Parks. If you are an active community park group supporting an NYC Parks property in any of New York City’s five boroughs, you may be eligible to apply for a small grant of up to \$3,000 for park projects including events, tools, websites, and outreach materials.

- **Apply here by: November 15, 2019**

Community Events

- The City Parks Foundation hosts **Senior Fitness trainings** throughout the fall. Come out and get active in your neighborhood park! New Yorkers 60+ to participate in free tennis lessons, yoga and fitness walking in 16 neighborhood parks across the city. Activities take place twice a week for a six week period (**September 16 - October 25**) and all equipment is provided. Register the senior in your life today!
 - **The programs on Staten Island include:**
 - Tennis at Greenbelt Park on Monday and Friday at 12pm
 - Yoga at Faber Park on Tuesday and Thursday at 11am
 - Contact sports@cityparksfoundation.org or call [\(718\) 760-6999](tel:(718)760-6999) for more information
- The Forest Ave Business Improvement District is hosting a **Harvest Festival on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2-5 pm**. Forest Avenue will be closed from Bard Ave to Oakwood Ave. Dine at a local establishment and enjoy free and fun family activities.
- Join me, the Friends of Mariners Harbor and the New York Center for Interpersonal Development at a **Voting Expo on Saturday, October 26 from 11am – 1pm at Port Richmond High School**. There will be opportunities to register to vote, better understand civic engagement and participate in early voting. This interactive event will cover the basics while connecting new and seasoned voters to government resources. Free food will

be available!

- The Central Family Life Center will host a **Small Business Expo on Saturday, October 26 from noon - 4pm**. A variety of vendors, workshops and resources will be available to help with your unique business needs. Email Sylvia.byrd@ymail.com for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles D. Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

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