



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

June 6, 2020

District 61 News

A Call for Change, Unity, and Next Steps in the Face of Racial Injustice

Over 100 clergy members of different faiths, community residents and leaders, law enforcement and my colleagues in government joined me on the steps of Staten Island Borough Hall for a press conference to discuss the recent murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the negative effects of systematic racism on communities of color. All across America, in communities like the North Shore, residents are organizing peaceful protests, engaging in difficult conversations, and challenging the status quo about the level of accountability and transparency expected of police departments.

I am and will continue to be proud to stand with the residents of this district as we demand change in the battle toward justice, peace and a quality of life fit for any human being. I am committed to further proposing and voting on legislation that provides equitable opportunities for the next generation of youth including sensible criminal justice reform and voting in favor of budget allotments and initiatives that reinforce such laws. It is time for all communities to shoulder the burden of condemning racism, bigotry and divisive language when it is heard among friend groups, from family members, in workplace settings and more. There is nothing equivalent to the power of the people and we ALL have a role to play in this movement.



Thank you to my colleagues, Councilwoman Debi Rose, and Assemblyman Michael Cusick, the community leaders, faith leaders, residents-of all ages, and to the members of the NYPD for showing up during these trying times. We shall overcome.

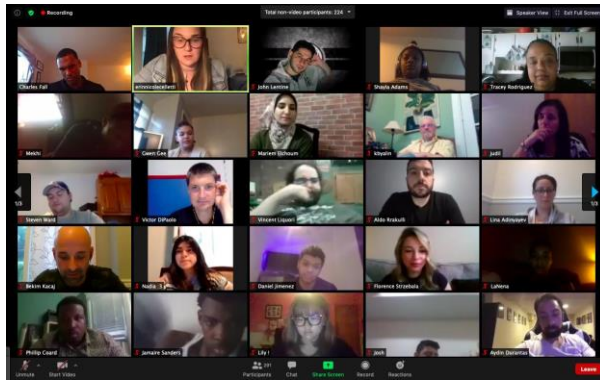
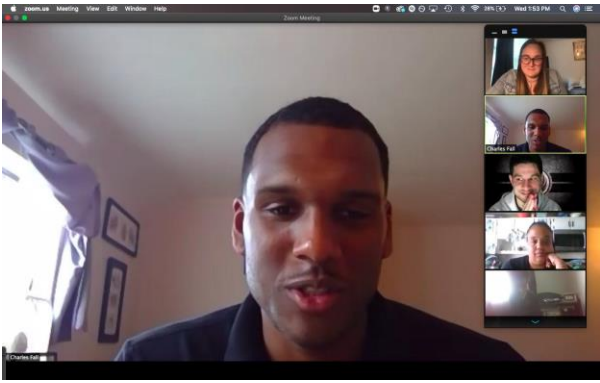


Virtual Q&A Session with High School Students at Integration Charter Schools (ICS)

I joined a video call with nearly 300 ICS high school students and teachers to discuss important current events in

our state and country. During our hour-long conversation, we discussed the different methods for the youth to use their voice and act on issues that matter most to them, including voting, protesting, and spreading

information to their family members and friends. 2020 has been a difficult time for young people in our community, particularly the graduating class of students whose academic journey at their current schools have been cut short. I am constantly inspired by the students' resilience, desire to learn, and their contributions to the most pressing conversations happening in our community. Thank you to the teachers and staff of Integration Charter Schools for encouraging this open dialogue between youth of Staten Island.



Positive Community Contributions

I would like to use this week's community contributions to highlight the Young Leaders of Staten Island, a newly formed organization that was established by several youth from the North Shore following the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and other Black individuals across the nation. Not only did these young leaders participate in Thursday's press conference at Borough Hall, where they offered words of wisdom to the community about the change they wished to see, but they also organized a peaceful protest across Staten Island. The nearly 3-hour long march, with more the 500 participants- most of whom were young activists of all races, was a call for unity and community among neighborhoods across the Island. These young leaders marched from Park Hill to the NYPD's 122nd Precinct stationhouse in New Dorp. We must continue to amplify the ideas, optimism and passion of the youth of Staten Island as we seek justice and peace for all.



Updates From Albany

Introducing Three Pieces of Legislation Related to Healthcare, COVID-19 and Civil Unrest Following the Death of George Floyd

Legislation Related to Civil Unrest

New introduction, awaiting a bill number; This bill amends the penal law, to establish the crime of travel to riot from out-of-state protestors.

- Applies to individuals that reside in other states coming into New York State to riot, cause vandalism or incite a riot. A new section would be put in place in current law reading, a person is guilty of travel to riot in the second degree making it a class E felony.
- A class E felony, is punishable up to the term and shall be fixed by the court and will not exceed four years.
- This legislation would also add a fine for;
 - First offense - \$2,500
 - Second offense - \$3,000
 - Third offense - \$5,000

It is very clear that emotions and tensions are at an all-time high in the wake of George Floyd's senseless death. However, rioting, vandalism, and acts of violence will not solve our differences. Although this applies to New Yorker's, we cannot stand for individuals traveling to New York for the purpose of rebelling and destroying our communities that only seek to have peaceful demonstrations.



Introducing Legislation Related to Covid-19

Bill A.10470, amends the public health law, in relation to procedures for the closure, relocation or decertification of a diagnostic and treatment center.

- The operator of the health facility would have to notify the Department of Health in writing, 120 days prior to any closure, relocation or decertification.

- The operator of the health facility would also be required to submit a proposed plan on the closure, relocation or decertification for an evaluation by the Commissioner of the Department of Health.
- The operator would also be required to notify all patients and would have to comply with approved a plan until all prior patients have been notified.
- As part of the final approval of closure, relocation or decertification, the operator and the Department of Health would have to agree upon a target relocation or closure date.
- If the operator fails to notify the department or patients of the intent to cease operations, fails to submit a plan for closure or relocation they may face civil penalties.

This legislation was inspired by the untimely and unannounced closing of the West Brighton CityMD urgent care facility back in March, at the start of Coronavirus outbreak. There are many regions throughout New York State that do not have access to public hospitals, including Staten Island, many residents rely on diagnostic and treatment centers for a wide variety of medical services. These services include physicals, injury related diagnosis and care, rapid lab tests and screening, pediatric care and women's wellness needs for some of the most vulnerable residents.

During the current escalation of this healthcare crisis, the temporary or permanent closing of these facilities is a dangerous disservice to surrounding communities. Having residents who may be elderly or lack reliable transportation to travel to alternative facilities during heightened social distancing, stay at home orders, or any other circumstance is detrimental to the well-being of all New York residents.



Bill A.10476, amends the general municipal law, in relation to line of duty sick leave for first responders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any police officer, firefighter, medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic who was exposed to and tested positive to the pandemic virus shall be granted a line-of-duty sick leave starting on the date they are diagnosed or began displaying symptoms of a pandemic virus.

- The employee would be compensated at his or her regular rate of pay and such leave of absence would be granted without loss of accrued sick leave.
- The employer would be forbidden from taking any adverse personal action against an employee as long as the employee demonstrates proof that he or she was exposed to the virus on the job or allows disclosure of medical records as proof to work-related line of duty contraction.

The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated that during any crisis or pandemic, first responders are essential to supporting our communities as civilians' shelter-in-place. They are often needed out in the streets or in our health care facilities interacting with healthy and sick New Yorkers.

EMS workers are struggling to keep up with the influx of 9-1-1 calls, police departments are facing a worst-case scenario with large numbers of the workforce out sick or in quarantine, and already-short-handed fire departments are keeping communities safe amid volunteer shortages. We need to do everything we can to assist these brave men and women who help our communities, especially during a crisis.

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community During COVID-19

1. **NYC's curfew is set between 8pm to 5am until Sunday, June 7, 2020.**
 - Exceptions to the curfew include first responders, essential workers, individuals seeking medical treatment/supplies, homeless, individuals and members of the press.
 - **Find answers to your frequently asked questions related to curfew.**
2. **NYC has reached 5 of the 7 regional COVID-19 metric goals needed to begin phase one of the NYS Reopening Plan. NYC is scheduled to enter phase one on Monday, June 8.**
 - Phase one will allow the re-opening of essential and non-essential construction, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, retail, manufacturing, and wholesale trade businesses.
 - Governor Cuomo announced outdoor dining at restaurants will be permitted in phase two of reopening. Outdoor tables must be spaced six feet apart, all staff must wear face coverings and customers must also wear face coverings when not seated. **Click here for guidelines on Outdoor and Take-Out/Delivery Food Services.**

- **Dentists' offices reopened across NYS on Monday, June 1.** Please note that offices will be subject to safety and social distancing guidelines. **[Click here for guidance on dentists' offices.](#)**
3. With the launch of the City's **Test & Trace Corps initiative**, the Mayor announced a universal COVID-19 testing criteria **for all New Yorkers**. The Test & Trace Corps, will allow the City to safely separate and care for those who test positive for the virus, and then rapidly track, assess, and quarantine anyone they came into contact with and may have infected.
 - New Yorkers with positive results are now receiving calls within 24 hours by a Tracer. Anyone safely isolated at home will be offered meal delivery, medication and essential services through a Resource Navigator. **[Anyone unable to safely separate at home will be offered a free hotel room; Click here to learn more, or call 1-844-692-4692.](#)**
 - Be part of an effort to re-open our communities by joining the **NYS Contact Tracing Initiative** by applying to be a **[contact tracer, team supervisor, or community support specialist.](#)** **[Click here for more information about how you can help.](#)**
 4. **Medical schools statewide will be allowed to reopen on June 22**, following appropriate precautions, in order to safely prepare for and welcome new cohorts of medical students this summer and fall.
 5. **Summer day camps statewide can open on June 29**, and a decision on sleep-away camps will be made in the coming weeks.
 6. **New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Updates:**
 - As of Monday, June 1, state-run DMV offices are processing vehicle registrations and other transactions by mail, and as of June 4, they have started accepting transactions through secure drop boxes located at each office. **[Click here for specific information about services offered by county-operated offices.](#)**
 - **Commercial Driver License (CDL) road tests will begin to resume in all regions that are in at least phase 1 of reopening.** All road tests will be conducted with strict safety requirements in place; DMV road test examiners will wear gloves, face shields and have hand sanitizer, and customers must wear masks and will be screened prior to beginning the test.
 - Customers whose road tests were canceled because of COVID-19 will be given priority for rescheduling, and DMV staff began outreach to those customers on June 1. **[Click here to schedule a reservation for CDL tests.](#)**
 - Road tests and reservations for Class D (passenger vehicles) will not be available at this time.

7. **Helping Small Businesses:**

- The Mayor’s Fund has secured \$500,000 in initial funds, thanks to SOMOS Community Care, to support a Small Business Emergency Grant Program for small businesses who were impacted by looting and experienced damage to their storefronts. These Business Emergency Grants of up to \$10,000 per business will be offered to help with recovery including repairs, security systems, locks and more. The City will also provide access to emergency legal assistance and insurance claim support. More details to come
- A Dedicated Business Restart Hotline, **888-SBS-4NYC (888-727-4692)**, was launched for any small business in need of help or guidance on Phase 1 of the reopening. **Industry employer guides are also available here.**

8. **Helping Workers:** A 311 Worker Protection Hotline will launch Monday, June 8. Workers who call 311 will be connected to the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection for immediate assistance.

9. **Outdoor Dining:**

- The State announced a plan for outdoor restaurant seating starting in Phase 2 of reopening. To help restaurants rebound, DOT and NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) will streamline the permitting process for sidewalk seating.

10. **NYC BOE Absentee Ballot:** Registered NYC voters can request an absentee ballot for the June 23 elections. **Click here to request an NYC absentee ballot.** Registered voters should request their ballot by June 16.

11. **Alternate Side Parking (ASP) will be suspended for two weeks through this Sunday, June 7.**

12. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**

- The New York State Department of Health has **created a map where individuals can find all of the State run testing sites.**
- If you have any of the following symptoms, go to an emergency room or call 911:
 1. Trouble breathing
 2. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 3. New confusion or inability to stay awake
 4. Blue lips or face
- Antibody Testing for New Yorkers: **Complete this survey to schedule an appointment: Antibody Testing Appointment Survey** or call 888- 279-0967. Please utilize the website, to keep the hotline free for those without internet access.

- Staten Island Location: St. John’s Villa, 57 Cleveland Place

13. The NYC administration has launched a **Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, available at (844) NYC-4NYC.** New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions

about Coronavirus can call to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from **9 am - 9 pm.**

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak

1. The NYC Department of Education is facilitating **Hygiene Product Distribution**. Sanitary products will be available to the public at the DOE Meal Hubs across the city because they are a necessity - not a luxury.
North Shore pick-up location:
 - I.S. 61 located at 445 Castleton Avenue
 - **[Click here for updates on pickup locations](#)**
2. **Cooling Assistance Benefit**. As the weather heats up, Access NYC has released the application for the Cooling Assistance Benefit. Through this benefit, individuals and families can receive air conditioners and fans. **The deadline to submit applications is August 30, 2020. [For more information and to see if you are eligible, click here.](#)**
3. The **NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund** supports nonprofits and community groups of all sizes with grants that support essential maintenance, stewardship, public programming, and management of parks and open spaces across the five boroughs. **Community groups are eligible for grants up to \$1,500.**
 - Community groups with budgets typically \$10,000 or less must apply by **June 12. [Click here to find the application.](#)**
4. The **State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance** released a document in response to frequently asked questions about the **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits. [Click here to find more information.](#)**
5. **The NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is working to provide New Yorkers with emergency expense aid.** Individuals may apply for emergency financial help to prevent eviction, pay their energy or utility bills, or buy health-related items. Residents can apply to the NYC Human Resources Administration for a one-time emergency grant, also called the "One Shot Deal." **Call (718) 557-1399 for more information.** Eligibility includes all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.
6. **NYC Burial Allowance Application.** Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Office of Burial Services (OBS) assist individuals in need of financial assistance to meet funeral expenses for a deceased low-income New York City resident. Payment may be authorized to reimburse funeral expenses that have already been paid or pre-approval for payment may be authorized for the cost of a planned funeral.
 - **[View the application for Burial Allowance and find out more about what HRA will cover.](#)**

- **Contact a city agent as 929-252-7731.** Callers are encouraged to leave a message and an OBS staff member will return their call.
7. **Small Business Resources:**
- **Small Business, Nonprofit COVID-19 Relief** helps provide free legal counsel and financial aid guidance from the SBLRA, an alliance of law firms and legal service providers. **[Click here to find more information.](#)**
 - **The New York Forward Loan Fund** is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. **[Click here to access the application.](#)**
 - **USA Small Business Administration** has established **[a Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources webpage.](#)**
 - **Moving New York Forward: Business Reopening Plan.** NYS will allow non-essential businesses to reopen on a **regional and industry-specific basis**, as each region meets the criteria necessary to protect public health. Essential businesses can continue operating – to check if your business is designated as essential, **[visit the guidance page here.](#)**
8. **Free Legal Help** is available for notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more:
- **City Bar Justice Center.** **[Learn more here.](#)**
 - **Lawyers Alliance.** For non-profit organizations only. Virtual consultations on SBA loans. **[Click here to register.](#)**
 - **The New York State Bar Association** helps jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits if their claim has been denied. **[Click here to find out more information and request support.](#)**
9. The **NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center** offers free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If you know someone who is personally impacted by problem gambling and looking for help in Staten Island, **[click here for more information,](#)** call (929) 955-3062, or e-mail **newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org**.
10. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** is a federal program that offers temporary unemployment assistance to those who are unemployed, partially employed, or unable to work because of COVID-19 and are not currently eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
- For more information, please refer to the NYS Department of Labor's **[PUA Fact Sheet here.](#)**
 - **[Click here to apply for PUA or Regular Unemployment Benefits and follow the instructions.](#)**

11. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. **The Staten Island NYC Family Justice Centers is still operating virtually.** Victims and survivors in NYC can get help directly by **calling 718-697-4300 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.**

12. **Groceries and Meals:**

- The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men’s Initiative (YMI) have opened a Nutrition Kitchen (food pantry) to **distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it.**
- The Staten Island Kitchen located at **340 Bay Street operates Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-noon. Call 718-876-8660 for more information.**
 - **Click here to find a location** near your home distributing meals for free. Hours and locations on this map are subject to change.

Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

1. Join the **Muslim Sisters of Staten Island and Empowerment Zone today, Saturday, June 6 from noon to 3pm at 225 Park Hill Avenue.** Come get a hot Halal meal, a toy for a child, complete the Census, and register to vote all in one location!



2. **New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer** is hosting a series of **Tenants Rights Information Sessions** with the Legal Aid Society to provide updates on the NYS Eviction Moratorium, Housing Court cases and what resources are available when you cannot pay rent. **Click here to register for a session on Wednesday, June 10 at 7pm or Tuesday, June 16 at 11am.**

Comptroller Stringer will also be hosting a **small business focused M/WBE University Webinar Series: Resiliency and Recovery Post-COVID between June and October**. These Zoom presentations will explore topics from COVID recovery resources and best practices with Minority Depository Institutions to doing business with the Comptroller. Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages and must be requested at least two days before each session. **You can RSVP here!** For any questions, please email the Diversity Office at diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.

NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER
AND
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY
INVITE YOU TO

TENANTS RIGHTS INFORMATION SESSIONS

HEAR FROM HOUSING EXPERTS AND BRING YOUR QUESTIONS.

- What does the NYS Eviction Moratorium really mean?
- Has it been extended?
- Is Housing Court hearing cases?
- What if I can't pay my rent?

MONDAY JUNE 1, 2020 3:00 PM	WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2020 7:00 PM	TUESDAY JUNE 16 2020 11:00 AM
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To RSVP, please visit <https://NYCComptrollerTenants2020.eventbrite.com>. Event VIA Zoom. The link will be provided when you RSVP or call (212) 669-4466.

Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER

COMPTROLLER'S M/WBE UNIVERSITY
MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

WEBINAR SERIES: RESILIENCY AND RECOVERY POST-COVID-19
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Via Zoom

June 9, 2020 | June 16, 2020 | July 7, 2020
COVID Resources and Best Practices with Minority Depository Institutions
Where businesses can learn about government and private sector resources and learn best practices from Minority Depository Institutions.

July 16, 2020
Investment Relationships with Pension Consultants Post-COVID
Where M/WBE investment managers can learn and build relationships with NYC's pension consultants.

August 6, 2020
Doing Business with the Comptroller's Office
Hear directly from the Comptroller's Office about opportunities for professional services, standard services, and goods contracts.

Save the Date: October 2020
Annual Emerging & M/WBE Manager Conference
Featuring a special session on Executive Board Searches Post-COVID
We highly encourage CEOs, Senior Partners, and Portfolio Managers of Public Equity, Public Fixed Income, Private Equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Hedge Funds, Alternative Credit, and Economically Targeted Investment Firms and Endors/Dealers to attend.

To RSVP, visit <http://ComptrollerDiversity.eventbrite.com> or email diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov. Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

Information provided during these sessions might change as emergency laws, resources and other factors evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot take any responsibility for such developments. Please consult US, NY, and NYC COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY

If you are a business owner and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.

If you are a constituent and need assistance with complaints or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at actions@comptroller.nyc.gov.

3. **CSI's Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development is accepting applications for the Career Success Scholarship**, an initiative aimed at supporting students in continuing education certificate programs. It is open to individuals seeking to advance their careers through education and training -especially those who are unemployed or seeking a career change, and those who do not have access to other sources of funding to pay for tuition and fees. This scholarship does not support current or future degree program studies.
 - **Interested candidates should click here for more information and eligibility requirements**
 - **Applications due by August 3, 2020**



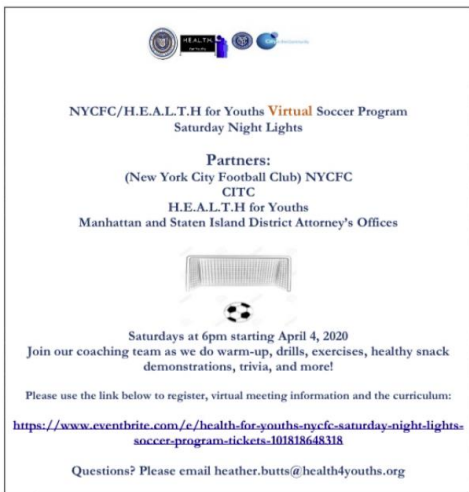
4. **NeON Summer is a six-week (July 6 through August 14) remote-learning summer immersion program connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with a paid learning opportunities designed to build skills to succeed in the workplace, strengthen community, and support young people and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The deadline for the application is June 15. Click here to apply.**



5. My office has collaborated with **Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA** to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am**. Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. **Email Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com to get the link to join!**



6. **H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths** continues to offer their virtual "**Saturday Night Lights**" Soccer Program each Saturday at 6pm! This is an opportunity for youth to get active, practice soccer drills, participate in healthy snack demonstrations, and much more. [Click here to register!](#)



How To Help

1. The **First Responders Fund** is a state initiative to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including childcare. The State Department of Health is accepting donations for the fund, and Blackstone is making an anchor \$10 million contributions to the fund. **Donations can be made electronically here.**
2. As regions prepare to reopen, the need for blood has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, but blood supply is dangerously low. Donors can call **800-933-2566** or [schedule an appointment online now.](#)

3. Individuals, organizations, or companies offering to donate Personal Protective Equipment [click here](#) or [click here](#).
4. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.**



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall
#CensusCompletedChallenge

Three Methods to Respond:

- **Online:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
- **Mail:** Mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.
- **Call:** 844-330-2020 to complete via phone.

Challenge 5 family members and friends!

Everyone counts. infants, the elderly and everyone in-between. [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

Wishing you all health and safety,



Charles D. Fall

Member of Assembly