



Assemblyman CHARLES D. FALL



Legislative and Community Report - 61st Assembly District - Summer 2020

Dear Neighbors,

This year has introduced hardships that no one could have anticipated. The Coronavirus health crisis has significantly impacted our schools, businesses, communities and way of life. New York was truly on PAUSE for several months and as we begin to strategically reopen, we must continue to lean on the recommendations of public health experts to implement guidelines and direction on safely reopening. We are in this fight together, and we must continue to persevere.

This edition of the legislative and community report includes updates on the 2020 Assembly budget and legislative accomplishments. It also includes important District 61 developments, COVID-19 information and helpful resources.

Thank you for doing your part to help get us through the diverse challenges we have had to confront. Your efforts to practice social distancing, check-in on a neighbor, donate resources to those in need, or work on the frontlines saving lives have been essential to getting us through this crisis.

We still have many hurdles to overcome, but we will continue to make progress as a united community.

Wishing you good health and safety,

Charles D. Fall

Member of Assembly, 61st District

What Does the 2020 NYS Budget Include for Staten Island?

- We advocated to preserve resident toll discounts on bridges for Staten Islanders.
- Provided funds to the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to continue addressing the opioid crisis through enhanced prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.
- We restored \$2.5 million to the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums (ZBGA) funding for cultural institutions. These funds support beloved institutions such as the Staten Island Zoo and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden.

Turning Community Concerns to Legislative and Fiscal Realities

Securing \$1.5 million for NYC Commercial Lease Assistance. We worked with the City administration to secure funds to maintain the Commercial Lease Assistance Program which provides free legal assistance to small businesses. Visit, www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/commercial-lease-assistance-program to receive help signing a new commercial lease; amending, renewing, or terminating an existing commercial lease; or addressing a commercial lease-related issue.

Public Hearing for Future Shelters. Bill A.7820-A would require the NYC DHS to conduct a community hearing to voice any potential concerns about a proposed shelter site. The intent of the legislation is not to prevent shelters from opening to assist women, children or men with appropriate housing. This is about accountability and transparency when community leaders, elected officials and residents raise public safety, transportation and educational accessibility concerns with sites of shelters. **The legislation passed with a vote of 139-3 in the Assembly and a vote of 57-3 in the Senate.**

Protecting Access to Urgent Care Facilities. Bill A.10470-A would require operators of a health care facility to give a 30-day notice to the Department of Health and local officials on the closure, relocation or decertification of the facility. Additionally, the bill directs the Commissioner of Health to conduct a study on the delivery of health care on Staten Island.

Without a public hospital on Staten Island, many residents rely on clinics, urgent care, and ambulatory health care for a wide variety of medical services, including physicals, injury related and illness diagnosis and care, rapid lab tests and pediatric care. **The legislation passed unanimously in the Assembly (140-0) and the Senate (60-0).**

Thank You to Our First Responders and Front-Line Heroes

Thousands of community members answered the urgent call to serve during this unprecedented crisis. The courage, sacrifice and resilience of our medical professionals, pharmacists, grocery workers, food service owners and workers, transit workers, school teachers and staff, firefighters, men and women in law enforcement, sanitation workers, civil servants and non-profit providers went above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to the first responders and front-line workers across Staten Island for your heroic efforts.

James Cox, a local artist and resident from West Brighton, created this inspiring tribute to capture our appreciation and gratitude for workers during COVID-19.



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Coronavirus Pandemic Response Effort

Enacting COVID-19 Legislation to Support Constituents, Small Businesses and Communities

Prohibiting Price Gouging (A.10270): Updates New York's anti-price gouging law to include medical supplies and services as well as goods and services used to promote public health.

Prohibiting Wrongful Employee Disciplining (A.10326-A): Prohibits health care employers from retaliating against health care workers speaking out about workplace safety or health violations including to the news media or on social media.

Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020 (A.10522): Establishes an interim residential rent relief program for low-income tenants. The program will issue a subsidy for tenants who were rent burdened prior to the COVID-19 pandemic or pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent and currently experience an even greater rent burden due to a loss of income.

Moratorium on Termination of Utility Services (A.10521): Prohibits a utility corporation or municipality from terminating or disconnecting services to any residential customer for the nonpayment of an overdue charge for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Studying Health Impacts of COVID-19 on Minorities (A.10517): Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study on the health impacts of COVID-19 on minorities in New York State. This builds on recent joint legislative hearings held on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities.

Although the 2020 NYS legislative session has formally ended, my colleagues and I may reconvene for a special session to advocate and vote on urgent fiscal and legislative matters. Visit my website, <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/charles-fall>, to remain informed.

Serving Hot Meals and Delivering Personal Protective Equipment and Hand Sanitizer Across the North Shore

Essential supplies such as face masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves have been in short supply for months. Since April, my team has distributed thousands of protective equipment and hand sanitizer to front-line workers, community organizations, city agencies, under-resourced communities and small businesses across the 61st district.

Through partnerships with my colleagues in government and organizations like the Pakistani American Youth Society, One Hundred Black Men and Project Hospitality, we proudly served 1,500 hot meals and hundreds of boxes of fresh produce to residents across the district. We have also helped over 100 unemployed constituents receive their unemployment benefits. Please reach out to my constituent services team at Parnellj@nyassembly.gov if you need assistance claiming your unemployment benefits.



New York Police Department - 120th Precinct



NYC Parks Department- Staten Island



Primary Care Ambulance



On Your Mark Inc.



New York City Fire Department Engine 157/Ladder 80



West Brighton Grab-and-Go Halal Food Truck with the Pakistani American Youth Society



Richmond University Medical Center Mother's Day Food Delivery with Senator Diane Savino, Congressman Max Rose and One Hundred Black Men

If you are in need of supplies, or if you would like to partner on an outreach effort please reach out to FallC@nyassembly.gov

Improving Policing Policies for Increased Transparency and Accountability to Mend Community Relations



Assemblyman Fall Organizes a Rally for Change, Unity and Next Steps

Renewed calls for racial justice within the criminal justice system and increased transparency of policing practices has led to the enactment of several NYS laws that will help law enforcement agencies to engage communities more effectively and mend relationships between the police and the public. Creating sensible legislation and next steps will require all stakeholders to contribute to the conversation toward improvements.

Several reform bills signed into law include:

- Anti-Chokehold Act (A.6144-B)
- Reporting Discharged Weapons (A.10608)
- Expanding the Office of the Attorney General (A.1601-A)
- Civil Penalties for Biased Misuse of Emergency Services (A.1531-B)
- The Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act (A.10609)
- Disclosure of Law Enforcement Disciplinary Records (A.10611)

Visit <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/> for more information on the 'Say Their Name' Reform Agenda Package or NYS bills.

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Reverend Maggie Howard



On June 13, the North Shore and the larger Staten Island community said farewell to Reverend Maggie M. Howard, a beloved friend, community leader, and faith leader of the Stapleton Union American Methodist Episcopal (UAME) Church. She led the church to promote and uphold social justice, educate the youth, and feed and clothe people in need from all over the Island.

It was my honor to initiate a community supported effort to rename Stapleton Playground to "Reverend Maggie Howard Park." In a few short weeks, nearly 3,000 community members have signed a petition in support of these efforts. This a testament to the impact that Reverend Howard left on the Staten Island community. I also partnered with all Staten Island elected officials and several citywide representatives to send a letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio to request that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation carry out the renaming. I am confident that this community supported effort will result in an honorable memorialization for our beloved Reverend Howard.

Remembering Our Neighbors Lost to COVID-19

New York has lost more than 30,000 residents to the Coronavirus including over 1,000 Staten Islanders. These were family members, friends, colleagues, mentors, neighbors and New Yorkers from all walks of life - first responders, civil servants, educators, artists, community leaders, young and elderly - and all so integral to our New York community. I want to send my deepest condolences to those in mourning as you navigate these challenging times. Continue to hold on to the shared memories of all community leaders and members who left a stamp on the Staten Island community.



2020 United States Census Updates

The deadline to submit your response to the U.S. Census Bureau is quickly approaching.

Staten Island is still 42% away from reaching a full count.

The deadline to respond is September 30.

Fill out the 2020 census today at www.My2020Census.gov!

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

 Billions in federal funds for public education and housing, roads and bridges, and more.

 The number of seats New York City has in Congress.

 Your community. Your voice.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND COVID-19 RESOURCES

Workforce Information

Staten Island Workforce 1 is a NYC Department of Small Business Services resource that prepares and connects qualified candidates to job opportunities in NYC. Workforce 1 prepares and helps New Yorkers to find jobs by:

- Developing job search skills through resume and interviewing workshops
- Training residents to acquire skills in growing fields
- Connecting jobseekers to employers with open positions

The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce (www.sichamber.com) and the **Staten Island Business Outreach Center** (www.siboc.org) also support local employers and job seekers. Visit their sites to find support.

New York State Labor Law helps to protect employees in the workplace. Know your rights as a worker:

- **Workers' Compensation.** If you are injured on the job, you can receive workers' compensation regardless of your immigration status. Contact the Advocate for Injured Workers for help at 800-580-6665.
- **Fair Wages.** Minimum wage and overtime laws apply to all workers, even if you are undocumented or paid: hourly, daily, or weekly and if you are paid in cash, by check or off the books.

Call 888-469-7365 to ask about filing a claim if you believe you are not paid the minimum wage, or you do not receive additional money for the extra time worked.

Financial Counseling

The NYC Financial Empowerment Center is a free one-on-one financial counseling service provided by NYC Consumer Affairs to support you in reaching your financial goals. Counselors can help individuals develop a strategy to minimize debt, access federal, state, and local resources, receive student loan debt tips, and more. During COVID-19, all sessions are conducted over the phone. Visit www.NYC.gov/dca to schedule an appointment.

COVID-19 Testing

Every New Yorker can get a free, confidential, and safe COVID-19 test or COVID-19 antibody test. All tests are available regardless of immigration status. Visit www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page to find a testing site near your home. Also set updates from Notify NYC, text "COVID" to 692692, for Spanish text "COVIDESP" to 692692.

Safety and Support

Domestic Violence Support Survivors of domestic violence may receive temporary housing, emergency shelter and supportive services for themselves and their children. If you or someone you know is in need of supportive services, please call the Staten Island Family Justice Center mainline at 718-697-4300 and leave a message, call Safe Horizon's 24-hour hotline (llámenos para ayudarle) 800-621-HOPE (4673) or text confidentially with an advocate with the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at 844-997-2121 for help today.

Brightpoint Health Center provides comprehensive medical and behavioral health care, including substance use disorder services and addiction treatment. Call 855-681-8700 to request an appointment.

Legal Assistance

Staten Island Legal Aid Society provides quality legal representation to low-income New Yorkers. If you need assistance from their Criminal Defense Practice or Juvenile Rights Practice, call 212-577-3300. If you need assistance with a civil suit call 347-422-5333 and call 888-663-6680 to reach their Access to Benefits Helpline.

Veteran Services

Staten Island Veterans Center is here to support United States veterans in need. If you need to talk with someone confidentially, call 718-816-4499 Monday- Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Summer 2020

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Stay home if sick

Only leave for essential medical care and or other essential errands.

Keep physical distance

Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

Keep your hands clean

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Wear a face covering

You can be contagious without symptoms. Protect those around you by wearing a face covering.

Join My Email List!

Want to receive important legislative and community updates about news and events digitally? Join my email list for weekly reports to stay informed about the changes and developments in the Capitol and on the North Shore!

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Charles-D-Fall/enews>.

