



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

August 28, 2020

Updates From Albany

Joint Legislative Hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

During a joint NYS Senate and Assembly Transportation and Corporations Committee hearing the senior administration from the MTA, transit union leaders and transit rider advocates testified and discussed:

- Before COVID-19, the MTA network served approximately 8.6 million riders per day. By late May, at least 123 MTA employees had died due to COVID-19 and thousands had been quarantined.
- Furthermore, the MTA continues to argue it faces a dire financial calamity due to lost ridership, other diminished revenues, and increased costs incurred to fight the virus.
- The MTA has already received \$3.9 billion, nearly its full initial request, in federal CARES Act assistance.
- The Authority argues it needs at least an additional \$3.9 billion of federal assistance to continue operating through the end of 2020.
- Without that funding, the MTA announced it would have to take extraordinary actions that might include significant cost-cutting actions or raising fares and tolls.
- The hearing explored the effects of COVID-19 on the MTA's infrastructure, employees, and riders, and investigate potential policy changes to prepare the system for future pandemics and determine what steps are needed to ensure the MTA's continued operations.
- The hearing explored the MTA's existing policies and guidance on pandemic and emergency response and modifications in response to COVID-19 and their effectiveness, as well as the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), safety protocols, employee training, and the effectiveness of public awareness during the State of Emergency.
- Finally, the hearing examined how the MTA has used the financial and legislative assistance provided over the last several months by governments at the federal, state, and local levels.



As a member of the Assembly Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee, I commend the MTA and the diligent work of the transit unions for keeping our city moving and protecting our transit workers and riders during this pandemic. I also expressed the essential need for the MTA to consider in their planning, not to raise tolls and fares, and limit or exclude changes to bus route service on the North Shore. The very fact that Staten Island is the only borough that is dependent on tolled bridges, ferry service, and affordable and accessible bus service, should be taken into consideration. Yes, many agencies and departments are impacted by the financial impact of this pandemic, but so are the residents, families and small business owners here on Staten Island.

District 61 News

Summer Mobile Office Hours

With three weeks of summer remaining and only 33 days left until the 2020 Census deadline, my team partnered with NYCID and the Staten Island branch of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union to distribute PPE to over one hundred constituents and get our community accurately counted before September 30. Census enumerators are now going door to door to reach households that have not responded to the census. 38% of our friends, family, and neighbors have not been counted. Each person undercounted takes funds from our community. Help get the count up in these final days!

West Brighton



St. George



Clifton



Upcoming Mobile Office



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

SUMMER MOBILE OFFICE HOURS



Constituent Services Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

1:00PM - 4:00PM

St. George <u>Wednesday, September 2</u> 456 Richmond Terrace	West Brighton <u>Thursday, September 3</u> Play Street: Henderson Avenue Between Alaska Street and Broadway
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- Complete the 2020 Census
- Receive COVID-19 Updates
- Unemployment Insurance Support
- Free PPE and Hand Sanitizer and More

For more information, please contact
Parnellj@nyassembly.gov or (718) 442-9932

***September 3 will be a Health Meets Play Street Fair**, coordinated by several local community organizations for children and families to participate in free yoga, story time, free COVID-19 testing, blood pressure testing and much more. Social distancing and masks will be required. Find more details in the flyer below.

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

1. **On Wednesday, September 2nd**, NYC gyms can reopen. Under state rules, gyms must operate at no more than 33% capacity and space out equipment. Patrons must pass a COVID screening questionnaire, wear a mask, and maintain six feet of distance during their workouts.
2. **The moratorium for residential and commercial evictions in New York City has been extended to October 1st.** Evictions will remain paused for New Yorkers and small businesses facing financial hardship due to the pandemic.
3. **Starting this Monday, August 31**, front-door boarding and fare collection will resume on all MTA buses.
4. **Individuals traveling from states and territories with significant community spread of COVID-19 must be quarantined for 14-days from the time of the last contact within the identified state.**

Here is an updated list of states flagged on the travel advisory - Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Wisconsin

5. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**
 - **Use the DOH map to find all of the State-run testing sites.**
 - **Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (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.
 - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. **Click here to learn more, or call (844) 692-469**
 - **COVID-19 mobile testing sites will begin next week Mon., Aug 31st to Fri., Sept 4th. Hours of operation are 10am to 4pm every day.**
 - Albanian Islamic Cultural Center- 307 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10301
 - Project Hospitality- 282 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302
 - **Beginning Thursday, August 27**, Ready Responders will provide ongoing testing for residents of the NYCHA West Brighton Houses. **To schedule a test, call 888-727-7014.**



Ready Responders, a team of healthcare professionals, will be visiting West Brighton Houses beginning on Thursday, August 27.

If you would like testing for COVID-19, or you have medical questions and would like a medical evaluation, give us a call to schedule a telehealth visit with one of our clinicians.

Call this number to set up a visit:
(888) 727-7014

In collaboration with
 Congressman Max Rose
 State Senator Diane Savino
 Assemblymember Charles Fall
 Borough President James Oddo
 Councilmember Deborah Rose
 Shekina Butler
West Brighton Resident Association President

This effort is in partnership with
 Governor Andrew Cuomo
 Attorney General Letitia James

For more information please visit GetReady.com

- **Free and quick testing is available from August 31st to September 4th from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at El Centro del Immigrante 260 Port Richmond Ave. 10302**



FREE QUICK AND EASY COVID-19 TESTING IS AVAILABLE AT OUR MOBILE TESTING SITES

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

El Centro del Immigrante
 260 Port Richmond Avenue
 Staten Island, New York 10302

August 31st to September 4th
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

For more information, call 1-844-NYC-4NYC or 311



Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. **Applications for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Water Conservation and Reuse Grant Pilot Program is available.** The grant provides commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential property owners with incentives to install fixture retrofits and other water efficiency technologies, such as on-site water reuse systems, totaling greater than \$50,000 on a single property.

- **[Click here to apply, applications close on September 15](#)**
- Contact waterconservation@dep.nyc.gov for any program inquiries.

2. **Con Edison Storm Related Safety Tips:**

- Report outages or service problems to 1-800-75-CONED (26633)
- **[Click here to the outage map to learn about service restoration efforts](#)**
- Customers can also contact their emergency service line for help with life support equipment at **(877) 582-6633**.

3. **NYCHA** is making it easier than ever to apply for rent hardship assistance. To apply, **[click here to visit NYCHA's self-service portal](#)** or call **718-707-7771** and select menu option 5 when prompted.

4. **Project Hospitality** is offering legal services, if you or anyone you know is in need please contact mrivera@projecthospitality.org with your name, phone number, and the type of legal service you need to book a virtual appointment with one of their legal providers.

5. **Small Business Resources**

- **The Business Outreach Center Network**, Women's Business Center is providing accounting consulting assistance to help underserved small business owners. **[Click here to register.](#)**
 - Several NYC Agencies have composed an **[NYC Open Restaurants Program Checklist for Participating Establishments](#)** to help restaurants know what NYS guidelines they should adhere to.
 - **The NYC Department of Small Business Services Virtual Compliance Consultation Session: Open Restaurants Program** offers no-cost virtual compliance consultations to help you understand how to comply with key City rules and regulations to avoid receiving common violations. **[Click here to request a consultation.](#)**
 - **[Free virtual business courses for new entrepreneurs](#)** - SBS offers free business courses to help New York City entrepreneurs develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to succeed in business. Many of the courses are available in non-English languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Haitian Creole, French, Bengali, and Arabic.
 - **Staten Island Chamber of Commerce** is collaborating with Start Small Think Big to offer free legal and financial services from top professionals. **[Learn more and sign up here.](#)**
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Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **The Health Meets Play Street Fair on September 3rd** will have COVID-19 testing, free yoga, voter registrations and much more. **Join community members from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM on Henderson Ave. between Alaska St. and Broadway Ave.**



2. **Join Roc-A-Natural at the Central Family Life Center for Free Friday Night Films** from 7:00pm to 9:30pm until September 4, 2020. Enjoy popcorn along with thought-provoking and empowering movies. **Seats are limited, click here to register.** For more information, contact Dorcas Meyers, 917-406-7736 or email, ran@rocanatural.com.



3. **Bait-ul Jamaat - House of Community** hosts a mobile food pantry every **Tuesday from 9am- 1pm**. To register call Jamilah at 917-736--0346 or email info@baitulijamaat.com.



4. **Join community partners for a Back to School Bash.** Enjoy music, games, food, school supplies, giveaways, and special guest appearances. **Friday, September 4th from 2:00 - 5:00 PM at the Park Hill Courtyard between 185 & 225 Parkhill Ave.**



5. **Members of the COMEunity Fridge invite you to join them on Sunday, August 30th at 2 PM at the corner of Forest Avenue and Amity Place.** This is a chance to eat healthy food and meet your neighbors.



- Birth Equality for Black Moms** is an informative virtual session sponsored by BJ House of Community and Pink Lilly with guest speakers on resources and support for black maternal health. **Join them on Wednesday, September 9th at 7 PM.** For more information please contact **347-833-0778** or **917-636-0345**.

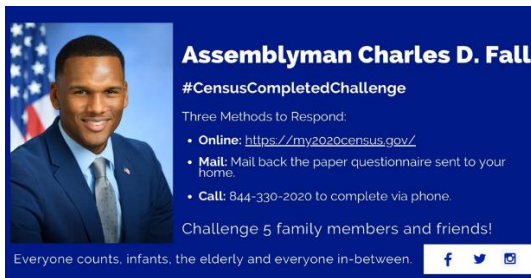
- Citizens Committee for New York City** has opened its **Neighborhood Business Grant** application. Small businesses can receive grants of **\$5,000 - \$10,000** to maintain payroll and operations.

- They will prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women.

- Proposals that focus on adapting businesses to the challenges of COVID-19 (i.e. delivering orders, fulfilling online requests for products, conducting training and classes online) will also be prioritized.
 - Grants may be made to barber shops, restaurants, food carts, vegetable stands, and other small businesses. The application is intended to be accessible and short, and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
 - **Click here for more information and to apply now.**
8. **The Friends of Tompkinsville Park** are seeking an artist to create and spearhead a **Participatory Art project in Tompkinsville Park themed around Peace, Justice, and Healing**. They are seeking an artist that would engage the community in the creation of an art installation in the park (for display up to 1 year). The budget for the project is \$5,000. **The new deadline to submit a project proposal is Monday, September 7.** **Click here for additional details** or email **TompkinsvilleParkFriends@gmail.com**.
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How To Help

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. Go to my2020census.gov, call (844) 330-2020, or respond using the paper form sent to your home.



Wishing you all health and safety,

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

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DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942