



**71<sup>ST</sup> Assembly District**  
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER**  
**AL TAYLOR**  
**REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE**



**Community Board 10**  
**December 2018**

2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd, New York, NY 10039  
TEL: 212-234-1430 FAX: 212-234-1868  
Email: [taylora@nyassembly.gov](mailto:taylora@nyassembly.gov)

## THIS MONTH IN THE DISTRICT

### Testimony before New York City Council in Response to HDFC Crisis

On October 31, 2018, Assemblymember Taylor, his counsel, Darlene Bruce, and Senator-elect Robert Jackson testified before the New York City Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings, chaired by Councilmember Robert E. Cornegy Jr. The hearing gave shareholders and their advocates an opportunity to explain why certain Housing Development Fund Corporations (HDFCs) should not be placed into the Third Party Transfer Program (TPT). The NYC Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) created the TPT program to "save" HDFCs struggling with severe debt or that have ineffective Boards of Directors or property managers. In the TPT program, a third party investor assumes ownership of the building and HDFC shareholders become rent-stabilized tenants. The



New York City Council has the authority to review and approve HPD's list of HDFCs to be transferred out of the HDFC program and into the TPT program. As an advocate for HDFC shareholders, Assemblymember Taylor wrote letters to HPD and Councilmembers Levine and Perkins, requesting a moratorium on both the foreclosure and transfer of HDFCs into the TPT program.

### Continuing Advocacy in Memory of Elijah Silvera

Elijah Silvera attended a day care in November 2017 where he was given a grilled cheese sandwich, despite having a documented severe dairy allergy, which resulted in his untimely passing. In response to this tragedy, Assemblymember Taylor introduced the Elijah Bill (No. A10031A), which requires childcare service providers to have epinephrine auto injectors,



commonly known as EpiPens, on site at all times and for staff to establish a procedure and treatment plan in the event of a serious allergic reaction, otherwise known as anaphylaxis. As of November 19,



2018, the bill is in committee in the New York State Senate. On November 17, 2018 at Jackie Robinson Park, there was a tree dedication to honor Elijah Silvera's life with assistance from the Parks Department's Manhattan Borough Commissioner William Castro and his Chief of Staff, Steve Simon.

Both of Elijah's parents, Thomas and Dina Silvera, were present, as was Assemblymember Taylor and Senator Brian Benjamin, the Elijah Bill's sponsor in the Senate, and Community Board 10's Karen Horry. The dedicated tree is located at 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Bradhurst Avenue.

## Public Hearing on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement

On November 15, 2018, Assemblymember Taylor sat on the New York State Assembly Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement public hearing. The public hearing came on the heels of reports of lengthy wait times and broken vote counters at polling sites across the city on Election Day, November 6, 2018. The purpose of the hearing was to gather testimony related to examining ways to improve access to



voting, both in person and by absentee ballot, including through early voting and no-excuse absentee ballot reforms, as well as the impact of such proposals on the State and local budgets. As a member of the Subcommittee, Assemblymember Taylor urged the increased use of electronics to provide voters with relevant information about their poll locations and the success in having poll site visits by the New York City Board of Elections to ensure the locations can remain open for Election Day. After hearing testimony from government agencies and community organizations, Assemblymember Taylor will work with the other Assemblymembers on the Subcommittee to make recommendations on how to improve voting operations on Election Day and encourage increased voter registration and participation.

## Breaking Ground at Jackie Robinson Park

Jackie Robinson Park was one of eight parks selected around the city for improvement through the New York City Parks Department "Parks Without Borders" project, which aims to make parks more welcoming and accessible. Assemblymember Taylor attended the groundbreaking at the Park on November 28, 2018 with the project projected to last for 15 months. The first phase involves rebuilding the stairway and repaving the path from West 145th Street and Edgecombe Avenue to Bradhurst Avenue and creating welcoming entrances at both ends. Plans also include reopening the entrance and rebuilding the stairway at the north end of the park near West 155th Street, paving a new path with seating and lighting, repairing another stairway down the hill near Bradhurst Avenue, and upgrading the West 152nd Street plaza. The project also calls for the 6-foot chain-link fence to be replaced with a 4-foot decorative steel fence, new benches, expanded tree beds, and improvement of the West 149th Street entrance. Additional improvements will occur on the upper level of the park along Edgecombe Avenue.



## Post Office Renaming Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen

Assemblymember Taylor attended Congressman Espaillat's post office renaming ceremony in November. The ceremony celebrated the renaming of the 99 Macombs Place post office to the Tuskegee Airmen Post Office, in honor of the first African-American squadron of pilots in World War II. Also in attendance was Tuskegee Airman Wilfred DeFour, a 100-year-old Harlem resident and former postal worker.



## SOMOS Puerto Rico Conference

Assemblymember Taylor took part in the annual SOMOS Puerto Rico Conference in November of this year. The conference serves as an opportunity for participants to work on legislation, discuss federal and state issues, and also network. After Hurricane Maria in the Fall of 2017, the conference focused the issues the island is facing, so that the voices of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters could be heard everywhere. As part of the conference, Assemblymember Taylor took part in a Day of Service, helping to rebuild a community center to be used as a school in Piñones, Loíza, home of Puerto Rico's Afro-Caribbean heritage. Assemblymember Taylor and other New York State legislators will continue to stand in unison to continue to stand in unison to advocate for action and positive change!



**NOTICE**  
**The 145<sup>th</sup> Street 3 Train Station**  
**reopened to the public on**  
**November 28, 2018.**  
Renovations and repairs on the 145<sup>th</sup>  
Street 3 Train Station are now complete  
and the station is open again for 3 Train  
service.