



71ST Assembly District

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

AL TAYLOR

REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

Community Board 9

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



THIS MONTH IN THE DISTRICT

Open Dialogue with Argus about New Clinic

Assemblymember Taylor and Community Board 9 facilitated a meeting on December 3, 2018 between community members and Argus Community Inc. about selecting another location for a proposed methadone clinic. The discussion came after the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) denied Argus Community Inc.'s application to operate a methadone clinic at 730 St. Nicholas Avenue on August 9, 2018 thanks to the concerted efforts of the West 147th Street Block Association and the Sugar Hill Neighborhood Coalition lead by Carolyn Brown together with Assemblymember Taylor and others such as Community Board 9 and other representatives and elected officials including Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Senator Brian Benjamin, Assembly member Inez Dickens, New York State Comptroller Scott Stringer, and Attorney General-elect Letitia James. When Assemblymember Taylor first learned of Argus' plan to open a methadone clinic at 730 St. Nicholas Avenue, he was among the first to join the community to voice joint concerns for the historic preservation of a landmarked brownstone. The meeting was intended as a way for Argus Community Inc. to have an open and transparent conversation with the West 147th Street Block Association, the Sugar Hill Neighborhood Coalition, Community Board 9, and others in the community about finding another location for a methadone clinic which does not threaten the integrity of the neighborhood.



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.



Testimony before 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 NYC Council's Committee on Housing & 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 & 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 & HDFC shareholders become rent-stabilized tenants. The NYC Council has the authority to review & approve HPD's list of HDFCs to be transferred out of the HDFC program & into the TPT program. As an advocate for HDFC shareholders, Assemblymember Taylor wrote letters to HPD and Councilmembers Levine & Perkins, requesting a moratorium on both the foreclosure & transfer of HDFCs into the TPT program.



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Assemblymember Taylor is looking for qualified individuals to intern at his District Office

The internship typically runs throughout the year and offers flexible hours to accommodate student schedules, but is generally during office times (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm). Though unpaid, the position offers invaluable work experience and mentorship. Please consider the following applicant requirements before you apply:

- Have a background in journalism, public relations, public administration or advertisement
- Possess general office etiquette and strong writing skills
- Be well-versed in using multiple social media platforms

Interested candidates can forward their resumes and cover letters to taylora@nyassembly.gov for further instructions on how to apply.

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. 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, with Catholic Charities. Assemblymember Taylor and other New York legislators will continue to stand in unison to continue to stand in unison to advocate for action and positive change!



30th Precinct Annual Hazel O'Reilly/Lillian Brown Senior Dinner

On December 8, 2018, Assemblymember Taylor attended the 30th Precinct's Annual Hazel O'Reilly/Lillian Brown Senior Dinner, which is henceforth renamed in honor of Lillian Brown. Ms. Brown, who recently recovered from Legionnaires' disease, has prepared food for the Senior Dinner for many years and is a beloved member of the community. The renaming of the Senior Dinner was a surprise to honor her commitment to the community.



Celebrating the Holidays in the District

Assemblymember Taylor has been celebrating the holiday season throughout the district beginning with a menorah lighting ceremony on December 3, 2018, the second night of Hanukkah. The menorah lighting was held in front of the Harlem State Office Building on West 125th Street with Councilmember Mark Levine, Assemblymember Inez Dickens, Senator Brian Benjamin, and Congressman Adriano

Espaillet also in attendance. The Assemblymember also attended several tree lighting events around the district, including on 125th Street, at Convent Gardens, on 156th & Broadway, and Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park. The ice skating rink at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park is also open for the season. From all of us in the office of Assemblymember Al Taylor, have a happy holidays and we look forward to seeing you in 2019!

