

Assemblymember
Tony Simone

Assembly District 75



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Dear friends,

Happy September! Fall is in the air today; I hope you and your family will find time to enjoy the beautiful weather we're expecting this weekend.

My office is tracking [Hurricane Lee](#); while it is not projected to make landfall in New York State, we will keep you posted if the forecast changes. As always, my team is here to help you in any way we can. My Community Office is at 214 West 29th Street. You may also call or email us at 212-807-7900 or Simonet@nyassembly.gov. Please contact us if you're having a problem with a government agency, your landlord, a utility, or if you have concerns about the neighborhood; we can help you.

Shanah Tova to all of the New Yorkers celebrating Rosh Hashanah today! As my neighbors blow the shofar to usher in the new Jewish year, I am wishing everyone a happy and blessed year!

Tony

Recent News

Two Bills Have Been Signed!

Governor Hochul has signed into law two bills that I passed in Albany this year. The first, [A7833](#), which was sponsored in the State Senate by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, [S.7382](#), bans discrimination against unpaid interns based on gender identity or expression. This bill is a crucial step forward in protections for a vulnerable group; unpaid interns are often subject to discrimination and harassment, and I'm proud that the Governor signed my legislation into law.

The second bill, [A7440](#), helps our offshore ocean habitats by extending the Department of Environmental Conservation's authority to oversee the conservation of sharks around and off our shores. With ocean temperatures rising and threatening sea life, it's critical that we are monitoring changes to animal populations. This bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Iwen Chu, [S.6951](#).

Remembering 9/11

This week, New York City and the entire United States remembered the lives lost in the terrorist attacks on 9/11. That terrible day is etched in many New Yorkers' minds for the horror we witnessed and the collective trauma we experienced, but the anniversary of that day is also a reminder of the way that New York City came together after an unspeakable tragedy. New Yorkers became united that day, and we still are as we remember those that were lost that day. I join every other New Yorker in thanking the first responders and other heroes who took it upon themselves to protect their city. We will never forget.



I attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Fire Museum with New York State Attorney General Letitia James, Councilmembers Erik Bottcher and Chris Marte, and members of the Fire Department of New York.

A Grand 8th Avenue Entrance for Penn Station

I joined Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, State Senator Liz Krueger, Councilmember Erik Bottcher, and Congressman Jerry Nadler to call for the inclusion of a grand 8th Avenue entrance in the plans for a new Penn Station. The communities surrounding Penn have long felt our needs for the station have not been addressed. For too long all we heard about was commercial development and not enough about the purpose of this important project: building a new Penn Station we can be proud of and that works for us. [Penn Station should be a world-class transit hub; how can we fulfill that dream without multiple grand entrances that bring the presence of Penn onto the street?](#) An 8th Avenue entrance must be part of the next iteration of the station.



Speaking to the press with Congressman Jerry Nadler, Councilmember Erik Bottcher, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.

Tackling the Affordable Housing Crisis

The lack of affordable housing in New York City is a crisis. We are facing skyrocketing rents and a lack of new development, but we can tackle the problem with innovative solutions like office conversions and rezoning underutilized neighborhoods to allow for new residential development. Mayor Adams has declared that New York will be the City of Yes in regards to housing; [my priority in Albany next year is to also make New York the State of Yes](#). The West Side has a long history of well thought solutions to create new affordable housing, and bringing new tools to the Garment District will allow our district to continue to be a model for the rest of the state on how to create significant new affordable housing to tackle the crisis.

Labor Day Parade

This past Saturday, unions from all around New York City gathered in Manhattan for the annual Labor Day Parade. The parade celebrates the many contributions that organized labor has made to our society, including things we now take for granted: sick leave, the right to safe workplaces, even the idea of the weekend! My grandfather was a Teamsters delegate, and he taught me that workers are the backbone of our country. I've been proud to join SAG-AFTRA and WGA on the picket line this year, and I'll keep fighting until all workers are paid a living wage and treated with dignity.



Marching at the Labor Day Parade with Assemblymember Alex Bores and union members from the New York State Nurses Association.



The New York State Legislature supports labor! I visited the New York City District Council of Carpenters with Senators Julia Salazar and Kristen Gonzalez, as well as Assemblymembers Emily Gallagher and Manny de los Santos.

Welcome Back Community Boards and Students!

It's September, which means students are back in school! PS11 in Chelsea has received many new students this year, and my office organized a school supply drive to help ensure every child has the resources they need to succeed. Thank you to Madison Square Garden and New York Knicks for their wonderful donation of backpacks, as well as every person who donated items to support the new scholars at PS11!



September also means that most community board meetings are back in session after a break in August. Assembly District 75 has several community boards, and if you've never been to a meeting or it's been awhile, September is a great time to start! Community boards are an excellent way to meet your neighbors, get involved in local issues, and advocate for policies you support. [Click here to find your community board.](#)



I joined the 18th Street BA for their fall coffee social, where we discussed affordable housing solutions and closing illegal cannabis shops, among other local issues.



Shopping at the Manhattan Plaza block sale!



Marching with Senator Jessica Ramos, SAG-AFTRA and WGA at the AFL-CIO's union solidarity day.

Upcoming Events

-This past spring, I hosted an informational webinar on [421a](#) and the rights that tenants have as the benefit comes to an end, and the response was so overwhelming that I'm hosting another. Join me and experts from Housing Conservation Coordinators and New York State's Division of Homes and Community Renewal to hear about your rights as a 421a tenant, and ask questions from the experts.

Not sure if 421a applies to you? [Use the NYC Department of Finance to look up your building and find out if your landlord has received a 421a benefit.](#)

Assemblymember Tony Simone presents:

**421A:
KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS!**

SPONSORED BY
SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL
SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER LINDA ROSENTHAL
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT MARK LEVINE
COUNCILMEMBER ERIK BOTTCHER

Hear expert advice and have your questions answered by Housing Conservation Coordinators and NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
6-8PM VIA ZOOM

REGISTER AT
[BIT.LY/421ASIMONE](https://bit.ly/421ASIMONE)



**Housing
Conservation
Coordinators**



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Homes and
Community Renewal**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FREE EVENT OR ANY MATTER OF GOVERNMENT, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT (212) 807-7900 OR SIMONET@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

-Join me at one of the most anticipated community events of the year: the London Terrace TA's Street Fair! My office will be there with information on government programs; stop by and say

hello! The fair takes place on West 24th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues from 10am-5pm on Saturday, September 23rd.

London Terrace Tenants Association - 31st Annual Street Fair! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd from 10AM to 5PM on West 24th street (between 9th & 10th Avenues). Come stroll down our beautiful tree lined street and find some treasures - Vintage, wares, antiques, vinyl records, furniture, clothing, arts and crafts - something for everyone! Free artist drawn caricature sketches for the kids!



-This weekend, I'll be joining Visiting Neighbors for their wonderful annual talent show! I'm thrilled to have been asked to be a guest judge for the show, and I can't wait to see everyone's performances. The talent show will be during the Chelsea Day Festival, tomorrow, September 16th from 2-4pm at West 20th Street & 8th Avenue.

Community Resources + Events

Student Loan Repayment Info

-On September 19th, New York Public Library is hosting an informational event about the new student loan repayment plan. Join representatives from the Community Service Society of New York 's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program to learn all about the latest student loan repayment plan, the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan. These experts delve into its key features and guide you through the enrollment process. Plus, get valuable insights on preparing for payment resumption. Don't miss out on this informative session - reserve your spot today!

Clean Up Broadway!

-For Climate Week, The Sanitation Foundation and WE♥NYC are partnering up for the week-long cleanup of “The World’s Most Famous Street.” This cleanup project will work its way along Broadway throughout the week, ending in Times Square on Friday September 22nd. Sign up to help clean up Broadway!

Understanding Local Law 97

-Do you live in a co-op or condominium? The newly passed [Local Law 97](#) has certain requirements that aim to lower emissions. The Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums is offering [free virtual courses](#) to help attendees develop decarbonization plans, ensuring they can comply with LL97 in time and avoid fines.

Youth Arts Programming

-Dorrill Initiative has opened registration for the fall session of their Saturday Arts program. This program is dedicated to guiding our young citizen artists to be able to share their stories and to address the issues that impact their lives. Through this program they will be able to explore themselves and their community through media, music, drama, dance, spoken word, and visual arts. [Sign up for the arts program here.](#)

Arts Education with Boys' Club of New York

-In addition to the Saturday Arts Program, Dorrill Initiative will also be starting the DoER NextGen Knights’ (NGK) Project; a collaborative partnership with Boys’ Club of New York to bring an arts educational program that is accessible to young men ages 10-18 years old. This program will run from September 27th to December 6th. Programming will be held Wednesdays from 3:30pm-6:00pm with art forms changing on a monthly basis. The Fall Session of programming will have an art focus of Drama, Dance and Media. [The registration form for this program can be found here.](#)

Apply for Community Grants!

-The West Side Community Fund is accepting applications to their grant opportunity program until September 22nd. Eligible applicants include neighborhood organizations, block and tenants’ associations, non-profits, city agencies, schools, health clinics, NYCHA projects, police-community programs, religious institutions, homeless facilities, etc. Individuals who deliver services, such as teachers, are also eligible to apply. Past Chelsea & Hudson Yards Grants winners may re-apply with a new project. [You can learn more and apply at their website.](#)