

[View this email in your browser](#)



August 29, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter covers some August community events, information about the rollout of the Environmental Bond Act passed last November, resources for electric vehicles and information on student loan assistance.

The growth of the electric vehicle offerings by manufacturers occurs at a time when state and federal assistance for their purchase and investments in charging infrastructure has also grown. I have been an advocate for growing New York's programs. There are numerous state agencies engaged in this issue. This newsletter includes links to some of those programs through NYSERDA (New York State Research and Development Authority).

This month I also visited with incoming New Rochelle School Superintendent Corey Reynolds. Prior to being selected as Superintendent, Dr. Reynolds has had an outstanding career as a teacher, principal, and administrator in the Mount Vernon, Ossining, White Plains, Yonkers, Greenburgh, and New Rochelle Districts. He holds two master's degrees and his doctorate. He brings great enthusiasm for the mission of serving the needs of New Rochelle's students.

I enjoyed our meeting. As a member of the Assembly Education Committee, supporting the needs of every school district on the Sound Shore is a priority of mine.

Below you will find:

- Update on Bond Act Listening Sessions
- Energy Justice Alliance Community Event
- Natural Disaster Preparedness Training
- New Roar Talk on Black Youth and the Justice System
- Environmental Justice Meeting in New Rochelle
- EV Charging Infrastructure
- Saving on Student Loans

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this e-mail or any matter in which I can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

---

**Clean Water, Clean Air Bond Act Listening Session in White Plains**



On August 15th I joined state and local officials and environmental advocates at the Westchester County Center for one of NYS's Environmental Bond Act Listening Sessions. The lead speakers were Doreen Harris, President/CEO of the NYS Energy, Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP); and RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner/CEO of NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). Following their presentations, staff from a wide variety of state agencies were available with materials and to answer individual questions about programs administered by their agencies.

The session was one of ten [Listening Tour meetings](#) to provide outreach across the state. In talking to state agency officials, I am pleased to report that the Westchester session was one of the best-attended meetings in the state. Even though the listening sessions are over, there is still an opportunity to [share your](#)

[priorities](#) on how bond act resources should be prioritized.

I am pictured above at the meeting with Kelly Turturro, Regional Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Kelly and the staff of DEC have been very responsive to the issues that we face on the Sound Shore. We have had assistance and support on many issues including flood mitigation, coastal habitat protection, and water quality.

- A compilation of existing **state and federal funding sources** that complement the Bond Act is available [HERE](#).
- Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the public process that helped develop the **Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) criteria**, and find DAC maps and other resources;
- The online survey to share your comments is available at <https://bit.ly/BondActSurvey>.

For links to these resources and further Bond Act updates, please visit [www.ny.gov/bondact](http://www.ny.gov/bondact).

---

**Environmental Justice Meeting In New Rochelle**



In August I joined local environmental advocates for a meeting of the Energy Justice Alliance at Bethesda Baptist Church in New Rochelle to discuss the importance of bringing state and federal resources to accelerate the transition to clean energy in neighborhoods already identified as disadvantaged census tracts because of existing environmental conditions. The meeting was led by two advocates I work with regularly: Raya Salter, a member of the NYS Climate Action Council and founder of the Energy Justice Law Center and Paul Presendieu, Chair of the New Rochelle Ecology and Natural Resources Advisory Committee and a leader on environmental justice issues locally and in the Hudson Valley.

---



### **Natural Disaster Preparedness Training**

I have worked on community response and preparedness issues going back to when I was mayor. Mitigation and resiliency are important components to reducing risk. In addition, New York State offers an additional program to help individuals and families become better prepared. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible.

The Port Chester Rye NAACP and the Carver Center have teamed up to host this program in September at the Carver Center. The training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster.

Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

**When:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM

**Where:** Carver Center 400 Westchester Avenue Port Chester, NY 10573

\*ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE: To register and for additional information, visit [www.prepare.ny.gov](http://www.prepare.ny.gov)

This event is sponsored by Governor Hochul, the Port Chester- Rye NAACP & The Carver Center.

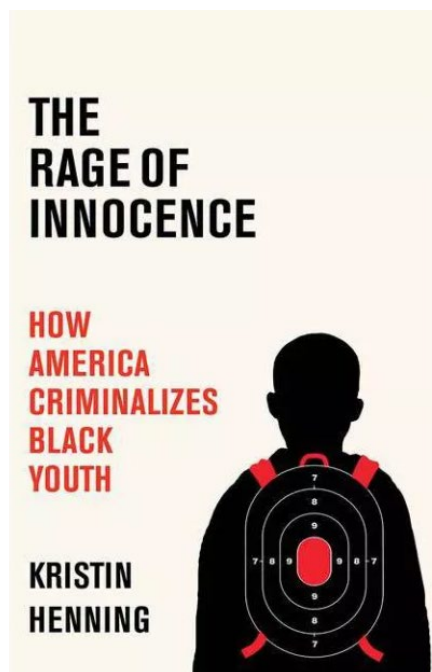




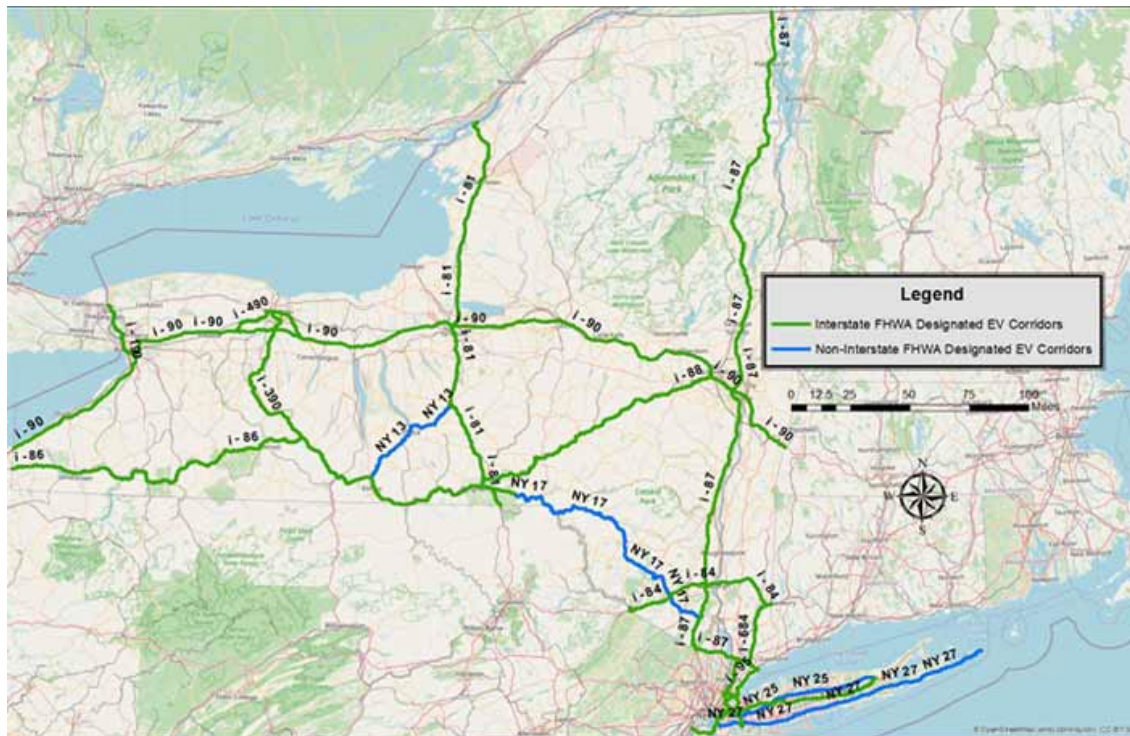
---

## **New Roar Hosts Timely Talk on Challenges Facing Black Youth in the Criminal Justice System and Society**

Earlier this month I joined a meeting hosted by New Roar ([New Rochelle Against Racism](#)) with Georgetown University Law Center Professor Kristen Henning for a discussion of her book “The Rage of Innocence, How America Criminalizes Black Youth.” Professor Henning provided a compelling discussion based upon her experiences and analysis as a practicing defense attorney and as an educator in an engaging discussion moderated by David Peters.







## **Building Out Charging Infrastructure to Plug the Gaps in Access**

Electric vehicles (EVs) are a crucial part of New York State’s path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

As more New Yorkers make the switch to EVs – often at a reduced cost due to [Inflation Reduction Act](#) tax credits and [Drive Clean Rebates](#) on eligible models – the State is simultaneously advancing charging station infrastructure to stay ahead of demand.

While home charging can meet the needs of many EV drivers, providing charging access for renters – nearly 46 percent of New Yorkers – requires a more holistic approach that offers charging where people live, work, and play<sup>[1]</sup>.

The [Charge Ready NY 2.0 Program](#), which launched on July 19, 2023, is delivering \$12 million in incentives to accelerate the installation of Level 2 charging stations at workplaces, multi-unit dwellings, and public facilities across

New York. Level 2 chargers – the most prevalent type of public charger – add between 20 and 40 miles of range per hour of charging and are well suited to locations where people are parked for an hour or more. Targeting incentives to sites that cater to routine travel patterns (i.e., commuting to work) and longer parking durations is fundamental to overcoming barriers to charging access, and ultimately, EV ownership.

Building out public and workplace charging also helps reduce strain on New York's electric grid by encouraging daytime charging when renewable resources like solar are at peak output.

[EV Charging Station Locator](#)

---



The Biden administration announced a new student loan repayment initiative called the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan. Many borrowers with loans held by the Education Department, which include direct subsidized and

unsubsidized loans, Direct PLUS loans for graduate and professional students and direct consolidation loans, will be able to lower or eliminate their monthly payments.

For more information and to sign-up visit [Student Aid](#).



*Copyright © 2023 Assemblyman Steve Otis, All rights reserved.*