



Assemblymember Daniel A. Rosenthal

End of Session Update



Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in the best of health. It is difficult to believe the enormity of events that have unfolded over the previous six months. It has been an incredibly trying time, marked with tragedy and sacrifice and suffering. We as a community were repeatedly tested, almost to our limits. The resiliency that has been shown over the last few months is nothing short of remarkable.

Our lives were upended seemingly overnight, we were asked to restructure the very essence of daily existence and to do so with haste. Businesses had to find ways to keep their employees working and schools had to reformat the last one hundred years of lesson structure. Closets were turned into offices and kitchen tables into classrooms.

There are very few people in our community who are untouched by sorrow and grief. There were moments when fear and anxiety could have easily turned into paranoia and hate. It at times seemed numbingly overwhelming. Through adaptability, sheer grit and determination, thankfully it was not.

The charity events that sprung up from nothing overnight, neighbors cooking a meal for each other, friends calling to check in, front-line workers risking their lives for strangers, parents helping their children with homework and then helping other children, and so many other stories that show the true goodness of humanity.

I want to say to my neighbors, my community and my district, thank you. I am immensely proud of all of you. It has always been an honor to be your representative but recent times have shown me that the greatness of this community knows no limit.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember
Daniel Rosenthal

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Small Business Tax Holiday



Assemblymember Rosenthal introduced legislation to help our small businesses as they reopen from months of closure. As the backbone of our economy, small businesses employ over half of our private sector workforce. His bill would enact a small business tax holiday for 3 months, waiving state sales tax on items under \$250. These measures cut costs for residents while encouraging local shopping and saving thousands of jobs.



Saving Historical Lefferts Blvd Bridge

After decades of neglect, the MTA decided to rehabilitate the Lefferts Boulevard Bridge after Assemblymember Rosenthal and Senator Comrie passed legislation to preserve the landmark. The lawmakers just introduced new legislation to save the longstanding small businesses on the bridge that are on the brink of closure.

Expanding Paid Sick Leave

Assemblymember Rosenthal helped enact new strong Paid Sick Leave provisions. Businesses with five to 99 employees will provide their employees at least five days of job-protected paid sick leave per year and businesses with 100 employees or more will provide at least seven days. Smaller businesses will guarantee five days of job-protected unpaid sick leave to their employees every year.

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Accountability in Criminal Justice

Real reform cannot take place without accountability in our systems of justice and power. The legislature took action to pass several important bills to promote the safety of our entire society.

Increasing public accountability of those charged with protecting us was our foremost priority. We passed legislation to ensure every New York State law enforcement official is equipped with body cameras for every interaction with the public.

In a long overdue move, we also repealed section 50-A of CRL to allow police disciplinary records to be made publicly available. The legislature also established the Office of a Special Prosecutor to prosecute cases where police action resulted in the death of an individual.

Additionally, any officer who discharges a firearm is now required to report the firing to a supervisor within six hours. Furthermore, we ensured legally guaranteed medical assistance to any arrestee to prevent wrongful deaths or injury.

Supporting Working Families: Prevailing Wage

In a bill that was very important to Assemblymember Rosenthal, the Legislature expanded Prevailing Wage requirements. This policy ensures that workers on private projects receiving a significant public subsidy will be paid a prevailing wage.

Protecting the Environment

The state budget authorized the creation of a \$3 Billion Environmental Protection Bond Act to fund critical environmental restoration and climate mitigation projects around New York State.

Transparency in Prescription Drug Pricing

Assemblymember Rosenthal continues his fight for quality health care by combatting rising drug costs. He has proposed legislation to mandate transparency for drug cost increases and requiring patient notifications of potential price increases.

COVID-19 RESPONSE



Grab and Go Event

Assemblymember Rosenthal partnered with Pomonok Residents Association for a "Grab and Go" event distributing personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer and feminine hygiene products.



Mask Distribution

Assemblymember Rosenthal and his staff personally packed and shipped out hundreds of masks to the people of his district.



Nursing Home Assistance

Assemblymember Rosenthal delivered thousands of pieces of vital PPE to nursing homes around his district at the height of the pandemic.



Adjusting to the New Normal

While the physical office space was closed over the last few months, Assemblymember Rosenthal and his staff did not stop working for the community. The office introduced new legislation, assisted hundreds of constituents in securing unemployment benefits and helped dozens with rental assistance concerns.

COMMUNITY CORNER



Kosher Meal Availability

Assemblymember Rosenthal partnered with his colleagues in government to ensure that kosher meals and halal would be available to those who requested it across the city.



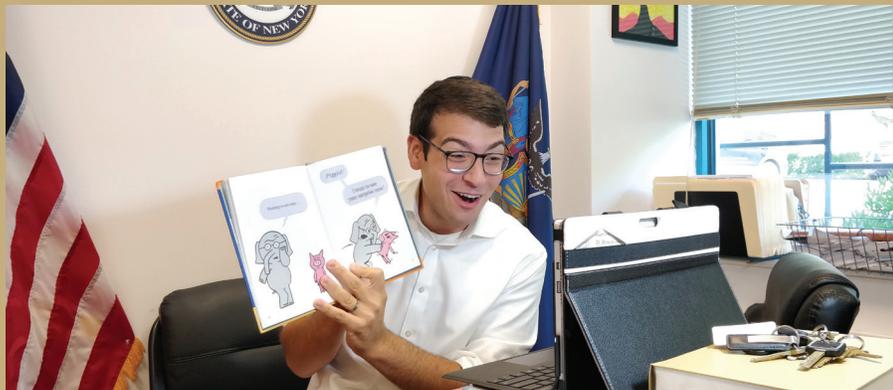
Income Affidavit Assistance

When dozens of Electchester constituents asked for assistance with housing affidavit forms, Assemblymember Rosenthal delivered. His office helped many families complete their forms remotely and hosted a socially distanced outdoor assistance event.



Public Safety Advocacy

Assemblymember Rosenthal is a leading voice for the community's ongoing issues at the Umbrella Hotel in Kew Gardens. He has called on City Hall and several agencies to take action to prevent further violence and dangerous activity at this location.



Virtual Storytime at the Queens Public Library

It was a pleasure for Assemblymember Rosenthal to meet with local children and read to them some of his favorite books. Recent times may have put a damper on his ability to do it face to face but that hasn't stopped him from sharing his love of reading.

Census 2020 is ongoing and your response is now more important than ever. Federal resources are dependent on New York providing crucial, updated Census data. Completing your form is quick and easy!



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Reports to the People

SUMMER 2020

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