

## Khaleel M. Anderson

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

### REPORTS TO YOU

Winter 2020

#### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On November 3rd, you made history by electing me as the youngest Black Assembly Member in not just New York State Assembly District 31, but in the entirety of New York State. I am grateful for this opportunity to make state history and will use every ounce of my energy and knowledge to represent you in Albany.

The Speaker of the New York State Assembly swore me in on November 12th, 2020. Since then, my office staff and I have been hard at work attending trainings and preparing our district offices in Far Rockaway and South Ozone Park, participating in community events and addressing constituent concerns. I have also moved urgently to co-sponsor important legislation to protect families and small businesses during this ever-worsening COVID-19 crisis. It has been both an exciting and challenging first month in office.

We plan to have a virtual office open house in the days ahead and information about that will be shared soon. We began providing constituent services earlier this month and will continue to do so by appointment only. Please contact my office with any neighborhood concerns or feedback that you might have to help us repair, unite and better the communities of New York State Assembly District 31. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Khaleel M. Anderson Assemblymember 31st District

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## Legislation Updates

In all of our mailings, we will provide a list of the most recent legislation that I have sponsored or co-sponsored. We will establish this as a transparent practice to ensure that our communities are aware of my legislative work. I encourage you to reach out to our office if you have questions about any of the following bills or if you have any legislative ideas. Our office will be announcing a Legislative Advisory Committee in the next few weeks.

#### Prime-Sponsored Legislation, Introduced by Rules on Behalf of the Member

**A11152:** Enacts the NYCHA utility accountability act. This is the first bill that I have prime sponsored as a Member of the Assembly. We must hold the Public Housing Authority accountable to its residents.

#### **Co-Sponsored Legislation**

**A01248:** Concerns the application of the legislature of the state of New York petitioning the Congress of the United States of America to call a national constitutional convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission 130 S.Ct. 876.

**A06797:** Relates to establishing Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Diwali, Vaisakhi, Good Friday and Onam as school holidays.

**A07791:** Repeals the rebates for stock transfer tax paid; dedicates funds of the stock transfer tax fund and stock transfer incentive fund to various funds; establishes the safe water and infrastructure action program.

A10226: Requires certain perils be covered under business interruption insurance during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

#### Co-Sponsored Legislation, Introduced by Rules on Behalf of the Member

**A10727:** Raises the lower age of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction from seven to twelve years of age and establishes differential response programs for children under the age of twelve.

A10826: Establishes the Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020.

A10827: Prevents evictions during the COVID-19 covered period.

**A10837:** Relates to requiring business interruption insurance to cover disease outbreaks as denying such coverage based on a disease outbreak is against public policy.

**A10901:** Relates to suspending rent payments for certain tenants due to the state of emergency declared by Executive Order No. 202, where they have lost earned income or were forced to close their place of business; requires landlords to accept 20 percent or one-third of contractual rent each month; requires the superintendent of the department of financial services to establish and implement an interim commercial rent relief program to support covered tenants and landlords impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a Member of the New York State Assembly, my daily work consists of responsibilities that directly impact the lives of all of us here in Assembly District 31. Our office wants to take this time to explain some of the responsibilities of my work as an Assemblymember so that you can hold our team accountable to excellent service and ongoing advocacy on behalf of the district. New York State Assembly Members:

- Write, introduce and vote on legislation
- Inform constituents of legislative updates that impact their quality of life
- Deliver resources to their constituents during the budget process
- Hold city and state governmental agencies responsible for their work supporting constituents
- · Host community events and initiatives

#### What would you like to see from me as your Assemblymember? What questions do you have about my role?

We will be hosting regular conversations on a conference line where our office will discuss various topics impacting the district and answer questions sent to the office – all you have to do is pick up the phone to join. Our first call is scheduled for the evening of **Thursday January 14th**. Email us to provide questions for our Assembly District 31 community conference call: andersonk@nyassembly.gov

## **District Updates**



#### **Sworn into Office**

On November 12th, 2020, I was sworn into the New York State Assembly. It was an unforgettable moment, and I was grateful that a few loved ones were invited to join me for the event in alignment with safety protocols. Thank you to the leaders and organizers throughout Assembly District 31 and all of New York City that have supported me over the years and make my work as an Assemblymember possible today.



#### **NY1 Interview**

"Assemblyman-Elect Khaleel Anderson Makes History": On November 9th, I was interviewed by reporter Clodagh McGowan of NY1 about my historic Assembly win in District 31. We met at the Mott Avenue Train Station in Far Rockaway and I answered questions about my leadership experiences as part of Community Board 14 and the Rockaway Youth Task Force. I also conveyed the urgent issues that residents



in Assembly District 31 are confronting and explained that my background and knowledge prepare me to address these issues in collaboration with fellow advocates.

#### **Your offices**

Our team wants to ensure that we are working throughout Assembly District 31 in convenient and accessible spaces. Our District Office is located at **19-31 Mott Avenue, Suite 301** in **Far Rockaway**, and our Satellite Office is located at **131-17 Rockaway Boulevard** in **South Ozone Park**. Future information about our current locations can be found at the end of this mailer. We look forward to serving you at our offices - as a reminder, meetings at our offices are currently by appointment only.

#### Staffing

I am delighted to introduce you to some of my current office staff – they bring with them a variety of professional and academic experiences and are dedicated to serving the communities of Assembly District 31. Read on to learn more about the team.

#### Karl A. Valere, *Chief of Staff* andersonk@nyassembly.gov

"I am humbled to join Assemblymember Khaleel M. Anderson and his team as Chief of Staff in service to the residents of Assembly District 31. As a Community Coordinator with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, I successfully taught & coordinated more than 300



mental health awareness training courses citywide. Before joining New York City government, I worked as a tenant organizer in Flatbush helping to empower tenants against harassment, displacement, and aggressive gentrification. I was born and raised in Queens and hold my Master and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Queens College in Urban Affairs and Psychology, respectively. I am Haitian-American and speak fluent Haitian Creole. I am excited about joining Assemblymember Anderson and look forward to the work ahead!"

#### Mone't Schultz, Deputy Chief of Staff schultzm@nyassembly.gov

"It is an honor to serve Assembly District 31 alongside Assemblymember Anderson as Deputy Chief of Staff. After graduating from Binghamton University in 2018 with a degree in Sociology, I knew that my calling was public interest and began working as a housing Paralegal case handler for



The Legal Aid Society of NYC before joining the Assemblymember's team. In Assemblymember Anderson's office, I lead constituent services at the South Ozone Park satellite office, focus on legislation and advocacy for bills, and contribute to project management and event planning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with questions or concerns."

#### Tanagra Bledman, Director of Special Projects andersonk@nyassembly.gov

"As Director of Special Projects, I coordinate with Assemblymember Anderson to oversee large-scale projects that are occurring throughout the district and ensure that our team is working towards our necessary aims in the areas of support for small

businesses, criminal justice reform, educational equity, healthcare reform, and more. Prior to joining the Assemblymember's team, I have spent many years of my career working in government with a vast amount of experience in communications and constituent services. I look forward to working alongside my teammates to serve the communities of Assembly District 31."

## Christina Cover, Communications Coordinator coverc@nyassembly.gov

"Assemblymember Anderson is dedicated to working on behalf of the communities of Assembly District 31, and I am honored to work alongside him as our team's Communications Coordinator. As Communications Coordinator,

I draft communications materials from the office, lead social media strategy, and support constituent services and scheduling. Prior to joining the Assemblymember's team, I served with the Americorps program City Year in the Bronx and recently graduated from Queens College, City University of New York with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, studying speech, language and hearing. I graduated alongside Assemblymember Anderson from Queens College last year and live in the Bronx."

#### The best ways to contact us

To contact our office, please call our **Far Rockaway** District Office telephone number, **718-327-1845**, or our **South Ozone Park** Satellite Office number, **718-322-4958**. You can also email my office directly at this address: *andersonk@nyassembly.gov*.



## **Community Events**

#### **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day, and every day, we celebrate the leadership of those who have served to protect our nation. On Veterans Day this year, I visited the American Legion Post 483 in Rosedale to break bread with veterans living in Assembly District 31 and thank them personally for their service. We recognize and highlight all veterans for their service and commitment and want to especially recognize the two-front war that Black current and former service members face.





#### Thanksgiving Giveaway

In partnership with Queens Defenders, our staff hosted a Thanksgiving Giveaway at the Rockaway Community Justice Center. The event was a great success. I hope that everyone had a safe and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

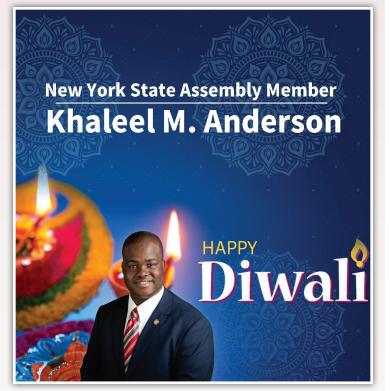


#### **Celebrating the Festival of Lights**

Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated by Hindu, Jain, and Sikh members of our community, is a time symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. What is usually a time of families and friends gathering changed drastically this year due to COVID-19. I joined leaders in Richmond Hill for a joyful scaled-back and socially distanced celebration.



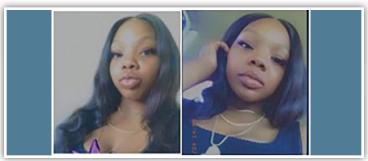
One of the first pieces of legislation I co-sponsored upon my start as an Assemblymember was Assembly Bill 06797, which would recognize Diwali as a school holiday across the state alongside the religious observances of Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Vaisakhi, Good Friday, and Onam. The purpose of the bill is to avail students from different religious and cultural backgrounds to celebrate their traditional festivities with their family and community. All students should have the right to fully celebrate religious observances. For more information on this legislation, you can go to www.nyassembly.gov/ leg/ and search for bill number A06797.



#### **Finding Destini Smothers**

Destini Smothers, a missing 26-year-old woman from Troy, New York, was last seen at Queens at the following locations: the Bowlero Bowling Alley located at 69-10 34th Avenue and McDonald's at 51-35 Northern Boulevard in Queens, New York between the hours of 11PM-1AM on November 3rd, 2020. Anyone who may have information regarding Destini Smothers' whereabouts is urged to reach out to Det. Hughes at the NYPD 101 precinct: 718-868-3528.

#BringDestiniHome



## **Community Events**

#### AARP event for seniors

On December 14th, I attended the Queens Virtual State Legislative Forum sponsored by AARP NY, where we discussed important topics impacting constituents in our community including nursing homes, family caregiving, prescription drug affordability, and financial security.

#### EVENT DESCRIPTION

Queens Virtual State Legislative Forum sponsored by AARP NY

As state lawmakers are gearing up to head back to Albany, they'll be making important decisions on the coronavirus pandemic response, the state budget, and issues that will impact your household finances. This virtual forum offers a chance to ask questions about your representatives' legislative and policy priorities. Now, more than ever, it's important for you to be able to hear directly from your legislators. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

Connect with Your Lawmakers representing Queens on their priorities for 2021. Join us!

December 14th, 2020

1pm-2pm

Connect with us to discuss important topics with your lawmakers, such as:

- Nursing Homes, Long Term Care and Family Caregiving
- Prescription Drug Affordability
- Financial Security

This is a free event. Registration is required to attend.

#### SPEAKERS







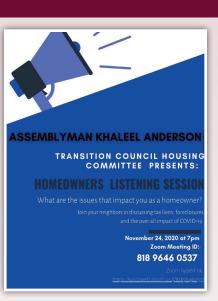






#### **Listening to Small** Landlords and **Homeowners**

During my first few weeks in office, I partook in a homeowners hearing session, listening to residents share their concerns about mortgages, utilities and more amid the COVID-19 crisis. As your state Assemblymember, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of small homeowners in our district are heard.



#### Protecting small business

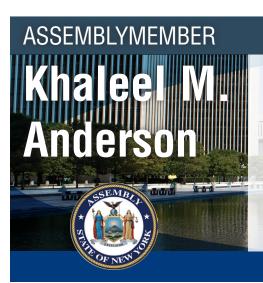
In this time of severe economic difficulty, small business owners are increasingly concerned about going into the weeks ahead with continued absence of financial relief. To convey my support, I went to Rosedale and held a rally alongside Queens Borough President Donovan Richards at a popular local restaurant, Pa-Nash. In my remarks, I implored the governor to provide relief to small businesses amid the COVID-19 crisis and announced that I co-sponsored the Save our Storefront legislation. I later partnered with Senator James Sanders Jr. to host a press conference in support of small businesses.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Winter 2020 Assemblymember Khaleel M. Anderson REPORTS TO YOU





Follow your Assemblymember on social media: Facebook: f Assembly Member Khaleel M. Anderson Email: Andersonk@nyassembly.gov Website: https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Khaleel-M-Anderson **District Office** 

19-31 Mott Avenue Suite 301, Far Rockaway, New York 11691 Satellite Office: 131-17 Rockaway Boulevard, South Ozone Park, New York 11420