

Reports to You

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Khaleel M. Anderson**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Spring has officially sprung! As we emerge from a historic winter season with record-low snowfall, I am encouraged by the signs of new growth and life blossoming around us. The longer days and warmer weather remind us of the limitless possibilities and bright future ahead.

In light of this hopeful outlook, I am excited to present this Spring 2023 Constituent Mailer, which offers a snapshot of the work we have accomplished at the start of our second term in office. I hope this information will deepen your understanding of our efforts to represent the very best of Assembly District 31.

Remember: Our unity is our strength, and our collaboration will take us further than our isolation. When we work together, we can build bridges over troubled waters leading us to a better quality of life and healthier outcomes in our community for generations to come.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support, and I vow to keep up the good fight for our community. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and transform our communities for the better.

Sincerely,

Khaleel M. Anderson  
Assemblymember  
31st District



## Swearing In for a Second Term

On Tuesday, January 4, 2023, I swore a solemn oath to uphold the New York State Constitution and renewed my commitment to fight for the working-class families of Assembly District 31. I am excited and honored to begin my 2nd term as the state representative for this beautiful Assembly District, a place I have called home for most of my life.

## ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 31 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



**As we move forward with the 246th Legislative Session of New York State, I am excited to present my office's legislative and community priorities based on the urgent issues affecting our community:**

### Food Access and Justice

Food prices have skyrocketed since the COVID-19 pandemic, and many working-class families are struggling with food insecurity. My office is dedicated to breaking the stigma around food insecurity and hunger as we fight to reform policies that make healthy food hard to access and “junk” food readily available. Food insecurity affects everyone – children, parents, seniors, veterans, college students, and immigrants. My office invites you to join us as we offer solutions to address food insecurity, including SNAP/EBT assistance, nutrition education, and critical investments in our food supply infrastructure.

### Housing Insecurity

My office strongly believes that housing is a human right. Every person should have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or source of income. Amid New York City's affordable housing crisis, my office fights daily to ensure our constituents have a fair opportunity to obtain, maintain, and sustain housing. We work to reconcile the nuances of the housing ecosystem so that renters, homeowners, and small property owners are supported and treated fairly. To be clear – we must provide relief for renters and cut through the bureaucratic red tape that prevents access to housing; we must equip homeowners with resources that promote longevity and intergenerational homeownership; and we must preserve public housing and empower tenants to take control of their future.

### Structural Violence

Research shows that food hardship and housing insecurity lead to violence in our communities. Our office is committed to addressing these root causes of violence in addition to poverty, unemployment, failing schools, childhood trauma, mental health challenges, and substance misuse to name a few. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Violence is anything that denies human integrity and leads to hopelessness and helplessness.” We condemn violence in all forms – domestic violence, gun violence, school-based violence, and police violence. We invite you to join our office as we fight to transform a criminal legal system that should prioritize justice, restoration, harm reduction, and rehabilitation.



# FIGHTING FOR YOU IN ALBANY



## Advocating for Fairness in Pretrial Detention

On March 30th, I joined advocates and my elected colleagues for a rally against pretrial incarceration, which affects poor Black and Brown people, and denounced the Governor's proposed rollbacks to bail reform. Bail reform was implemented in 2020 to reduce the number of people held in jails while awaiting a fair trial simply because they cannot afford to pay bail. Under the current system, judges have adequate discretion as they are required to consider a person's ability to pay bail and the risk they pose to public safety when making bail decisions. These reforms have helped to promote equity, by reducing the number of people incarcerated pretrial and addressing systemic bias in the criminal justice system.



## Supporting Black Farmers in New York State

On February 14th, I questioned the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets about what support the state has given to our Black farmers. The Commissioner stated the Department provides outreach, training, and access to financial lending to support Black farmers, but would need more funding from the state to hire additional staff.



## Full Funding for Safety Net Hospitals

I joined Senator Gustavo Rivera at his Press Conference on April 25th calling on Governor Hochul to fully fund safety net hospitals. These institutions operate on meager budgets and primarily serve communities of color that are largely uninsured or rely on Medicaid reimbursement rates. Our constituents need these services and fundamental changes must be made to how the State finances safety net hospitals to eliminate this two-tiered system of care.

## Welcoming Families from Assembly District 31 to "The People's House"

During each Legislative Session, I have the distinct honor and privilege of welcoming constituents and families from the 31st District to "The People's House" in Albany. This session, I received Pastor Courtney Brown and his lovely family from Upper Room International Ministries, as well as my younger brother, Sekenya, and his beautiful family on the Assembly floor.



## NYCHA On My Mind

Many New Yorkers still have not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, including hundreds of public housing residents in my district facing eviction due to rent arrears. Public housing residents deserve better than being placed at the back of the line for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Here in Albany, I will continue to fight tirelessly for NYCHA and public housing residents to get their fair share.

## Climate Justice Saves Dollars and Makes Sense

I met with proponents and fully support passage of the "Renewable Heat Now" bill package in New York State. These policies which include improved building codes, appliance standards, and zero emissions of all-electric new buildings, will save New Yorkers money on their energy bill and reduce emissions.



### ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Chair: Subcommittee on Banking in Underserved Communities;

Member: Committees on Banks; Children and Families; Energy; Insurance; People with Disabilities;

Member: Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



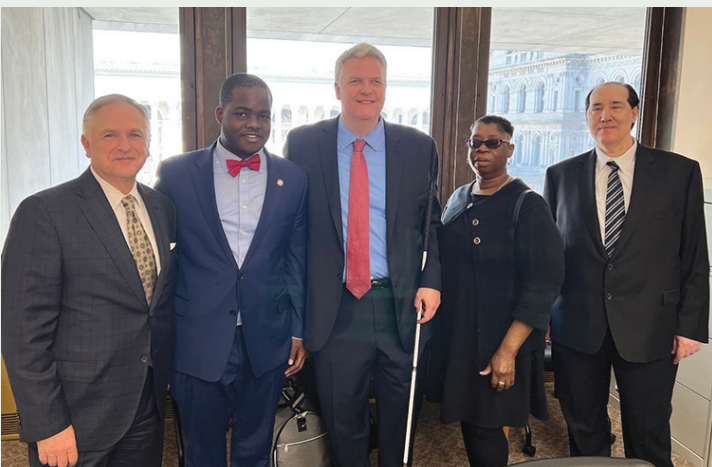
### 3rd Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

We enjoyed a successful 3rd Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon and Awards Ceremony with over 75 guests from Assembly District 31 in attendance at Swift River Center in Rosedale on Saturday, March 25th. The event included a luncheon, panel discussion, and a live performance by Black Spectrum Theatre, with the theme of "Women Inspiring Change." Our distinguished winners were recognized for their outstanding leadership, community service, and activism in the district, with remarks from Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. Thank you everyone who voted and congratulations again to all the award winners!



### State of the District Address

On Thursday, February 23rd, more than 300 attendees joined both online and in person at the Rockaway YMCA for our 2023 State of the District Address. My office recognized the tremendous hard work and collective progress that we have made towards a brighter future here in Assembly District 31.



### Expanding Access for People with Disabilities

On March 20th, I met with Alphapointe, a nonprofit organization that is one of the largest employers of people who are blind in New York State. They plan to build a 138,000 sq ft building in Richmond Hill to provide employment for people with vision loss. As a member of the Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities, I am committed to supporting these initiatives to help more people who are visually impaired or blind throughout Assembly District 31.



### We Deserve Better Bus Service

Earlier this year, I rode the bus from one end of Assembly District 31 to the other to highlight the long commute times faced by constituents living in Far Rockaway, South Ozone Park, Springfield Gardens, and Rosedale. After the bus ride, I held a press conference in Far Rockaway with Riders Alliance urging my colleagues in Albany to allocate funds for more frequent bus and train service in Queens and the entire city in the state budget.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



### Street Renamed for Guru Nanak in Queens

I joined the Sikh community and my fellow elected officials on April 21st to witness the renaming of 118th Street between 95th Avenue and 101st Street in honor of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.



### Our Food, Our Families, Our Future

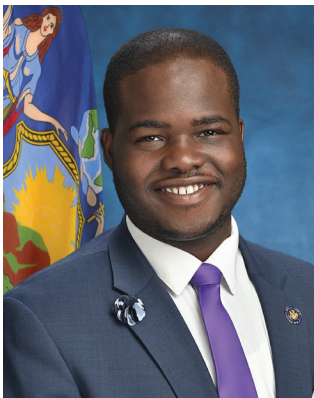
I joined the Campaign Against Hunger (TCAH) at their legislative luncheon to celebrate its 25th year of service and to discuss solutions to hunger and food insecurity. As a Keynote speaker, I spoke of my commitment to eradicating “food apartheid” by securing a historic investment of \$250,000 in state funding toward TCAH’s cutting-edge greenhouse project in Edgemere.



### Cannabis Workforce Initiative

On Saturday, January 28th, at Greater Nexus in Queens, our office welcomed nearly a hundred attendees for an informational seminar with the New York State Cannabis Workforce Initiative (CWI), discussing new economic opportunities in the adult-use cannabis industry. Our event kicked off a 10-week workforce development and certification program to help Southeast Queens residents affected by Cannabis Prohibition participate in the fast-growing billion dollar industry.

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## Assembly Member Khaleel M. Anderson

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## ASSEMBLY MEMBER Khaleel M. Anderson



### Follow your Assemblymember on social media:

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#### District and Satellite Office Hours:

Mondays – Thursdays: 10 am – 4:30 pm; Fridays: 10 am – 3 pm

#### District Office:

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718-327-1845

#### Satellite Office:

131-15 Rockaway Boulevard  
South Ozone Park, NY 11420  
718-322-4958

After Hours Phone Number: (917) 426-6199

This summer our office will be hosting mobile office hours where we will bring our office to you. Please pay attention to our email blast as well as our social media pages to learn about where I will be in the district.