March 6, 2020

Greetings --

On Wednesday, I joined my colleague Jo Anne Simon and other legislators for Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany. Hundreds of parents and students with dyslexia came to the capital to advocate for dyslexic students. With 73% of 8th Graders in NYC reading below a proficient level, it is clear that our literacy crisis is a general education issue and will only be solved by universal dyslexia screening, evidence based curriculum interventions like multi-sensory sequential phonics, and admitting the current system is broken, not just for dyslexic students, but for all students. **View my full remarks below**:

The next step is for the legislature to pass my bill, **A8786-A,** which is modeled after a recently passed Missouri law, that would create a task force and guidelines for universal Dyslexia screening and curriculum interventions.

If you agree and would like to help, please **sign my petition here**.

COVID-19 Fact sheet from NYC Department of Health

What is COVID-19?

- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause mild illnesses like a cold, to more serious illnesses like pneumonia.
- Infections with this new virus have been reported in many countries, including the U.S. For an updated list of affected areas, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus.
- The virus is likely to be spread from person to person, but it is currently unclear how easily it spreads.
- Commonly reported symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Most people (80%) with COVID-19 will feel like they have a bad cold or the flu. Some people will require hospitalization. People who are at most risk for severe illness are elderly or have other health conditions.

What Should New Yorkers Do?

New Yorkers should go about their daily lives, but take certain precautions:

- Get the flu shot—it's not too late. Although the flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19, it will help prevent the flu which has similar symptoms to this coronavirus.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. o Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you feel sick, stay home.
- If you have fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, and recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread of coronavirus or have been in close contact with someone who has recently traveled to any of those areas, go to your doctor.
- If you have these symptoms, but no travel history, stay home and call your doctor. If you need connection to a health care provider, call 311.

- Hospital staff will not ask about immigration status. Receiving health care is not a public benefit identified by the public charge test.

At This Time, New Yorkers Do Not Need to:

- Limit travel within the city.
- Avoid public gatherings and public transportation.
- Change anything about where you get your food or how you prepare it.
- Wear a face mask if you are not sick. Face masks are only recommended if directed by a health care provider.
- People wear protective face masks for many reasons, including seasonal allergies, pollution or protecting those around them from a common cold. They should **not** be harassed or targeted for wearing one.

This is a rapidly changing situation. Please check nyc.gov/health/coronavirus for the latest updates.

Plastic Bag Ban and Paper Bag Fee

A reminder that the single-use plastic bag ban that we passed in Albany last year year took effect on **March 1st.**

In addition to the prohibition of the distribution of single-use plastic bags, there is also a 5 cent fee on paper bags, so when you go out to shop, don't forget to bring your own bag. I passed out hundreds of reusable bags around the district in the last couple of weeks and am currently out of stock, but I'll send out an email when I have more to distribute. For more information on the law, please visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website here.

DOF Enrollment Event on Monday:

Homeowners & Tenants Enrollment Event

Sponsored by NYC Department of Finance NY State Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and NY State Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll.

NYS Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

NYS Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll

HOMEOWNERS

Apply for an exemption and lower your property tax bill.

- **STAR:** homeowners with an annual income of $500,000 or less. Must apply with NYS for Basic STAR.
- **E-Star:** seniors age 65 and over with annual incomes of $88,050 or less.
- **SCHE/DHE:** seniors age 65 and over, or disabled homeowners with annual incomes of $58,399 or less.
- **Veterans:** who served in the U.S. military during designated periods of conflict, their unmarried surviving spouse and Gold Star parents.
- **Clergy:** for active and retired members of the clergy and their unmarried surviving spouse. Must be NYS resident.

To Apply Please Bring
- Picture ID
- 2018 or 2019 tax returns or income documents for all owners
- DD214 or discharge papers (for veterans)
- Trust documents (if applicable)
- Clergy verification letter on official letterhead (clergy)
- Stock Certificate or Maintenance Statement (for co-op owners)

TENANTS

Seniors and people with disabilities apply for SCRIE or DRIE and keep your rent from increasing if you:

- Are at least 62 years old or 18 years old with a qualifying disability.
- Have a household income of $50,000 or less.
- Live in a rent-regulated apartment.
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent.
NYCHA AND SECTION 8 RECIPIENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

To Apply Please Bring
- Picture ID
- 2018 or 2019 tax returns, W2, or 1099 statements
- Income documents for all household members
- Copies of your 2 most recent leases
- Social Security disability award letter (If applicable)

For more information, visit nyc.gov/finance

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020 | **9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

We're on social media, too!

Park Slope Armory YMCA

Fully Accessible

361 15th Street, Brooklyn 11215

Transportation: F/G to either 7th Ave or 15th Street-Prospect Park or bus service on the B61, B67, B68, and B69

RSVP contact info: CarrollR@nyassembly.gov or 718-788-7221

If due to a disability you need an accommodation in order to apply for and receive a service, or to participate in a program offered by the Department of Finance, please contact the Disability Service Facilitator at nyc.gov/contactdofeeo or by calling 311.

Upcoming Community Meetings:

72nd Precinct Community Council

Marien-Heim Senior Center

4520 4th Avenue

Tuesday, March 10

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [72nd Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the second Tuesday of each month.

66th Precinct Sector C NCO meeting, Borough Park / Sunset Park area

Brooklyn Public Library - Borough Park Branch

1265 43rd St

Wednesday, March 11

5pm (doors open at 4:30pm)

[Neighborhood Coordination Officers](#), or NCOs, are your local problem solvers. They spend all their working hours within the confines of their assigned sectors, actively engaging with local community members and residents. They get to know the neighborhood, its people, and its problems extremely well. PO Hui and PO Diaz, the NCOs for Sector C, will provide a neighborhood update and respond to questions and concerns from residents.

Community Board 6 Monthly Meeting

NYPD 78th Precinct Station

65 6th Avenue

Wednesday, March 11

6:30pm

Open to community members. The [CB 6](#) monthly meeting is typically scheduled on the second Wednesday and the location moves around during the year.

70thPrecinct Sector D NCO meeting

St. Paul's Church, 157 St Paul's Place

Thursday, March 12

7:00PM to 8:00PM

[Neighborhood Coordination Officers](#), or NCOs, are your local problem solvers. They spend all their working hours within the confines of their assigned sectors, actively engaging with local community members and residents. They get to know the neighborhood, its people, and its problems extremely well. PO Callender and PO Sesay, the NCOs for Sector D, will provide a neighborhood update and respond to questions and concerns from residents.

Bobby

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