

# **Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall**

**June 12, 2020**

## **Upcoming Event**

### **Community Town Hall Meeting with NYS Representatives**

Join me, United States Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, NYS Senator Diane Savino, and NYS Assemblyman Michael Cusick for a community town hall on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 from 5pm to 7pm**. **Click here at the time of the event to join live and learn about updates from your New York State representatives and to ask questions and share comments.** Contact [Agosas@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Agosas@nyassembly.gov) to share your questions ahead of time.

Join Assemblyman Charles D. Fall for a  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**  
**5pm to 7pm**

**Zoom ID: 916 7597 5335**  
**Dial in: +1929-205-6099**

- Learn about updates from your New York State representatives and resources that are available to you
- Pose your questions and comments to the host

  
Joined by United States Minority Leader  
Chuck Schumer, &  
New York State Senator Diane Savino &  
Assemblyman Michael Cusick

  
Special remarks by New York State  
Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie

Contact [Agosas@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Agosas@nyassembly.gov) with inquiries or to send questions in advance

## **Updates From Albany**

### **Voting for a Crucial Comprehensive Racial Justice Reform Package**

In the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis and various incidents of injustice across the country, my colleagues and I reconvened in Albany to pass several pieces of legislation. The

following eight bills are among many legislative bills included in the comprehensive racial justice package that I voted in favor to pass. The legislative intent of these bills is to protect New Yorkers, improve police and community relations, and bring about transparency and accountability to residents.

- **Bill A.1531-B, prevents the biased misuse of emergency services.**
  - Any person who summons a police officer or peace officer without reason to suspect a violation of the law, any other criminal conduct, or an imminent threat to a person or property, but motivated instead by a belief or perception regarding race, color, national origins, gender, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation of an individual, could be liable for such conduct in a civil action or other appropriate remedies.
- **Bill A.6144-B, The Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act.**
  - This legislation would create a new crime of aggravated strangulation.
  - The bill would make it a class C felony.
- **Bill A.8674-A, requires body cameras for all New York State Police Officers.**
  - The bill requires the Division of State Police to provide body-worn cameras to all New York State Police officers to be worn at all times while on patrol.
- **Bill A.8226-B, ensures the safety of individuals in custody.**
  - This bill would ensure that medical attention would be properly administered immediately at the scene of an arrest.
  - This will prevent individuals in custody from having to endure further distress or harm.
- **Bill A.927-A, requires officers to promptly report the discharge of a firearm.**
  - Under the current statute, law enforcement officers are not required to report the discharge of a weapon, even in circumstances where a person may have been struck.
  - This legislation would change that, requiring that police and peace officers, - whether on or off duty – verbally report a discharge of a firearm where a person could have been struck within six hours of the incident, followed by a written report within 48 hours.
- **Bill A.10609, The Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act:**
  - The Office of Court Administration would be required to compile data concerning misdemeanor and lower-level arrests and court processing. The data to be collected and reported by the county would include:
    - The number of misdemeanor offenses and violations charged
    - The type of misdemeanor or violation charged
    - The race, ethnicity, age and sex of the individual charged

- The precinct or location where the offense is alleged to have occurred
  - The basis for dismal if the case was dismissed
  - The sentence imposed, including fines, fees and surcharges
- The legislation would also require the chief of every police department, every county sheriff, and the superintendent of state police to promptly report to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) all arrest-related deaths. The reporting would include:
  - The number of arrest-related deaths in each county
  - Race, ethnicity, age and sex of each individual
  - Zip code or location where the death occurred
  - A brief description of the circumstances surrounding each death
- **Bill A.1360-A, protects the right to record law enforcement activity.**
  - Ensures that members of the public are legally permitted to record and photograph police activity, giving individuals a legal course of action if an officer interferes with lawful recording.
- **Bill A.10611, promotes transparency and accountability for law enforcement through the repeal of 50-a.**
  - The legislation repeals section 50-a of the NYS Civil Rights law to provide much-needed transparency on police misconduct and discipline.
    - Section 50-a used to permit law enforcement officers to refuse disclosure of personal records used to evaluate performance toward continued employment or promotion
    - The exemption was expanded in the courts to allow police departments to withhold from the public virtually any record that contains any information that could conceivably be used to evaluate the performance of a police officer, even when known misconduct has occurred.
    - When responding to FOIL requests, a law enforcement agency is not required to include the officers: medical history; home addresses, phone numbers, and email address; social security number; and mental health and substance abuse records, to protect their personal information.

The legislation we passed this week is about moving forward and bringing about transparency, accountability and equal treatment when it comes to racial justice and law enforcement. It is essential that we continue this dialogue in our homes, our workplaces, among friend groups, and

in our communities. We need to implement these measures together for the betterment of our communities and the relationships between residents and those that protect and serve daily.



To find more information on these pieces of legislation or other bills, you can click [here](#) or [here](#). Please contact my legislative director, Brian Early at [Earlyb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Earlyb@nyassembly.gov) with any policy inquiries or legislative requests.

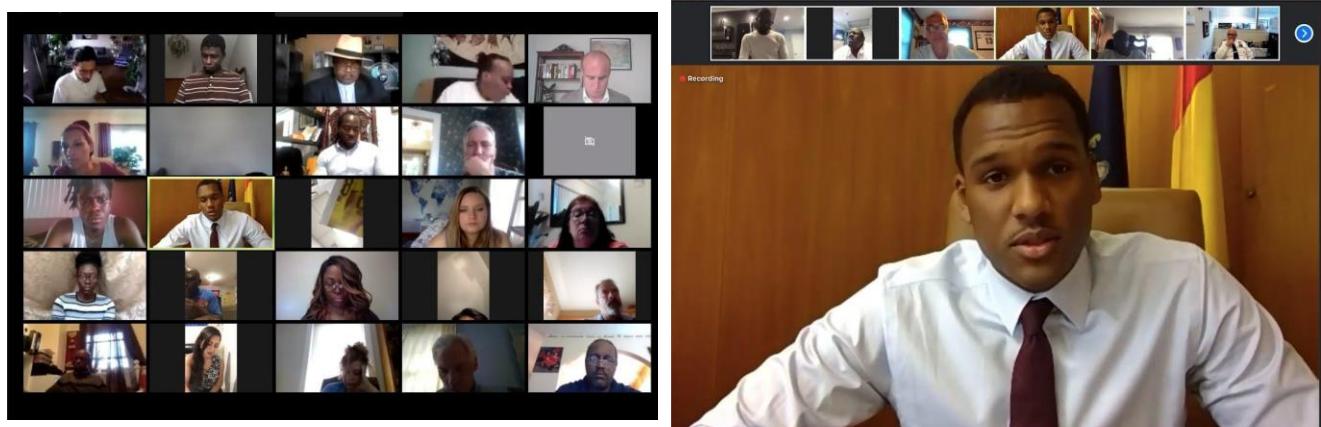
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## District 61 News

### **Community Conversation on Race Relations**

Following the unity and change press conference we held last week, many community members were seeking direction on what tangible next steps looked like. I partnered with the African Community Alliance of Staten Island, Legal Aid Society, the Staten Island Immigrants Council, NYPD Borough Commander Kenneth Corey and Congressman Max Rose to further foster open dialogue around race relations. Over one-hundred residents across Staten Island joined the call to share their lived experiences as well as their desire to support other residents most impacted by systemic racial inequality. During the discussion, residents raised their desire for law enforcement to be better trained in defusing family conflict, the need for more ‘know your rights’ programming in our public schools, and a greater need for mental health resources for black and brown youth impacted by recent events.

This discussion is the first of many community conversations to come as we collectively work toward a more just future. It is important that all stakeholders are involved during this process.



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## Positive Community Contributions

### Community Board 1, Staten Island June Meeting

Social distancing has impacted every aspect of our community, including the ability for our civic organizations and community boards to meet in person these past few months. I was glad to talk with members of Community Board 1, Staten Island during their monthly board meeting. During our discussion, members raised their continued concerns about the construction of the Women In Need homeless shelter at the 44 Victory Blvd. location. Their concerns are, in part, related to environmental contamination findings cited in a recent NYC Department of Environmental Remediation report. I will work with the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation to amplify the concerns voiced during our conversation in an effort to ensure that the health and safety of the women, children, and the surrounding community are not compromised.

Staten Island community boards are composed of volunteer members appointed by the local borough president. Community Boards have an important advisory role in dealing with land use and zoning items, the City budget, municipal service delivery, and many other matters relating to their communities' welfare. Thank you to the members of Community Board 1 for your commitment to improving the quality of life for anyone who lives, works or visits our North Shore community, especially during this difficult public health crisis. [Click here to learn more about the work the Community Board 1 is doing for the North Shore and to view the schedule of future area community meetings.](#)



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## **Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community During COVID-19**

1. NYC City has successfully worked to help flatten the curve across the five boroughs. However, COVID-19 is still spreading in New York. New Yorkers must continue to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance in public. [\*\*Click here to review daily updates of COVID-19 testing data by region.\*\*](#)
2. **Guidance for businesses.** An estimated 200,000 - 400,000 workers have returned to work as construction, manufacturing, wholesale supply, and non-essential retail (curbside and in-store pickup) get up and running again.
  - Private businesses have a right to refuse service to individuals who are not wearing a mask.
  - Governor Cuomo announced outdoor dining at restaurants will be permitted in phase two of reopening. Outdoor tables must be spaced six feet apart, all staff must wear face coverings and customers must also wear face coverings when not seated. [\*\*Click here for guidelines on Outdoor and Take-Out/Delivery Food Services.\*\*](#)
  - To help restaurants rebound, reach more customers, and maintain social distancing, the city has established an [\*\*Open Restaurants plan.\*\*](#) This initiative will include curbside seating, open street, and sidewalk seating. To aid this process, the NYC Department of Transportation and NYC Consumer Affairs Department will establish a simpler, more streamlined permitting process for sidewalk seating.
  - [\*\*Click here to get free face coverings for your small businesses and employees.\*\*](#)

3. **Places of worship will be able to reopen with 25% occupancy**, provided social distancing protocols are in place, for phase two of reopening.
4. Governor Cuomo announced that NYS will **allow outdoor, socially distanced graduations of up to 150 people beginning June 26th**.
5. Early voting starts this Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and the deadline to [request a mail-in ballot](#) next week on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Staten Island Ferry and Railway Updates.**
  - The Staten Island Ferry will begin running every 20 minutes during peak hours. Peak hours include 6am to 9am and 3:30pm to 6:30pm.
  - SIR has a new Essential Service schedule currently in effect to match the recent increase in service for the S.I. Ferry. At this time, all trains on the Staten Island Railway will run locally. The agency will be monitoring ridership to determine when to reinstate the express trains.
7. **Busways and Bus Lanes:** The City will implement 20 miles of new busways and bus lanes that will serve nearly 750,000 daily riders. This will enable faster travel, and more frequent buses will help to increase social distance. [Click here for more information.](#)
8. **Alternate Side Parking** is suspended through Sunday, June 21. Parking meters and all other parking rules remain in effect.
9. The **Test & Trace Corps** will allow the City to safely separate and care for those who test positive for the virus, and then rapidly track, assess, and quarantine anyone they came into contact with and may have infected.
  - [Anyone unable to safely separate at home will be offered a free hotel room.](#) [Click here to learn more](#), or call 1-844-692-4692.
  - Be part of an effort to re-open our communities by joining the **NYS Contact Tracing Initiative** by applying to be a [contact tracer](#), [team supervisor](#), or [community support specialist](#). [Click here for more information about how you can help.](#)
10. **New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Updates:**
  - As of Monday, June 1, state-run DMV offices are processing vehicle registrations and other transactions by mail, and as of June 4, they have started accepting transactions through secure drop boxes located at each office. [Click here for specific information about services offered by county-operated offices.](#)
  - **Commercial Driver License (CDL) road tests will begin to resume in all regions that are in at least phase 1 of reopening.** All road tests will be

conducted with strict safety requirements in place. [\*\*Click here to schedule a reservation for CDL tests.\*\*](#)

**11. Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**

- The New York State Department of Health has [\*\*created a map where individuals can find all of the State run testing sites.\*\*](#)
- Antibody Testing for New Yorkers: [\*\*Complete this survey to schedule an appointment: Antibody Testing Appointment Survey\*\*](#) or call 888- 279-0967.

Please utilize the website, to keep the hotline free for those without internet access.

**12. The NYC administration has launched a Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, available at (844) NYC-4NYC.** New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about Coronavirus can call to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from **9 am - 9 pm.**

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**Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

1. **Cooling Assistance Benefit.** As the weather heats up, [\*\*Access NYC\*\*](#) has released the application for the Cooling Assistance Benefit. Through this benefit, individuals and families can receive air conditioners and fans. The deadline to submit applications is August 30, 2020. [\*\*For more information and to see if you are eligible, click here.\*\*](#)
2. **The State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance** released a document in response to frequently asked questions about the **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits.** [\*\*Click here to find more information.\*\*](#)
3. **The NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is working to provide New Yorkers with emergency expense aid.** Individuals may apply for emergency financial help to prevent eviction, pay their energy or utility bills, or buy health-related items. They can apply to the NYC Human Resources Administration for a one-time emergency grant, also called the "One Shot Deal." **Call (718) 557-1399 for more information.** Eligibility includes all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.
4. **NYC Burial Allowance Application.** Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Office of Burial Services (OBS) assist individuals in need of financial assistance to meet funeral expenses for a deceased low-income New York City resident. Payment may be authorized to reimburse funeral expenses that have already been paid or pre-approval for payment may be authorized for the cost of a planned funeral.
  - [\*\*View the application for Burial Allowance and find out more about what HRA will cover.\*\*](#)

- **Contact a city agent at 929-252-7731.** Callers are encouraged to leave a message and an OBS staff member will return their call.

## 5. Small Business Resources:

- **Signature Bank** is donating \$750,000 in funds to the Small Business Emergency Grant Program to further support small businesses who experienced material damage to their storefronts over the last two weeks. The donation will allow the program to provide individual grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses across the city.
- **Small Business, Nonprofit COVID-19 Relief** helps provide free legal counsel and financial aid guidance from the SBLRA, an alliance of law firms and legal service providers. [Click here to find more information.](#)
- **The New York Forward Loan Fund** is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. [Click here to access the application.](#)
- The NYC Department of Small Business Services has developed a [Reopening Guide](#), a helpful palm card: [NYC Means Business: Reopen & Stay Safe at Work](#) and a dedicated **Business Restart Hotline:888-SBS-4NYC**.
- The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA), in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity), and the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC invites restaurants to apply for the [Restaurant Revitalization Program](#). This initiative will support unemployed and underemployed restaurant workers using a \$3 million fund, focusing on the 27 communities hardest hit by COVID-19.
  - Grants of up to \$30,000 each will subsidize wages of \$20 per hour for at least 6 weeks, supporting 1,000 workers in 100 restaurants initially selected, with preference given to those who offer free or reduced cost meals to New Yorkers affected by COVID-19. Additionally, all restaurants must commit to a \$15 minimum wage on top of tips within 5 years of returning to regular business.
  - [Click here to learn more about the Restaurant Revitalization Program.](#)

## 6. Free Legal Help is available for notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more:

- **City Bar Justice Center,** [click here to learn more.](#)
- **Lawyers Alliance.** For non-profit organizations only. Virtual consultations on SBA loans. [Click here to register.](#)

- The New York State Bar Association helps jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits if their claim has been denied. [Click here to find out more information and request support.](#)
7. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is a federal program that offers temporary unemployment assistance to those who are unemployed, partially employed, or unable to work because of COVID-19 and are not currently eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
- For more information, please refer to the NYS Department of Labor's [PUA Fact Sheet here.](#)
  - [Click here to apply for PUA or Regular Unemployment Benefits and follow the instructions.](#)
8. The NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center is offering free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If you know someone who is personally impacted by problem gambling and looking for help in Staten Island, [click here for more information](#), call (929) 955-3062, or e-mail [newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org](mailto:newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org).
9. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. **The Staten Island NYC Family Justice Centers is still operating virtually.** Victims and survivors in NYC can get help directly by **calling 718-697-4300 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.**
10. **Groceries and Meals:**
- The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened a Nutrition Kitchen (food pantry) to **distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it.**
  - The Staten Island Kitchen located at [340 Bay Street](#) **operates Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-noon. Call 718-876-8660 for more information.**
    - [Click here to find a location](#) near your home distributing meals for free. Hours and locations on this map are subject to change.
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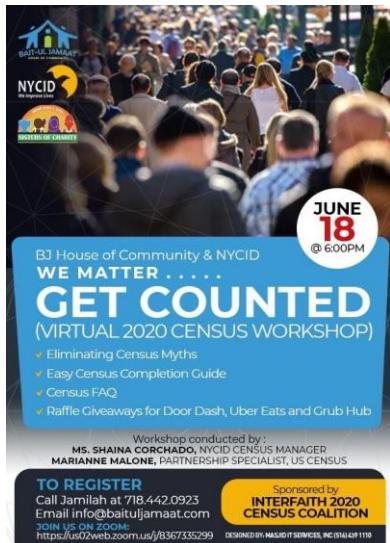
## Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

1. Today, Thursday, June 7 at 7pm Staten Island Inter-religious leadership joined together to offer prayers and words of comfort for those grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. [Click here to watch a recording of the event.](#)

2. **On Tuesday, June 16 from 6pm to 9pm**, the Department of Education will host a Special Education Forum with the Citywide Council on Special Education and District 75 for families of special education students. [\*\*Click here to join the event via Webex;\*\*](#) Event number: 132 261 4102; Event password: June2020.



3. **Bait-ul Jamaat House of Community and NYCID are joining together to host a virtual 2020 Census workshop on Thursday, June 18 at 6pm.** Come learn how you can eliminate census myths and get answers to frequently asked census questions. Gift card giveaways for Door dash, Uber Eats and Grub Hub. **To register, call Jamilah at (718) 442-0923 or email [info@baituljamaat.com](mailto:info@baituljamaat.com). Click here to join them on zoom.**



4. **Local Civics** is an education technology platform devoted to re-imagining civic participation and engagement in our local communities. **Local Civic is hosting a virtual youth leadership series between June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on courses like Exploring Careers in Technology and Elevating Community Organizing and Activism**, to help spark conversations about learning about career pathways, personal leadership and civic engagement. [Click here to register middle and high school students for these free courses](#)



5. **New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer** is hosting a series of **Tenants Rights Information Sessions** with the Legal Aid Society to provide updates on the NYS Eviction Moratorium, Housing Court cases and what resources are available when you cannot pay rent. [Click here to register for a session on Tuesday, June 16 at 11am.](#)

Comptroller Stringer will also be hosting a **small business focused M/WBE University Webinar Series: Resiliency and Recovery Post-COVID between June and October**. These Zoom presentations will explore topics from COVID recovery resources and best practices with Minority Depository Institutions to doing business with the Comptroller. Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages and must be requested at least two days before each session. [You can RSVP here!](#) For any questions, please email the Diversity Office at [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov).



**6. CSI's Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development is accepting applications for the Career Success Scholarship**, an initiative aimed at supporting students in continuing education certificate programs. It is open to individuals seeking to advance their careers through education and training -especially those who are unemployed or seeking a career change, and those who do not have access to other sources of funding to pay for tuition and fees. This scholarship does not support current or future degree program studies.

- **Interested candidates should click here for more information and eligibility requirements**
- **Applications are due by August 3, 2020**



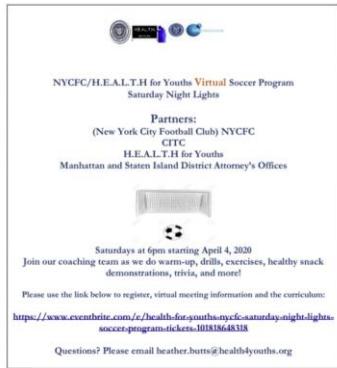
7. **NeON Summer is a six-week (July 6 through August 14) remote-learning summer immersion program connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with a paid learning opportunities designed to build skills to succeed in the workplace, strengthen community, and support young people and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The deadline for the application is Monday, June 15. Click here to apply.**



8. My office has collaborated with **Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA** to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am**. Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. Email [Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com) to get the link to join!



9. **H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths** continues to offer their virtual "**Saturday Night Lights**" **Soccer Program each Saturday at 6pm!** This is an opportunity for youth to get active, practice soccer drills, participate in healthy snack demonstrations, and much more. **Click here to register!**



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## How To Help

1. The need for blood has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, but blood supply is dangerously low. Donors can call **800-933-2566** or **schedule an appointment online now.**
2. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.**



**Assemblyman Charles D. Fall**  
**#CensusCompletedChallenge**

Three Methods to Respond:

- **Online:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
- **Mail:** Mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.
- **Call:** 844-330-2020 to complete via phone.

Challenge 5 family members and friends!

Everyone counts, infants, the elderly and everyone in-between. [f](#) [t](#) [g](#)

Wishing you all health and safety,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charles D. Fall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Charles" on top and "D. Fall" below it.

Charles D. Fall

Member of Assembly