

### Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall November 18, 2021

# **District 61 News**

### **Veterans Day Ceremony**

It was an honor to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery. I am extremely grateful for our brothers and sisters who have served our country and risked their lives to keep us safe today and always. Our community continues to support veterans today, tomorrow, and always.



# Bring Back Tourism, Bring Back Jobs

As we continue to recover from this pandemic, we need to make sure that we aren't leaving any industry behind. It was my pleasure to join the Governor for her announcement of the

comprehensive \$450 million "Bring Back Tourism, Bring Back Jobs" recovery package. Thank you to Governor Kathy Hochul for supporting Staten Island and our tourism industry during their recovery by using creative and common sense solutions.



# 121 Precinct Community Council and the Westerleigh Improvement Society

Thank you to the 121 Precinct Community Council and the Westerleigh Improvement Society for hosting me last week. I am thankful to be able to work with incredible community partners and civic associations to continue to improve the North Shore.



**Harlem Nights** 

I had a wonderful time attending the Staten Island Black Heritage's Harlem Nights ball last week. The night was filled with joy and laughter amongst colleagues and friends. On top of all the work they do for our community SIBH always knows how to throw an eventful gathering. I thank them for their service to Staten Island and for their continued partnership.



#### Van Duzer Civic Association

It was great to join the Van Duzer Street Civic Association at their monthly meeting to discuss how we can make Stapleton safer and cleaner for all of our neighbors. Civic Associations are the backbones of our communities and it is important that we are actively participating and supporting the work they do.



#### **NYC Soccer Initiative**

I was happy to spend time with my friends from PS57 at the ribbon cutting for their new soccer pitch. I look forward to seeing the NYC Soccer Initiative continue to grow on Staten Island.



# **First Central Baptist Church**

It's always a pleasure to visit the congregation of the First Central Baptist Church. Their open doors bring comfort and joy to so many and Rev. Dr. Carolina has done a magnificent job for so long and for that I must commend them.



### **Opioid Overdose Hotspotting**

I want to thank The Secure Future Project, Northwell Health, and Dr. Ardolic, for their collective four million dollars public-private investment and partnership that will help the District Attorney's office and Staten Island Performing Provider System identify those at-risk for an overdose before it happens. This initiative is going to save countless lives.



# **Updates from Albany**

This week Assemblyman Charles D. Fall travels to Albany to meet with Governor Hochul to discuss priorities for the upcoming legislative year and to participate on an Assembly Labor Committee Hearing Panel.

On Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Standing Assembly Committee on Labor, Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues and the Assembly Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce to discuss employment trends from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- The purpose of the hearing was to examine employment trends that have emerged as a result of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic and to discuss their impact on the workforce, including women in the workforce.
- Following record-high unemployment rates across the country, including in New York State, many displaced workers have found themselves seeking different types or modes

of work, or even leaving the workforce entirely, which has led to labor shortages in some industries such as retail and hospitality.

- The pandemic has also created additional challenges for women in the workforce, as they are often the family member leading childcare and other household responsibilities.
- The Committees are seeking to receive information from relevant stakeholders regarding the impact of these employment trends on the workforce in New York State, including the effect on women's employment and gender equity in the workplace, and the types of services and programs that are needed to help connect workers with job opportunities to meet labor market demands.
- Some of the organizations that supplied testimony were;
  - NYS Department of Labor
  - Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government
  - Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
  - NYS Hospitality and Tourism Association
  - Workforce Development Institute
  - Home Care Association of NYS
  - Consortium for Worker Education
  - A Better Balance
  - One Fair Wage

"This week, I traveled to participate in the Assembly Labor Committee, Task Force on Women's Issues and Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce Legislative Hearing to examine employment trends and the workforce shortage dilemma that currently exists here in New York State. I look forward to working with my colleagues pertinent state agencies and advocacy groups this year to assist in alleviating and rectifying the workforce shortage, especially in our education, developmental and intellectual disability fields and in the area of consumer and commerce."



### Details on how the Federal Infrastructure Bill could impact New York State.

Last week the House of Representatives passed a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill which will now be sent to President Biden's, who is expected to sign into law.

Here are the estimated allocations that New York State could see from its passage.

#### Highway Funding:

Specifically for New York:

- \$11.5 billion for the usual reauthorization apportionments
- \$142 million for EV charging infrastructure
- \$1.9 billion from a new vehicular bridge repair formula program

#### Airport funding: \$937,030,865

#### Rail Funding: \$59 billion

#### **Billions to address water contaminants:**

- Billions for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds
- \$15 billion carve out within the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to replace **lead** service lines
- \$10 billion in grants to address emerging contaminants

#### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:**

- \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV chargers.
- \$5 billion will be dedicated to replacing public transportation like buses with zeroemission vehicles, including electric school buses.

#### High-Speed Internet: \$65 billion available nationally

**Eliminating Pollution in NY:** Billions of dollars in funding to remediate pollution throughout New York.

"The passage of this federal infrastructure funding is a win-win for New York residents and our workforce as we progress with rebuilding post COVID.

I remain committed and will work diligently with government officials, state agencies, advocates and community leaders to bring about effective improvements to Staten Island, such as a North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), clean and efficient modes of transportation and toll and fair sustainability."



# Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

- <u>Governor Kathy Hochul today, coinciding with the reopening of international</u> <u>borders, announced a comprehensive \$450 million ''Bring Back Tourism, Bring</u> <u>Back Jobs'' inclusive recovery package to support New York State's hardest-hit</u> <u>tourism sector workers, revitalize the state's tourism industry, and support</u> <u>businesses started just prior to or during the pandemic</u>. Governor Hochul made the announcement at the Museum of Natural History, joined by representatives from I LOVE NY, NY Forever, tourism and business groups, as well as labor groups representing workers in the tourism industry. This package of programs represents a multi-faceted approach to revitalizing the industry through assistance for workers, investments in small businesses, and consumer-focused marketing around the nation and the world.
- 2. Governor Kathy Hochul today signed a package of legislation into law that will build on federal action to combat robocalls. Legislation S.6267a/A.268a requires telecommunication companies to block robocalls from certain numbers to prevent unwanted robocalls across additional providers. Legislation S.4281a/A.585a requires voice services providers to implement the STIR/SHAKEN call authentication framework to validate that a call is actually coming from the number it displays. "New Yorkers are fed up with annoying, predatory robocalls, and we're taking action to stop them," Governor Hochul said. "This legislation will enable telecom companies to prevent these calls from coming in in the first place, as well as empower our state government to ensure that voice service providers are validating who is making these calls so enforcement action can be taken against bad actors."

- 3. Governor Hochul today signed a legislative package relating to consumer protection. Legislation S.153/A.2382 enacts The Consumer Credit Fairness Act, which will protect consumers from abusive debt collection, as many practices relate to old debts being sued on, debt from credit card issuers being resold to other creditors, and minimal information being provided to debt purchasers. By increasing transparency, minimizing gaps in State civil procedure laws, and preventing extreme actions such as wage garnishment and bank account freezing, consumers are given more time to act on burdensome debt collection practices. Legislation S.4823/A.3359 prohibits harassment from utility companies when negotiating a complaint or unpaid balance. Legislation S.1199/A.5838 requires the Public Service Commission to have at least one member who is an expert at consumer advocacy.
- 4. <u>Governor Hochul announced a series of changes to both attract more applications</u> <u>and accelerate payments within New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance</u> <u>Program.</u> Under the Governor's direction, the state will invest an additional \$1 million in marketing and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the rent relief program, the available funding, and the strong tenant eviction protections in place for those who apply. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the program, will analyze application data to target areas of the state with relatively low numbers of applications.
- 5. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
  - The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or <u>clicking here</u>
  - The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or <u>clicking here</u>
  - SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769
  - Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you, and schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
  - <u>Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.</u>
- 6. <u>Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State</u>.
- View the Test-and-Trace Corps <u>COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard</u> for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
  - <u>Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.</u>
  - <u>Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites</u> <u>available at no cost to you on the North Shore.</u>
  - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM 9 PM.
  - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate themselves at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. <u>Click here to learn more</u> or call (844) 692-4692.
     <u>Please click here if you have any further questions.</u>

### Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. The Staten Island Business Outreach Center is hosting several events in November to help incoming business owners and entrepreneurs. <u>To register click here.</u>





- 2. Our children have faced many challenges throughout the pandemic. Now they're back at school and being asked to return to normalcy, but this school year is anything but normal. That's why the UFT's Positive Learning Collaborative (PLC) is offering free, confidential mental health sessions to students and to parents calling on their children's behalf. Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Call 212-709-3222 or Text "PLC" to 43961
- 3. The 2021-2022 Regular HEAP Benefit opened October 1, 2021 What is HEAP? The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes. How does it work? If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency HEAP benefit if you are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. Are HEAP benefits available year-round? No, the application period normally begins in early to mid-November and continues into the winter, until funding for the program runs out.

4. Free SNAP Assistance - See the flyer below





### Free SNAP (Food Stamps) Assistance ASISTENCIA GRATUITA DE SNAP (Cupones de alimentos)

MetroPlus Health Staten Island Community Office 238A Port Richmond Ave. Staten Island, NY 10302 SNAP enroller is on site **2 DAYS a week.** Check below for our hours!

Los especialista de SNAP estan disponbile los 2 dias a la semana. ¡Revisa a continuación nuestros horarios y ubicaciones!

Location Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al <b>929-270-2181</b>
Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call <i>Llamar al</i> <b>929-270-2181</b>
		ial was funded by
	In Office En la Oficina Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	In Office En la Oficina Virtual Services (Remote) Servicias Virtuales (Remoto) Florence Lanipekun Florence Lanipekun in Reach Virtuwavenbeenditarygov to check your eligibility. This mater ne Progen. SMP

- 5. It's important to submit an SBA Loan Application After you apply for disaster assistance from FEMA, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration. If you are referred to SBA, you should complete and submit the application. If your application is approved, you are not obligated to accept the SBA disaster loan but failure to submit the application may disqualify you from other possible FEMA assistance, such as disaster-related car repairs, essential household items and other expenses. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. In planning your recovery, give yourself the widest possible set of options. Submitting the application makes it possible for homeowners and renters to be considered for additional FEMA grants. Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure website at *DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov* or they may email *DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov* for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email *disaster assistance*.
- 6. If you're a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic. <u>Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder</u> to find out what this means for you and what you can do. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords

understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

7. Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you. If you need free legal help during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice, and more, call them at 718-233-6480.



8. Project Hospitality provides a wide range of services to our communities. From vaccinations to mental health guidance to help applying for rental assistance. See flyers below for more information.









NY Project Hope oping with COVID

- Apoyo emocional
   Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre: Reconcociendo las reacciones comunes de COVID Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación Manejando estrelár elacionada con COVID Identificando y satisfaciendo las necesidades de los niños

# ¡Contáctanos Hoy! 718-608-7900

HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

Estamos aqui para USTED.

Gratis, anónimo y confidencial A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA

# New York State **Emergency Rental Assistance** Program

# The Emergency Rental Assistance Program assists households behind on their rent that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. In addition, the program can provide temporary rental assistance and assistance with unpaid utility bils.

#### DO LOUALIEY?

- Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:
- Household gross income at or blowing creater.
   Household gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by courty and household size.
   A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 particular due rent at their current residence.



9. State parks and historic sites are staffed by a core of permanent employees who work year-round to maintain these precious resources. During the peak of our operating season (May through September) the permanent staff is supplemented by several thousand seasonal employees who work to ensure that our patrons have a positive and safe experience when visiting our sites.

# New York State **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

El Programa de Asistencia para Alquileres de Emergencia ayuda a las familias atrasadas en el pago del alquiler que han sufrido dificutades financiensa debido a la COVID-19 y están en risego de quedarse en la calle o de padecen instabilidad por la falta de vivindar. Además, el regrama puede proporcionar asistenci de alquiler temporal y asistencia para el pago de facturas de servicios públicos vencidas.

#### CALIFICO?

- -Los residentes aptos para solicitar la asistencia deben cumplir con los siguientes cr
- Los ingress broks de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingresso promedio del área, los ingress broks de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingresso promedio del área, un mambro de la familia recibió substitós de desempleo o experimentó una reducción en los ingresso, incursó en costo significativos o sutrió dicultades financieras, directa o indirectamente, debido a la pandemia de COVID-19. El solicitante adeuda alquileres en su residencia actual.

- Be a part of the premier park system in the United States with more than 250 state parks, historic sites, golf courses, swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, marinas, trails, and museums and nature centers.
- Work in some of the most beautiful, scenic, and historic places New York State has to offer.
- Make a tangible impact on your community. Parks are for everyone, and all are welcome here: People of every age, ability, color, or creed belong here without exceptions yourself included! People of every kind come visit us in order to have *experiences* and at OPRHP, we get to be part of these special times in truly meaningful ways. See how you can make a difference as a part of Team OPRHP! To learn more about seasonal or permanent employment click here.



 Snow season is coming! Become a paid emergency Snow Laborer to help us clear snow from steps, streets, crosswalks and fire hydrants after winter storms. Earn \$15/hour. Must make an appointment and be at least 18 years old. <u>Click here for more details.</u>



11. The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career Training Programs. Call (718) 273-8414 ext.8 and see the flyer below for more information.



12. Staten Island University Hospital's Executive Healthcare Internship (EHI) program provides a unique opportunity to serve your community and immerse yourself in the growing field of healthcare. Explore the EHI program where you will develop the skills, knowledge, and experience to become a leader in the healthcare industry.

#### Click here to apply today

# Become a Leader in the Healthcare Industry

Careers Well Cared For

#### Executive Healthcare Internship Staten Island University Hospital Internship dates: June 6th - August 19th 2022

Staten Island University Hospital's Executive Healthcare Internship (EHI) program provides a unique opportunity to serve your community and immerse yourself in the growing field of healthcare. Explore the EHI program where you will develop the skills, knowledge, and experience to become a leader in the healthcare industry.

This 9-week paid summer internship is open to current college undergraduate Junior and Senior students, and graduate students, with ties to the Staten Island community, who are looking to gain first-hand experience from New York State's largest healthcare provider and private employer.

In the EHI program, you will work directly with a director-level mentor on comprehensive projects related to process improvement in the hospital, attend executive and hospital-wide/departmental meetings, partake in learning sessions, and present a final project.

Get moving today to learn more about our internships at: NorthwellCareers.com

and search for Job Identification #30417 Apply today: bit.ly/3oxZH2r





Executive Healthcare Interns will be exposed to a wide range of hospital functions, and be matched to a specific department within the hospital based on interest. Hospital departments may include:

- Human Resources
   Community Health
- Quality
- Facilities Management
   Change Management 8:
- Change Management & Data Analytics



About Staten Island University Hospital:

Staten Island University Hospital Is a 668-bed specialized teaching hospital that occupies two main campuses an numerous communitybased health centers an Jaboratores Our 17-arr

campus on Seavlew Avenue in Ocean Breeze features the Island's most advanced emergency department, a stateof-the-art education center and our renowned Heart Institute. Our sister campus on Seguine Avenue in Prince's Bay also houses an exceptional emergency department including a new Pediatric Emergency Center, and boasts specialized care in orthopedics, behavioral health, and robotic gynecologic surgery cases.

Our hospital is named among the Best Regional Hospitals and ranked as High Performing in heart bypass surgery. heart failure and COPD on U.S. News & World Report's 2020;21 list. We've also been recognized for innovative care in cardiology, electrophysiology, robotic surgery, stroke and cancer.

### 13. Small Business Resources:

- For counseling and help services through SBS click here.
- <u>Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs)</u> help small businesses win federal contracts. PCRs view many federal acquisition and procurement strategies before they're announced. This enables them to influence opportunities that should be set aside for small businesses. PCRs also conduct market research, assist small businesses with payment issues, provide counseling on the contracting process, and more.
- <u>Subcontracting Program Assistance (SPA)</u> can help you with subcontracting questions after a contract is awarded. SPA can help you with tools to match prime contractors and subcontractors, help small businesses market their services to prime contractors, and more.

• SBA Learning Center. The SBA offers free online courses to help small businesses understand government contracting. You can find these video classes in the <u>SBA Learning Center</u>.

### **Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. Beginning Nov. 26TH through the 28th you can visit 18 Waverly Place for Big Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Super Savings Sunday. See the flyer below for more information.



2. MSSI'S 4th Annual Winter Warmth Drive - In partnership with MetroPlus Health Jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, and hygiene essentials. December 4th, 2021 12 PM to 3

#### PM at 1625 Forest Ave



Disaster Recovery information and more

For more information contact us @ muslimsistersofsi@gmail.com or 718 6151365

3. Metro Community Health Centers invites all to their Holiday Health Fair. Saturday, December 11th from 11 AM - 3 PM. See the flyer below for more information.



4. Urban Faries of SI CO in collaboration with Free it Foward and Health it Up are hosting a Coat/ Toy/ PJ giveaway on December 12th and 19th from 2 PM to 5 PM. See flyer



5. The Daffodil Project is the largest volunteer effort in NYC history and living memorial in remembrance of the victims of 9/11, now in its 20th year. See the flyer below for dates and more information.



6. The Forest Ave. Comeunity Fridge is a group from Mariners Harbor looking to help out our community with Food Insecurity.

#### @FORESTAVECOMEUNITYFRIDGE

#### WHO ARE WE?

We are a collaborative group, born and raised on the North Shore, who are passionate about addressing the health food disparity in our neighborhood of Mariners Harbor. The foundation of our initiative is "take what you need, leave what you don't" and "we keep us fed and healthy!" – in hopes of creating a culture of unity, interdependence, community restoration and empowerment in Mariners Harbor.

#### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

A Community Fridge is a fridge that provides free and healthy food for community members. The fridges offer access to fresh produce, healthy grains and perishable items to communities that do not have a lot of access to healthy food options.

**HOW CAN MY BUSINESS HELP?** 



Your business can help by donating surplus food to our fridge or allowing us to purchase food at reduced costs. WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CARE ABOUT A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

In recent political and racial events, many businesses and organizations are looking for ways to fight against racial inequity. Community fridges represent mutual aid – the idea that solidarity not charity is what communities need in order to become fairer and stronger. By donating food to our fridge, your business will be taking part in our ongoing movement for creating justice – first within our communities.

#### Sincerely,

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Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946 DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942