

### Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall March 03, 2022

# **District 61 News**

# **Central Family Life Center Black History Month Townhall**

It was an honor to join the the CFLC 17th Annual Black History Month Townhall. The honorees recognized on Saturday are folks that put their all into our community. I am thankful to know and work with so many of them to always fight the good fight.





# **Sandy Ground Ferry**

The naming of the Sandy Ground Ferry is a beautiful memorial to our country's oldest black settlement. I commend Mayor Eric Adams efforts and the work the NYCDOT provided to make this dream a reality





### **Updates from Albany**

This week Assemblyman Fall participated in a press conference sponsored by the New York State Athletic Trainers' Association (NYSATA) and the Brain Injury Association of New York (BIANYS) on his legislation (A.2564-A/S.1074-A) which intends to update school concussion management and response protocols and increases concussion data collection and reporting.

Dr. Andrew Hess, pediatric psychologist, was joined by Assemblyman Fall and Senator Brad Hoylman on legislation they co-sponsored entitled the Concussion Management Awareness Improvement Act. The current bill authorizes;

• Expand the CMAA to include every public and nonpublic school and every group or organization that uses property or facilities owned by a school district for competitive, travel youth sports.

- Require biennial education in concussion management for school coaches, physical education teachers, nurses, athletic trainers, medical directors, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.
- Require academic Return-to-Learn and Return-to-Play policies.
- Require a Concussion Management Teams in all school districts.
- Identify and report the number of concussions that occur each year
- Recommend schools have an Athletic Trainer available to students.

The legislation was introduced to expand existing law that was passed in 2011 to address traumatic brain injuries (TBI's) in New York State schools. In 2014, 4,000 children and teens – age 19 or younger – were seen in hospital Emergency Departments for sports related TBIs, including concussions. To date this figure is increasingly expanding and it is documented that more than half of the concussions that are inflicted in the school setting aren't even reported accurately.

"Being a former collegiate basketball player, I know all to well how important it is to have safety net features put in place when it comes to school activities both on and off the field of play. I want to thank BIANYS, Senator Hoylman and the professional advocates for the continued activism on our bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this legislation passed this year," said Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

Governor Hochul previously announced the creation of a Joint Security Operations Center in Brooklyn that will serve as the nerve center for joint local, state and federal cyber efforts, including data collection, response efforts and information sharing. JSOC is the nation's first-of-its-kind cyber command center that will provide a statewide view of the cyber-threat landscape and improve coordination on threat intelligence and incident response.

- This innovative collaboration has been months in the making and commitment to enhancing the State's cybersecurity posture.
- No other state has brought together cybersecurity teams in a shared command space at this scale including federal, state, city, and county governments, critical businesses and utilities, and state entities like Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Information Technology Services, New York State Police, MTA, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the New York Power Authority, among others.

New York's leadership in finance, energy, transportation, healthcare, and other critical fields makes the State an attractive target for cyber-attacks that can disrupt operations, including critical infrastructure and services to citizens. While government entities across the State have historically taken an independent approach to cyber defense and protecting the safety of their technology assets, acting alone is no longer optimal. As the frequency and sophistication of cyber-attacks have grown, so too has the need for a "whole of government" approach.

• The JSOC, headquartered in Brooklyn and staffed by both physical and virtual participants from across the state, will improve defenses by allowing cyber teams to have a centralized viewpoint of threat data.

- This will yield better collaboration on threat intelligence, reduction in response time, and quicker remediation in the event of a major cyber incident.
- It will help participating entities respond to potential issues and elevate systemic trends that may have otherwise gone undetected.
- This approach leverages all the cyber defense assets at the state, city, local and authority-level under one umbrella.

New York State will collaborate with city and regional leaders on cyber trainings and exercises as the JSOC becomes operational over the coming months.

- The Executive Budget proposal for investment in New York State's cyber protections, includes \$61.9 million for cybersecurity, doubling the previous investment.
  - These investments will fund critical protections, including the expansion of the state's cyber Red Team program to provide additional penetration testing, an expanded phishing exercise program, vulnerability scanning and additional cyber incident response services.
  - o These investments help ensure that if one part of the network is attacked, the State can isolate and protect the rest of the system.

"As chair of the subcommittee on consumer fraud, I am pleased to see this project come to fruition. One of the key factors in preventing these attacks is open communication and information sharing with various state, local and federal agencies."



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

- 1. Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the Environmental Facilities Corporation Board of Directors approved \$41 million in funding that includes low-cost loans and previously awarded grants, enabling the recipients to access these loan and grant funds and move their water and sewer infrastructure projects forward. The Board also approved an \$879 million leveraged bond financing to provide capital for various wastewater and drinking water projects for the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (NYCMWFA) and to refund certain prior bonds. Refunding bond sales deliver additional savings for EFC's municipal partners by refinancing the original bonds that funded their projects at an even lower interest rate. The transaction is estimated to save \$18 million for New York City ratepayers over the next 10 years.
- 2. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that \$17.3 million in state funding was awarded to six projects in four counties that will provide emergency and permanent supportive housing to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Supported through the State's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, these projects include emergency shelter repairs and developments that will create or preserve an additional 120 units serving veterans, survivors of domestic violence, individuals with a history of substance use disorder, and those suffering from serious mental illness.
- 3. Governor Hochul announced that the statewide indoor business mask-or-vaccine requirement have bee lifted as of Thursday, February, 10, and will remain optional for businesses, local governments and counties to enforce. This protocol, a temporary measure implemented on December 10 as statewide cases spiked, was an effective tool to address the winter surge and the rise of the Omicron variant. With case counts plummeting and hospitalizations sharply declining, this temporary measure is no longer needed statewide. Counties, cities, and businesses will be able to opt into the mask-or-vaccine requirement if they so choose. View Governor Hochul's Presentation Here
- 4. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$64 million in federal funding to help struggling New Yorkers with children, multi-generational households, and survivors of domestic violence with their expenses amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Administered through the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund will provide one-time payments to help with the cost of diapers for struggling families, cover food expenses for households with both children and older adults, and provide crucial housing and relocation assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

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

1. The NYS Homeowner Assitance Fund is available now. You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance.



2. Important: The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year. As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to federal income tax. For more information click here.



3. 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

- 4. 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.
- 5. 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!

| Day & Time<br>Dia y Hora  | Location<br>Ubicacion   | SNAP Enroller<br>Especialista de SNAP | How to Schedule<br>Como Programar   |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tues, Wed<br>Martes, Miercoles<br>9:00am – 4:30pm               | In Office<br>En la Oficina                                      | Florence Lanipekun                    | Walk-in or call<br>Orden de llegada o<br>Llamar al<br><b>929-270-2181</b> |
| Mon, Thurs, Fri<br>Lunes,<br>Jueves, Viernes<br>9:00am – 4:30pm | Virtual Services<br>(Remote)<br>Servicios Virtuales<br>(Remoto) | Florence Lanipekun                    | Call<br>Llamar al<br><b>929-270-2181</b>                                  |

Sponsored by New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

SNAP...Parting Healthy Food Within Reach. Vist www.mybenefits.ny.gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -SNAP.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employee.



6. 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 <a href="mailto:DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov">DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov</a> or they may email <a href="mailto:DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov">DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov</a> for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call

SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email *disastercustomerservice@sba.gov* for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

- 7. 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. Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder 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.
- 8. **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.**



9. 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.



#### Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

- Information
   Education
- Emotional support Links to resources

We can provide virtual presentations on:

- Recognizing common reactions on:
   Building coping skills for the recovery process
- Managing COVID-related stress
   Identifying and meeting children's needs

Contact Us! (718)608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

We are here for YOU.

Free, anonymous & confidential

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA



# Necesitas Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aquí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos...
Información
Educación

- Apoyo emocional
   Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones vírtuales sobre:

  Reconcociendo las resciones comunes de COVID

  Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

  Manejando estritis relacionada 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









10. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday of each month, every Tuesday, and every 3rd Saturday of each month.

(Rev. 05/21)



11. This robust 6-week communitytraining program informs NewYorkers about NYPD policies, activities, and authorities.



12. The Y is now offering new rounds of FREE lifeguard training and certification this spring, including at the Broadway Y. Pre-tests are required for this opportunity and are currently underway, with lots of times and dates at Ys across the city. Experienced swimmers should see <a href="here">here</a> for details and scheduling.







TO REGISTER OR LEARN MORE, SCAN THIS OR CODE OR CONTACT AQUATICS@YMCANYC.ORG

13. St. Ann's Creative Learning Center has open enrollment right now. Call 718-273-5371 for more information



#### 14. Small Business Resources:

- For counseling and help services through SBS click here.
- Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs) 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 SBA Learning Center.

#### **Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. Help support your neighborhood schools - For more information click here



2. Put your swimming skill to the ultimate test. Become an NYC Lifeguard – help keep New York's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime.



3. Petsmart is holding 3 adoption events this week. See the flyer below for more information.



4. Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day - Come celebrate and take control of your health - Thursday, March 10th. 4:00PM - 8:00PM at 26 Bay Street, 2nd Floor



# Women & girls HIV Awareness Day

Come celebrate and take control of your health

# Thursday, March 10th 4 pm—8 pm at 26 Bay Street, 2nd Floor



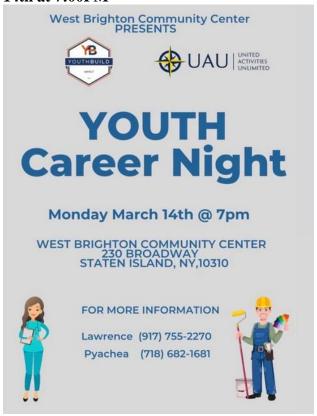
#### Offering:

- Free Rapid HIV testing
- · Free hepatitis C testing
- HIV prevention (PEP/ PrEP)
- · Blood Pressure screenings
- Diabetes screenings
- Health insurance enrollment
- SNAP enrollment & SNAP recertifications
- Free condoms

Call 929-378-0600 to sign up!

CHASI also offers food pantry services, help for domestic violence, help for chronic disease self management and more. Call 718-808-1300 for information.

5. West Brighton Community Center Presents Youth Career Night - Monday, March 14th at 7:00PM



6. BJ House of Community and Partners - Community Baby Shower. See the flyer below for more information.



7. 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,

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