

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall May 19, 2022

District 61 News

Today my office stood with Staten Island clergy and community leaders to mourn the lives of the ten people killed in Buffalo. My heart broke when I learned ten of our brothers and sisters were gunned down because they were black. The victims were law abiding and innocent citizens carrying out their daily errands.

We have to continue to keep the victims and their families in our thoughts and prayers. As for the coward that gunned down our brothers and sisters he must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. These mass shootings are happening way too often.

Until the federal government gets their act together and passes comprehensive gun legislation we as a community need to have the conversation on the best practices of legally protecting ourselves while working with law enforcement.

On the state level, Governor Hochul announced \$2.8 million will go towards the victims and their families. We have also passed several measures throughout my tenure in the Legislature to address these senseless acts.

If anyone is interested in helping the victims, please reach out to my office.



Updates from Albany

This week the New York State Assembly passed (A.9121) which establishes an emergency heating energy assistance program benefit.

- While the recently passed 2022-23 state budget included a \$250 million fund to help New Yorkers pay their utility bills, there's still more to do to prevent our neighbors from having their power shut off
- Under current law, New Yorkers in need of emergency heating assistance are required to be in a situation where their heat has been shut off or will be shut off in the imminent future before getting the help they need.
- This bill would allow individuals with a significant amount of arrears to qualify for emergency HEAP benefits, ensuring assistance can be provided before the individual has lost their heat

"Unfortunately, the continuing economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for countless working families to make ends meet. As families contend with sky-high inflation and the rising prices of essential goods, many hardworking people have fallen behind on their utility bills. Every New Yorker deserves a safe place to call home"



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall meets with CWA delegation in Albany.

- The delegation wanted to relay a message of thanks to the Assemblyman for cosponsoring legislation (A.10216) that will prohibit the public service commission from interfering with the provisions of collective bargaining agreements relating to makeready work entered between certain utility companies and employees.
- Two of the representatives who worked in the Ez-Pass call center on Staten Island also thanked the Assemblyman for standing up for the approximately 300 works impacted by the MTA awarding new contracts to outside entities.

"I remain committed to protecting the Staten Island workers impacted by this new contract. I will continue to work diligently with leaders of CWA to bring about accountability and transparency as future negotiations are set to begin later this year."



<u>Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community</u>

- 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 viol Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

Hello, this is Assemblyman Charles Fall

I would like to share an important update on the HEAP cooling assistance program.

It is fair to say that we've had a mild spring so far, but summer is on its way. Extreme high temperatures can put some of our fellow residents, especially seniors, disabled and children, in danger.

The HEAP cooling assistance program provides an up to \$800 benefit for eligible households. To learn more and review eligibility requirements, visit: www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#cooling-assistance-benefit

Additionally, I am providing the **HEAP Infoline - 718-557-1399**. If you experience any difficulty you can certainly contact my team at **718.442.9932**



U.S. households can now order an additional eight free at-home COVID-19 tests, the White House has announced.

That brings the total number of free rapid antigen tests available to each household since the start of the program to 16, according to a White House fact sheet made public on Tuesday.

In two previous rounds, residents were permitted to order only four tests. This round doubles that amount. Rapid antigen tests can be self-administered. Results are available within 15 to 30 minutes.

So far, about 350 million free tests have been delivered in the United States, the fact sheet said, and most tests are delivered by the U.S. Postal Service within 48 hours of shipping.

The tests were purchased by the federal government earlier this year with funding from the American Rescue Plan.

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended COVID-19 testing for domestic travelers, not just those who weren't up to date on their vaccinations.

Those interested in signing up to receive the free tests can do so at CovidTests.gov covid.gov/tests, a website operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

People who have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support placing an order can call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages from 8 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week. For more information, visit https://www.covid.gov/tests/faq



New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.



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



3.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.



- 4. 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
- **5.** 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.
- 6. 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 Dia y Hora	Location Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
Tues, Wed Martes, Miercoles 9:00am – 4:30pm	In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al 929-270-2181
Mon, Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves, Viernes 9:00am — 4:30pm	Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call Llamar al 929-270-2181

Spensored by New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. SYAP.P. Patting Relatify Food Within Reach. Visit 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 employer.



7. 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 disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

- 8. 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.
- 9. **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.**



10. 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

- We can provide virtual presentations on:

 Recognizing common reactions to COVID

 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 Mer Funded by FEMA



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 virtuales sobre:

 Reconcociendo las reacciones comunes de COVID

 Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

 Manejando estre trealconada con COVID

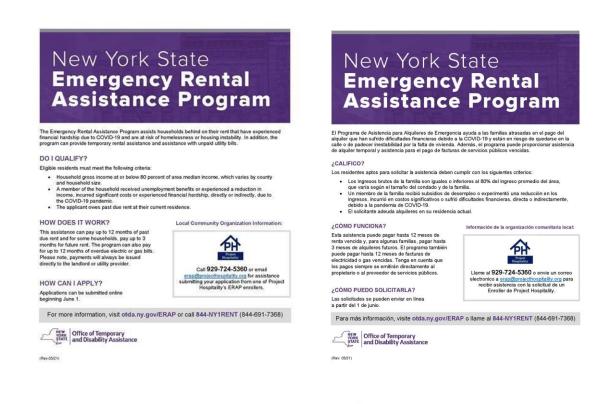
 Identificando y satisfaciendo las necesidades de los niños

¡Contáctanos Hoy! 718-608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

Estamos aqui para **USTED**.

Gratis, anónimo y confidencial

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







11. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday.



12. This robust 6-week community training program informs New Yorkers about NYPD policies, activities, and authorities.



13. 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 here for details and scheduling.



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

Interested in Subbing for the NYC DOE?







Help support your neighborhood schools!!!

- \$200 a day! (\$199.27 to be exact)
- · This could be your chance to see if teaching is the career
- · Requirements:
 - · Interest and commitment to helping kids and a school
 - · Bachelors Degree and authorization to work in the US

For more information: https://www.schools.nyc.gov/careers/substituteteaching

*Please pass this information on to anyone you know who meets the requirements and might be interested.

Lamson Lam can help answer questions and get you nominated. Please reach out him at lam@schools.nyc.gov

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.



Earn your whistle! Become an NYC lifeguard.

Help keep New York City's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime. As a lifeguard, you'll have the chance to:

HOW TO JOIN
All potential lifeguar dualifying and swim exams. To

- · Develop job skills
- Develop job skills
 Become part of a team
 Earn NYC Lifeguard certification and learn CPR, first-aid, and rescue techniques
 Practice your swimming
- Lifeguards work five to six days each week, and first-year lifeguards aarn a minimum of \$16 an hour, for a weekly salary of about \$800.

- All potential lifeguards must pass the Lifeguard Qualifying Test, a series of vision and swim exams. To qualify, you must: Be at least 16 years of age by the start of employment.
- Have a least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other without corrective lenses. Glasses and contact lenses may not be worn during the eye exam.
- Be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds or less, with proper form.

Sign up today at nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards.



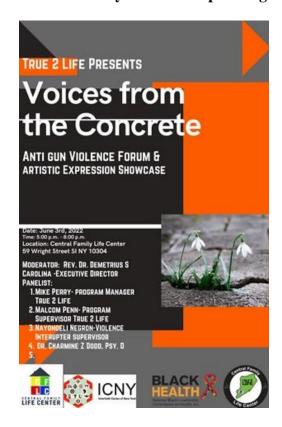
3. Youth Build Healthcare Worker



4. Youth Build Construction Worker.



5. Central Family life center upcoming events.



 $6.\ The\ JCC\ of\ Staten\ Island\ providing\ a\ no\ cost\ training\ programs\ for\ Staten\ Island\ and\ NYC\ residents.$





7.The Forest Ave. Community 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.

8. UAU Mommy & Me Paint & Sippy Cup



9. Planet Fitness High School Summer Pass, a program that provides all teens ages 14-19 a free Planet Fitness membership for the summer.



10. This May 30th marks the 20th anniversary of the formal end of recovery operations at Ground Zero. To commemorate that milestone, the 9/11 Memorial will honor the courage and sacrifice of 9/11 rescue, recovery, and relief workers, commemorate those who have died due to 9/11-related illnesses, and recognize the spirit of survivors and members of the downtown community with a special ceremony at 9am. Details on attending the commemoration ceremony and additional offerings throughout May — including free Museum admission for rescue, recovery, and relief workers, survivors, and the downtown community can be found here:

https://www.911memorial.org/connect/commemoration/May-30-2002"



Sincerely,

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DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942