



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

UPPER WEST SIDE ▪ MORNINGSIDES HEIGHTS ▪ MANHATTAN VALLEY

Fall 2023



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As your representative in the New York State Assembly, I am always working on your behalf to stand up for our values and improve our lives. Please say hello when you see me or call or email my office to share your thoughts on state and local policy.

My office and I are here to assist you. My team includes constituent liaisons with experience navigating unemployment, state benefits, specific housing problems, and other community-wide concerns.

Call us at 212-866-3970 or email us at odonnell@nyassembly.gov. Email me to join my e-list for regular updates on Albany and the 69th District.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



PASSED ASSEMBLY

A.4822: Expanding NY's Historic Business Preservation Registry

As the sponsor of bill A.8873A which led to the establishment of the historic business preservation registry in New York, I am a staunch advocate for recognizing and preserving New York's historic businesses as the cultural assets they truly are. In continuation of this commitment, I'm delighted to have worked alongside Assembly Member Woerner to pass A.04822 in the Assembly. This bill is designed to expand the number of annual nominations each legislator may make for the registry, ensuring that more deserving businesses are recognized for their community contributions. This step is critical in maintaining our cherished cultural heritage.

A.5022A: Keeping Our Parks Clean

As the sponsor of Bill A.5022A, which has successfully passed the Assembly, I am committed to improving the cleanliness of New York State Park lands. This bill updates and clarifies prohibitions on littering and dumping of commercial or industrial waste which negatively impacts our landscape, environment, wildlife, and public health due to pollution. By setting appropriate penalties for these violations, this legislation underscores our commitment to preserving our parks and preventing them from becoming dumping grounds.

INTRODUCED

A.4788: DASA Updates

As an advocate for youth welfare, I am proud to introduce key student suicide prevention measures within the Dignity for All Students Act. This pioneering legislation mandates local education agencies to implement policies on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for middle and high school students. It also acknowledges that not all students, particularly those identifying as LGBTQ+, have supportive homes, so schools must prioritize student welfare when notifying parents about bullying or harassment. This bill is a critical move towards a safer, more supportive school environment.

A.4375: LGBTQ+ Curricula

This piece of legislation mandates schools includes lessons on the contributions and experiences of the LGBTQ+ community, promoting inclusivity and broadening education scope. It is a crucial move towards fostering understanding and inclusion through education.

A.2785A: Allowing Mobile Barber Shops

This legislation would remove the ban on mobile barber shops, allowing properly appointed trailers and RVs to serve as barbershops. This change will benefit small business owners just starting up, in addition to established shops that may have clients with lower mobility in different areas. In addition, this bill would remove outdated language from the law, updating and streamlining our laws for the 21st century. The bill presents a potential win for both barbershop owners and customers.

A.4416: PEP and PrEP Education

This legislation is designed to ensure that all individuals enrolled in Medicaid, not just those on special plans, receive vital information about HIV prevention medication. Educating as many individuals as possible about the preventative benefits of PEP and PrEP will be a great step forward in HIV prevention. By making this information accessible, we hope to make a difference in the lives of countless people across our State.

BUDGET VICTORIES



Parks Victory

As the Chair of the Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Committee, I'm thrilled to report that New York has allocated a record \$1.8 million to the Park and Trail Partnership Grants program, benefitting 28 nonprofits focused on preserving our state parks and lands. Additionally, the budget has earmarked an extra \$2 million for future grants and \$200 million for State Parks improvements. These steps underscore our commitment to environmental preservation and sustainable tourism in New York.

Arts Victory

As the Chair of the Arts Committee, I am proud to have helped secure \$127 million for New York State's arts and culture, more than three times the initial Executive proposal. This fund comprises \$90 million for program support and \$37 million for infrastructure. This significant funding will not only propel capital projects, enriching communities, businesses, and employees within arts and cultural organizations, but also enhance the accessibility and vitality of art communities for both New Yorkers and visitors.

LOCAL FUNDING VICTORIES

- ☑ \$300,000 to NYC Public Library, George Bruce Branch
- ☑ \$500,000 to 105th Street Tot Lot at Riverside Park
- ☑ \$300,000 to P.S. 9, The Sarah Anderson School
- ☑ \$300,000 to P.S. 163, The Alfred E. Smith School

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Numerous local nonprofits serve the district and provide invaluable resources and opportunities to our community. It has always been a top priority of mine to invest in these organizations and support their crucial work. With that in mind, I was happy to be able successfully advocate for funding to be included in the state budget for the following organizations in our district.

Lifeforce in Later Years (LiLY)

Lifeforce in Later Years (LiLY) is a nonprofit organization focused on improving the quality of life for senior community members. It was with great pleasure that I allocated \$50,000 in funds to support elder care services and programs. These initiatives will not only provide vital mental healthcare, but they will also promote community engagement. Additionally, these funds will contribute to setting up a regular deep-cleaning and organization program designed for residents with limited mobility.

Memory Project Productions

The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization that uses exhibits, workshops, and multimedia materials to educate both youth and adults about the Holocaust, emphasizing their role in history and storytelling. I am delighted to have allocated \$70,000 in funds towards a traveling exhibit featuring videos, panels, and cards that link a Jewish family's experience to the broader Holocaust narrative. These efforts keep survivors' voices alive, personalizing this tragic event, and reminding all how important it is to never allow history to repeat itself. The funds will also aid in distributing the exhibit across New York State's libraries and schools and fostering professional development through partnerships with remembrance organizations.

P.S. 145, The Bloomingdale School

The Bloomingdale School serves students from all across our community. I am proud to allocate \$30,000 to support a bi-weekly mental health and wellness program for parents and caregivers. The funds will be used towards self-care classes in areas including yoga, mindfulness, nutrition, and personal safety. In addition, homework help will be offered to assist parents in keeping up with their children's coursework. A special focus will be given to families with complex language needs, including those in dual language Spanish and Russian classes, and non-native English speakers in English-only classes. The program will further include free childcare and snacks for attendees.

Service Program for Older People (SPOP)

Maintaining our mental health is as crucial as our physical health as we age. That is why I am excited to allocate \$40,000 to the Service Program for Older People (SPOP). This program boosts older adults' quality of life and independence through mental health services, advocacy, and education. This funding will enable SPOP to provide bilingual mental healthcare to 400-500 low-income adults aged 55 and up in our district, further expanding their ability to enhance the quality of life of older adults in New York City.

Education Through Music

Education Through Music (ETM) is an amazing program that employs music as a vehicle to enhance the lives of children in New York schools. As a member of the Education Committee and a firm believer in the transformative power of the arts, I'm delighted to commit \$50,000 in funds to bolster the provision of top-tier, holistic music education in New York. By ensuring access to music education, we are paving the way for a more promising future for the upcoming generation.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Living in a neighborhood that you love is always a great feeling. However, when you come across issues that seem to be never-ending, it puts a damper on things. Thankfully, there are government organizations dedicated to helping you solve those problems. Whether it's maintaining clean sidewalks, combating employer discrimination, or tackling consumer fraud, these organizations are ready to step in. So, the next time you see an issue that needs addressing, do not hesitate to contact one of these amazing organizations for support!

- NY Department of Public Service at <https://dps.ny.gov/file-complaint> or call 800-342-3377
- NYS Attorney General's Office at <https://ag.ny.gov/file-complaint> or call 1-800-771-7755
- Non-Emergency Municipal Services at <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/report-problems/> or call 311

Still have questions? Contact my office at **212-866-3970** or odonnell@nyassembly.gov and we can help you.

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**DANIEL
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**Legislative Session
Newsletter**

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