

# Rebecca Seawright



Photo Courtesy: NYS Governor Cuomo's Office

Dear Neighbor,

Join us tonight at 7pm for our first edition of **"Tuesday Tele-Townhalls"** with special guest Joyce Moy, an expert on small business, and housing attorney Bob Grimble who will be available to answer questions surrounding the COVID-19 response.

We owe our gratitude to the men and women of the Army Corps of Engineers who made the Javits Center temporary hospital opening possible, relieving the COVID-19 burden on our local hospitals. Yesterday, we witnessed the USNS Comfort pull into Pier 90. A vessel equipped with 12 operating rooms, a blood bank, a medical laboratory, a pharmacy, an optometry lab and a CT scanner. New York's hospital capacity increased by 4,000 beds with the opening of both facilities.

As some New Yorkers are recovered from COVID-19, The Mount Sinai Health System is initiating a procedure known as plasmapheresis, a process in which the antibodies from patients who have recovered from COVID-19 will be transferred into critically ill patients with the disease, with the expectation that the antibodies will neutralize it. **If you had COVID-19 and have recovered you can help save a life.**

To date, there are 66,497 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York State, with 37,453 confirmed cases in New York City. For national context, New York is still by far the most impacted state in the nation with over 45 percent of all cases in the U.S. (out of 129,767

nationwide). The Governor's Executive Orders have been extended to continue the **"PAUSE" until April 15, 2020.**

The Governor also issued an executive order to allow schools to host day care free of charge and negotiated with major pharmacy chains to agree to offer free home delivery to help reduce long lines for prescriptions at their facilities.

We hope you find the information below to be informative and helpful. If you are in need of information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We regretfully have suspended in person appointments and meetings, due to public health considerations. We are eager to continue assisting constituents by telephone and email. Please leave a message on our voicemail with your name, address and phone number and our staff will return your call:

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,

**Rebecca**



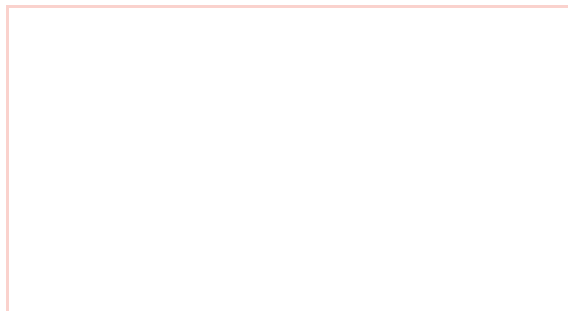
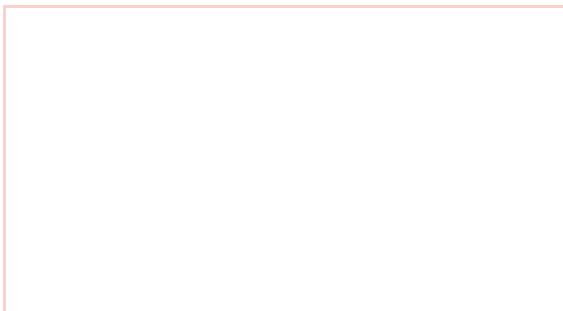
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**ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT  
TELE-TOWNHALL  
TUESDAYS**



**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES  
TUESDAY NIGHTS @ 7:00PM  
HOSTED BY:  
THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**

**Tonight's Featured Guests:  
Joyce Moy and Bob Grimble**





Joyce Moy is currently the Executive Director of a research institute at the City University of New York (CUNY). Her area of focus is economic development, entrepreneurship and financial empowerment in Asian American and diverse communities.

She is the former Director of Economic Development at LaGuardia Community College/CUNY, where she had oversight over a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), a Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and a corporate training center.



Robert Grimble has been practicing law in New York City since 1976.

Bob believes in giving back to the community. He has worked for many years as a volunteer at Eviction Intervention Services and Project Basement and in 2003, was awarded the prestigious Jane Brown Service award.

## RSVP HERE FOR 3/31 TELE-TOWNHALL

You can participate through your computer or by dialing in on your phone. Join us for a town hall with Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright on the New York State response to COVID-19

The meeting will start at 7, but it is highly suggested that you log on by 6:45 to secure your spot and work through any technical issues.

### Joining Instructions (3 Options)

Join on your computer using the URL: <https://zoom.us/j/131837787>

Join by phone: dial 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 131 837 787 followed by #, then press # to enter the call.

One tap mobile- +16465588656,,131837787# US (New York)

The meeting will be recorded and posted to our Assembly website for those who are unable to connect or join us at that time.

## SUBMIT A QUESTION ON THE TOPIC OF SMALL BUSINESS OR HOUSING

### In the News ...

**NO VIRUS TRACKING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE ON STREETS AND SUBWAYS** by Greg B. Smith, The City

*Department for Homeless Services has placed 122 individuals in the hotel room isolation wards, including roommates of those who've tested positive. DHS officials said the people are being monitored for symptoms and would be transported to a hospital if necessary.*

**State orders halt to nonessential construction** by Janaki Chadha, Politico

*The state will halt "non-essential" construction work in light of the growing coronavirus pandemic, according to new guidelines posted Friday.*

### New York State Updates

**NEW TESTING:** Governor Cuomo also announced that New York State's Wadsworth Lab has developed a new, less intrusive test for COVID-19

The new test is done through a saliva sample and a self-administered short nasal swab in the presence of a health care professional. This new test will help conserve personal protective equipment, or PPE, for healthcare workers, reduce potential exposure of the virus to healthcare workers and will allow the state to continue to test as many individuals as possible in New York amid the national shortage of the more intrusive nasopharyngeal, or NP, swabs. Self-collection of nasal swabs has been done before for other respiratory viruses such as flu and it has been shown to be effective and safe, and collection of a saliva sample is simple and non-invasive.

**FREE DAY CARE:** The Governor issued an executive order to allow schools to host day care free of charge.

**FREE PHARMACY HOME DELIVERY:** After speaking with the state's major pharmacy chains, the Governor announced that pharmacies have agreed to offer free home delivery to help reduce long lines for prescriptions at their facilities.

**VOLUNTEER STAFF:** 76,109 healthcare workers have volunteered

Over 8,000 physicians

Nearly 40,000 nurses

Nearly 4,000 nurse practitioners

**ROLLING APEX:** The "Rolling Apex" will hit around the country and around the state at different times and with different levels of intensity.

The curve hits HIGH points depending on when it started and the rate of spread.

Right now the curve (or wave) is hitting New York City, Westchester and Long Island the hardest, at some point that apex will move across the state.

**REGIONAL TRAVEL ADVISORY:** President and CDC ordered a travel advisory for New York, New Jersey & Connecticut.

It is NOT a lockdown it is a travel advisory to be implemented by the states. As the Governor has said it's consistent with everything we've been doing. Non-essential workers should still stay at home.

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## Federal Update: \$15 Billion for NYS

You may have heard about the three Congressional bills passed in response to the coronavirus emergency and the FEMA Major Disaster Declaration. New York can expect to receive \$15.9 billion to fight this public health emergency and to address budgetary challenges.

### CARES ACT/Coronavirus 3: \$10.2 Billion

- State Relief Fund: \$5.1B
- MTA: \$3.8B
- Education Stabilization Fund: \$1.16B
- Child Care Community Grants: \$162.4M

### Coronavirus 2 Families First Legislation: \$5.2 billion

- FMAP: \$5.2B (\$6.7B in aid shared with NYC/counties that pay a share of Medicaid)

### FEMA Disaster Declaration: \$426 million

- New York State has obligated \$426 million from the Disaster Relief Fund for COVID19. Congress just appropriated \$45 billion in new dollars for the DRF which will ensure that New York State gets billions in FEMA reimbursement for COVID-19.

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## New Resources and Guidance

- **New Parents** - new guidance Friday night overriding hospital policies seeking to minimize the spread of Covid-19 by banning partners and other visitors to labor and delivery units.
- **New Americans** - *The New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) has prepared this overview to ensure that immigrants and refugees are well informed during the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID19)*
- **Senior Meal Changes**- During the last week, for the health and well-being of older adults and senior center staff, DFTA has been phasing out "grab and go" meals and ramping up a centralized program of meals delivered directly to the homes of clients of congregate sites. The direct delivered meal system that began last week as a pilot will expand to serve all clients in all five boroughs on Monday March 30, 2020.
  - The most direct path to access direct delivery meals is by connecting directly with your local senior center. You can also call 311 or DFTA's Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).
  - In addition to helping ensure DFTA clients receive a daily meal, senior center providers are also making thousands of social engagement calls daily to reduce their members social isolation during this crisis. Moreover, DFTA's in-home services (including friendly visiting, case management, geriatric mental health, and others) have transitioned to a telephonic or virtual approach in an effort to combat social isolation.
- *Tax Department response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19)*

- Price Gouging hotline: 800-697-1220
- 24-Hour Coronavirus hotline: 1-888-364-3065
- NYS DOH website regarding Coronavirus: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- NYS COVID-19 Email Alert Sign Up- <https://now.ny.gov/page/s/coronavirus-updates>
- To file a complaint with the NYS Department of Human Rights- <https://dhr.ny.gov/complaint#file>
- NYS Mental Health Hotline: 1-844-863-9314 (to schedule a free appointment)

## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

### Previous Editions of Our COVID-19 Special Report

*MARCH 19, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT*

*MARCH 25, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT*

*MARCH 27, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT*