

Assemblymember

DAVID I. WEPRIN



Reports to the Community

Summer 2020

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia.

A Message From DAVID I. WEPRIN



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits as we continue our recovering and reopening process in New York. As we get deeper into summer and closer to autumn, I encourage

all of you to stay safe by continuing to wear a mask in public, socially distance, and take all suggested precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In recent months, with my support, the Assembly and Senate passed a number of packages to safeguard elections and the absentee ballot process, bring reforms to the criminal justice system, and provide support for New Yorkers through the COVID-19 pandemic. Please read below for more information on these legislative packages, as well as updates on my office's work supporting our community organizations and individuals in need with face masks, hand sanitizer, food, and other resources through the pandemic.

I am confident that by continuing to work together and supporting each other, that we will persevere through this challenging and unprecedented time in our city's history.

As always, please contact my office at 718-454-3027, 718-805-2381 or weprind@nyassembly.gov if you are need of any assistance at all.

Sincerely Yours,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



New York State

ASSEMBLY



COVID-19 SUPPORT

In May, the Legislature convened to pass a number of bills that provide additional support for New Yorkers battling the COVID-19 pandemic including rental assistance for New Yorkers, improvements to the UI claims process, and measures to support small businesses. This included legislation that protects critical library and school funding, ensures unemployed workers receive the benefits they need and protects health care workers and at-risk populations. Furthermore, in July the Assembly and Senate passed a second package to help small businesses provide PPE, keep contract tracing information confidential, and protect New Yorkers as they return to the work force.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

In June, following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, the State Legislature passed a comprehensive criminal justice reform package that will help ensure that police officers with poor disciplinary records are held accountable, promote transparency in law enforcement, and continue building trust between police departments and the communities they protect.

Following the reforms enacted in June, both the Assembly and Senate acted on a number of bills that I prime sponsor in the Assembly that will increase oversight in correctional facilities in New York State and prohibit discrimination based on religion in our prisons. This legislation is being sent to the Governor for his approval and signature.

SAFEGUARDING ELECTIONS

In order to help safeguard our elections and provide safe options for people to vote, the legislature has passed and enacted a number of reforms and changes to ensure election security, provide for smoother voter registration, safeguard and streamline the absentee ballot process, and make sure that ballots for people voting from home are sent early and on time.

It is common sense to provide options for people to vote from home with an absentee ballot during the pandemic and I am proud to have supported these measures that will ensure that every New Yorker will have a voice and chance to participate in our elections.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Hand Sanitizer and Face Mask Giveaway



My office hosted a hand sanitizer and facemask giveaway in June distributing over 40,000 surgical and cloth masks and over 1,000 bottles of sanitizer to individuals and organizations in the 24th Assembly District. Wearing a mask and using hand sanitizer can help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and is recommended by the US Centers for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health, New York City Department of Health, and World Health Organization.

Support for NYC Health and Hospitals Queens with Acting Borough President Sharon Lee



I was also proud to have been able to help deliver surgical masks donated by the Greater New York Automobile Association to NYC Health & Hospital in Queens along with Acting Borough President Sharon Lee. I also visited the newly opened COVID-19 testing site located at the hospital. For more information on scheduling an appointment, please call 718-883-3000.

Meal Delivery for Seniors with the Commonpoint Y Queens



I was glad to join Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Commonpoint Y CEO Danielle Ellman and my staff member Ben Herman to deliver meals to our homebound seniors and immunocompromised individuals. Commonpoint Y Queens has been on the front lines of the pandemic and working to support our community in a multitude of ways. Individuals needing food, financial assistance, employment help and looking for other services can call 929-255-6060 or visit <https://www.commonpointqueens.org/commonpoint-queens-emergency-assistance/>.

Ramadan: COVID-19 Iftar & Suhur Relief Fund Food Drop Off at the Jamaica Muslim Center



Picture: Imran Chowdhury

I also had the pleasure of attending a successful food drop off at Jamaica Muslim Center organized by the “Ramadan: COVID-19 Iftar & Suhur Relief Fund” founded by Jamie Kazi and Imran Rahman, who are also members of my staff, and community activist, Mufazzal Hossain. I’d like to thank the fund for donating food to various mosques in Queens to provide some crucial food relief to financially vulnerable individuals and thank JMC for providing such vital services to the community in this time of need.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Khalsa Aid USA & Ahmadiyya Mosque Food Delivery Partnership



My office has been glad to partner with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center and Khalsa Aid USA to help connect individuals seeking food assistance with quality meals. Since April 6, the mosque has delivered 52 hot meals to seniors each day, partnering with Khalsa Aid, has distributed 500 meals from the mosque 6 days a week, and has delivered prepared meals to 150 low-income families six days a week.

COVID-19 and Advanced Cardiovascular Testing with Councilwoman Adrienne Adams



My office has partnered with the office of Councilwoman Adrienne Adams and Dr. Perry Frankel of Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics through the first half of the year to bring mobile COVID-19 testing, antibody testing and Cardiovascular Testing to locations in Richmond Hill.

Sites where we have been able to offer these services include the Faith Assembly Church in South Richmond Hill, Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center in Richmond Hill, and the Richie Rich Palace Restaurant in Richmond Hill, located across the street from my Atlantic Avenue District Office.

Standing Against Gun Violence



In July, I joined District Attorney Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, and a large group of elected officials and community organizations from all around Queens for a peace rally against gun violence. I also joined the Queens Jewish Community Council for a car caravan to show appreciation for officers at the 107th Precinct in Fresh Meadows and the 111th Precinct in Forest Hills, who have been responding to calls and emergencies through the pandemic.

Census Week Press Conference



In an effort to encourage Queens residents to complete the 2020 Census, I participated in a number of outreach events in Richmond Hill for Census Week 2020, July 27 to August 1, including a hand sanitizer and mask giveaway at Phil "Scooter" Rizzuto Park in South Richmond Hill with Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, Councilwoman Adrienne Adams and Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz.

As of July 23, Queens' overall response rate was 53.8 percent, with a response rate of 44% in Richmond Hill. The New York state response rate is 57.9 percent and the nationwide rate is 62.3 percent. The deadline for completing the Census is quickly approaching. Fill out your Census at 2020census.gov.

Virtual Town Halls on Health & Housing



David Weprin
April 21

Virtual Town Hall on Housing

Thank you Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Senator Leroy Comrie, Council Member Adrienne Adams, Council Member I. Daneek Miller, NYS Office Of State Comptroller, New York State Department of Financial Services, New York City Department of Finance, @Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica, @Center for NYC Neighborhoods, Met Council on Housing and all who participated in our Tele Town Hall on Housing.

For those who missed it, please see below for a video of the virtual town hall. See Less



Earlier this spring and summer, I hosted virtual town halls on public health and housing to provide information on resources available to homeowners and renters through the public emergency and respond to any questions or concerns that Queens residents have about COVID-19.

I thank Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Senator Leroy Comrie, Council Member Adrienne Adams, Council Member I. Daneek Miller, the NYS Office Of State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, the New York State Department of Financial Services, New York City Department of Finance, Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica, Center for NYC Neighborhoods, and Met Council on Housing for participating in my Tele Town Hall on Housing. In addition, I thank Congressman Gregory Meeks, Elmhurst Hospital CEO Israel Rocha, Dr. Sandy Malhotra of the Global Physicians Network Foundation and Dr. Perry Frankel of Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics for providing expert insight during our Virtual Town Hall on Health.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Summer 2020

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Thank You!
From
State Assemblymember
David Weprin

TO ALL OUR ESSENTIAL WORKERS ON THE FRONT LINES

HEALTH CARE WORKERS FIRST RESPONDERS
PHARMACISTS LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRANSIT WORKERS SANITATION WORKERS
POSTAL WORKERS PARCEL DELIVERY PERSONNEL
GROCERY STORE WORKERS CASHIERS

THANK YOU FOR WORKING HARD TO KEEP US SAFE