



Assemblymember  
**Jo Anne Simon**

52nd District



**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**November 2017**

**Java with Jo Anne - Let's Talk about Community Issues!**

I will be hosting my second "Java with Jo Anne" this month. Join me for a cup of coffee to discuss current events or community issues that are important to you. I will be at D'Amico Coffee Roasters, 309 Court Street, in Carroll Gardens on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 11am.

**Help Bring Back the B71 Bus!**

Our Brooklyn neighborhoods lost a vital connector when the MTA eliminated the B71 bus line, which ran along Union Street, seven years ago. It's long past time to restore this bus service with a revised route that would serve the increased transit needs of the area's growing population.

Linking the transit starved neighborhood of Red Hook to Crown Heights and lower Manhattan through a new B71+ bus route would provide a great option for riders to go to work, school, medical visits, local businesses, or cultural institutions. A new bus route would also have the advantage of being accessible to people with disabilities and the increasing population of older adults.

I recently joined Council Members Lander, Levin, & Menchaca and a coalition of schools, civic groups, advocates, cultural institutions, elected officials and community residents for a rally to call on the MTA and DOT to bring back our bus. We will soon be delivering the petition to the MTA and the Dept. of Transportation, so please take a moment to join our efforts by signing this petition and sharing it widely: [http://bradlander.nationbuilder.com/petition\\_b71](http://bradlander.nationbuilder.com/petition_b71)

**What is the NYC Rent Freeze Program (SCRIE/DRIE)?** The NYC Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program, helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. SCRIE freezes the rent for head-of-household seniors 62 and older or people with disabilities who live in rent-regulated apartments (check the DOF website below for additional housing and disability criteria for DRIE). Your annual household income must be \$50,000 or less and you pay more than 1/3 of your monthly income for rent. To apply and for more details, call 311, or go to <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page>

**Important Update from NYC Finance Dept. – If Your DRIE Housing Benefit Recently Expired**

If you are a recipient of DRIE and your benefits expired within the last 6 months and you are still eligible for the program, you may be entitled to have these benefits reinstated. In order to continue receiving DRIE, you must submit a renewal application and documentation to the NYC Dept. of Finance no later than **Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. You can submit the application online at: [www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/tools/drie-forms.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/tools/drie-forms.page) or you can visit a Business Center. The Brooklyn Center is located at the Brooklyn Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon St. More information can be found here: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/about/contact-us-by-visit.page/>.

**New Shorter Renewal Forms for SCRIE & DRIE**

The NYC Department of Finance is making it easier than ever for longtime Rent Freeze program participants to renew their benefits. A short-form renewal application will be mailed to SCRIE and DRIE recipients who have been approved for 5 or more consecutive benefit periods. This shorter, simpler form will make it easier for seniors and people with disabilities to remain in the program. Eligible SCRIE and DRIE recipients will receive a short-form

renewal application in the mail approximately 60 days before their benefit is due to expire. For more details, contact the Dept. of Finance at [nyc.gov/contactscrie](http://nyc.gov/contactscrie) or [nyc.gov/contactdrie](http://nyc.gov/contactdrie), or call 311.

### **Curbside Electronic Waste Collection is Here!**

Residents who live within Community Board 2 (Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Downtown BK, DUMBO, Vinegar Hill) & other North Brooklyn neighborhoods can now make an appointment to have their electronic waste picked up by the NYC Department of Sanitation. To schedule a pick-up and view a list of items, visit: [nyc.gov/electronics](http://nyc.gov/electronics).

### **Time to Enroll in Health Care for 2018**

New York's Healthcare Marketplace, NY State of Health, is a way for individuals, families, and small businesses to find quality health insurance (Note: the Marketplace is not for people who have Medicare). The enrollment period for 2018 plans is now open.

**Need Financial Help?** Financial aid to buy insurance is available for most consumers. You may qualify for an even more affordable option through the state's Essential Plan, which covers essential health benefits and includes a either a \$20 monthly premium or nothing, depending on income. You may also be eligible for Medicaid.

**How Do I Apply?** Apply online at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov), or call the Marketplace at 1-855-355-5777.

**Need Free Help Applying?** Trained navigators are available to walk you through the application process. To find a navigator near you and set up an in-person appointment, call the Marketplace or go

to: <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations>

**When Do I Apply?** Apply by Dec. 15, 2017 for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2018. Open enrollment for 2018 ends on Jan. 31, 2018 (Note: the federal deadline is Dec. 15, 2017, but New York has extended its deadline for our Marketplace). After that time, you may only apply if you experience a qualifying event, such as loss of your current coverage, pregnancy, job loss, marriage or divorce, or other event. Note: You may apply for Medicaid or the Essential Plan at any time.

### **Gowanus Canal Superfund Town Hall**

Next Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez will be the keynote speaker at a town hall on the Gowanus Canal Superfund project, hosted by the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will present on the canal clean-up and answer your questions. Other government agencies will also be present. Join us at Wyckoff Gardens Community Center, 272 Wyckoff St from 6:30 to 8:30 PM to learn more about this important project. For more details, go to [www.gowanuscag.org](http://www.gowanuscag.org)

### **K-Front Street Holder Station Site – Public Comment Period**

The public is invited to comment on a remedial action plan proposed by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the K-Front St. Holder Station site located at 218 Front St., Brooklyn. For more details, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=224063>. You can view project documents through Community Board 2, 718-596-5419 or [cbb2k@nyc.rr.com](mailto:cbb2k@nyc.rr.com). You can also access documents at the Brooklyn Heights Library, 718-623-7100. The NYSDEC is accepting comments about the plan until **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Please send comments to Scott Deyette, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233. You can call NYSDEC at 518-402-9662 or email [scott.deyette@dec.ny.gov](mailto:scott.deyette@dec.ny.gov).

### **Consumer Protection Tips for Older Adults Workshop:**

NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, NYPD 76<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Con Edison and AARP are partnering with Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church to provide a workshop for older adults who want to learn about consumer protection. Learn how to stay safe from fraud attempts via phone, mail, internet, or home visits. The workshop will take place on Mon., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00pm, at 125 Summit Street in Carroll Gardens, between Henry and Hick Street. Contact Linda Ameroso if you have any questions: [lma6@cornell.edu](mailto:lma6@cornell.edu).

## **Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NY**

New York State played a vital role in the fight for women's suffrage. The Seneca Falls Convention propelled the equal rights movement forward, and mobilized women around the country to fight for their right to vote. Today we still fight for equality and more seats at the table. I was proud to join my colleagues in the State Assembly, Senate, and City Council to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in New York State.



While we celebrate voting rights, it's hard to believe that in many places the national conversation leans towards narrowing access to voting. From healthcare and gun safety to tax reform, voting matters now more than ever. I encourage everyone to participate in our democracy and exercise their right to vote.

## **Hurricane Maria Relief Efforts**

People in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the surrounding areas who have been devastated by Hurricane Maria need our help. If you would like to help in this time of great need, please consider donating funds or supplies, volunteering, or giving blood. The Hispanic Federation has created a relief fund for Puerto Rico called Unidos (<https://hispanicfederation.org>). To donate, select Hurricane Relief from the drop-down menu. You can drop off donation items at my District Office at 341 Smith St. Brooklyn, NY 11231 and we will make sure to send them to organizations that are distributing goods throughout Puerto Rico.

## **New Options for Affordable Housing & Section 8 Units**

**237 Duffield Street** has 22 affordable units open. Through the Mayor's Inclusionary Housing Program, these units receive tax exemptions through the 421a Program through HPD. Applications must be postmarked or submitted online by **Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to BRIQ – 237 Duffield LLC, c/o, Jennings Hall, 260 Powers Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211. For application details, go to the NYC Housing Connect website: <https://a806-housingconnect.nyc.gov/nyclottery/AdvertisementPdf/384.pdf>.

A.M.S. Realty, which manages Brooklyn Section 8 buildings, has re-opened the waiting lists for the following developments:

- Green Avenue - 80 Greene Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Only 1 Bedroom
- Caribe Gardens - Boerum, Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, NY. Only 2 Bedrooms
- Sutter Gardens - Sutter, Blake Avenue & Barbey Street, Brooklyn, NY. Only 2 Bedrooms
- Tri-Block - St. Felix Street and Ashland Place, Brooklyn, NY. Only 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Fulton Park- Utica and Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Only 2 & 3 Bedrooms

If you are interested in applying, you can contact their office by mail: A.M.S. Realty Company, 98 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 240 S, Great Neck, NY 11021. You can also call them between 10am & 3pm at 516-466-6520 ext. 24. All applications must be received by **Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

For additional affordable housing opportunities, go to [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect).

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