



# Assemblymember NIKKI LUCAS

60th Assembly District



Summer 2022

Dear Neighbor,

I hope all is well with you and your family. There has been a lot happening over the last month. While it may seem as though our civil liberties and sense of safety are under attack, remember that I am in your corner. I am in Albany consistently advocating to bring educational and financial resources as well as social and safety initiatives to you and your neighbors in East New York, Starrett City, Canarsie and Brownsville.

## DISTRICT UPDATES

### Roe v. Wade

The Supreme Court's repeal of Roe v. Wade has not only revoked thousands of women's constitutional right to safe abortions, it has also placed contraception and LGBTQ+ rights in jeopardy. Therefore, it is imperative that states work to protect Americans' civil liberties. New York State is currently working towards the goal of ensuring that all New Yorkers are treated fairly and equitably. New York State Assembly Bill A.41002, The Equality Amendment, seeks to update the language of New York's constitution to include comprehensive and equal legal protections for all individuals in the state. This bill prohibits discrimination due to a person's race, color, disability, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy outcome or gender expression. The Equality Amendment is essential in advancing and protecting the civil rights of marginalized New Yorkers who experience inequity daily. The residents of East New York, Canarsie, Starrett City and Brownsville can make a difference in ensuring our constitution protects all citizens of New York. For more information, please visit <https://nyassembly.gov>, visit the Assembly Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NYSAssemblyMajority>, NYS Assembly Twitter page, [https://twitter.com/nysa\\_majority](https://twitter.com/nysa_majority), or the NYS Assembly Instagram page [https://www.instagram.com/nysa\\_majority/](https://www.instagram.com/nysa_majority/).

### Extraordinary Session

On June 23, 2022, The Supreme Court struck down a NYS law restricting the carrying of concealed firearms in the case *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*. Yet, I have not given up on my commitment to ensure that citizens are safe both inside and outside of their homes. On June 30th, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul called for lawmakers to participate in an Extraordinary Session. Myself and my fellow Assembly members then worked to revise New York State's gun laws to make it tougher for individuals to conceal their weapons in public spaces. The state now requires New Yorkers to apply for a concealed carry permit and to participate in extensive training on how to handle and use handguns. They must also complete a written exam, undergo an interview process and agree to have their social media accounts assessed. Lawmakers have also created a list of places where guns are banned including colleges, houses of worship, schools, public transportation and healthcare facilities. Gun violence is a major issue on all our minds, which is why my office pushed for these provisions. With these new concealed carry requirements in place, we can ensure that we continue to reduce crime while maintaining a safe environment for the residents of East New York, Starrett City, Brownsville and Canarsie.

### NYCHA

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has failed to provide repairs to their facilities for decades. Thousands of East New York, Canarsie and Brownsville residents have lived in subpar conditions for years, despite filing multiple complaints. All New Yorkers deserve safe and affordable housing, which is why I have worked ceaselessly to hold NYCHA accountable. After years of advocating, we have finally passed **A.7805D, New York City Public Housing Preservation Trust**. The time of housing injustice in NYCHA is coming to an end! This bill enables NYCHA to raise billions of dollars in federal funding, which will be used to improve their facilities, subsequently curbing years of neglect and disinvestment. In addition to providing funding for repairs, the bill has provisions which empower residents to vote on changes to their housing development, participate in vendor selection and to participate in quality assurance committees.



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## Con ED

Con Edison has issued an energy use advisory. The company urges customers to conserve energy to save money and prevent service outages. Con Edison predicts that this summer's heat will lead to an increase in air conditioner usage, which may cause cables to overheat. In addition, thunderstorms may affect the electrical system and increase the chances of power outages. Extreme summer heat can be dangerous, and I want to ensure the residents of East New York, Starrett City, Canarsie and Brownsville stay safe and cool. For energy saving tips, please review Con Edison's Tips & Tools for Lowering Your Energy Bill <https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/tips-to-lower-your-bill>. Con Edison is committed to responding to service problems quickly and efficiently. In the case of an outage, you can contact Con Edison via text. To receive text alerts from Con Edison sign up at <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/text-alerts>. You can also report outages and receive service updates at <https://www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/report-track-service-issue/report-outage-status>.

Con Edison is also urging customers to participate in their energy efficient programs. They are offering a \$50 discount for purchasing an eligible smart thermostat, \$85 for registering it with their Bring Your Own Thermostat Program and a \$1,000 rebate to weatherize your home. By working together to conserve energy we can beat the summer heat and protect our friends and families from the risks of warm weather exposure. For more information on Con Edison's energy efficient programs please visit their <https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/rebates-incentives-tax-credits/rebates-incentives-tax-credits-for-residential-customers>.

## Department of Social Services

New York City's Department of Social Services will be relocating the Human Resources Administration's Coney Island Medicaid Office and Coney Island SNAP Center. HRA's Medical Assistance program provides Medicaid for disabled, elderly and blind NYC residents. To submit applications, adjust your household members or change your address, you can contact MAP by phone at 929-221-3790. The HRA Coney Island Medicaid Office will be relocating from the 3rd floor of 3050 West 21st Street to the 1st and 2nd floors of 1912 Mermaid Avenue. This relocation will take effect after **August 12, 2022**, at **5pm**.

The Coney Island SNAP Center distributes SNAP-only benefits. They also process and recertify SNAP benefits, collect documentation, determine eligibility and help clients with SNAP cases. This office will be relocating from the 1st floor of 2857 West 8th Street to the 1st and 2nd floors of 1912 Mermaid Avenue. This change will take effect after **August 12, 2022**, at **5pm**.

## Electric Vehicles

The State Department of Transportation hosted a virtual public meeting to discuss their Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan. The meeting took place on July 20, 2022. The meeting provided information about the state's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (NEVI) and its role in the nation's climate agenda. The program provides states with funding to develop Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) infrastructures to increase reliable charging for public and private use. To receive \$175 million, over five years, the Department of Transportation must produce a NEVI Deployment plan by August 1, 2022. To learn more about NYSDOT's electric vehicle plan and to provide feedback visit <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/ChargeNY/Charge-Electric/Charging-Station-Programs/National-Electric-Vehicle-Infrastructure-Program>.



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