



# Assemblymember NIKKI LUCAS

60th Assembly District



February 2024

Dear District 60 Residents,

As we bid farewell to another eventful year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. In this edition of our year-end district newsletter, we reflect on the progress, achievements, and shared moments that have defined our community throughout the past twelve months, including but not limited to: community engagement- the heart of my work lies in my dedication to fostering a strong sense of community, legislative milestones- I have been unwavering in my commitment to championing legislation that directly benefits our district, youth advocacy- recognizing the youth as a cornerstone of success for the future of our community, I tirelessly advocated for increased funding, improved resources, and better opportunities for our children, and Infrastructure Improvements- I remain committed to addressing our district's infrastructure needs and through collaborative efforts, I secured funding for vital projects that will enhance our roads, public spaces, and utilities, ultimately contributing to a more vibrant and connected community. I'm grateful for the incredible community engagement and impactful initiatives we've undertaken together. From the successful events to advocating for vital improvements in our district, your involvement has been instrumental. As we continue addressing concerns through our dedicated constituent services, your trust and active participation empower our shared mission of building a stronger, more responsive community. Thank you for making a difference, and I look forward to achieving more milestones together.

Assembly Member  
Nikki Lucas, 60th District

## NYCHA PUBLIC TRUST MEETING

I recognized the pressing need to address the questions swirling among NYCHA residents, leading me to partner with the Pink Houses Tenant Association. On February 2, we orchestrated an essential information session to shed light on the changes unfolding within NYCHA complexes and their potential impact on residents. Notably, we delved into the establishment of the Public

Housing Preservation Trust, a state-created entity geared toward maintaining affordable rents, upholding resident rights, and implementing crucial capital repairs. Throughout the session, we navigated the intricate workings of the Trust, emphasizing its 100% public nature, NYCHA's continued ownership, and the issuance of bonds for comprehensive building renovations. The aim was to ensure our community remained well-informed and empowered amidst these transformative developments.

## REPARATIONS

On February 18th, I held a powerful Reparations Workshop in Albany, addressing the historical injustices inflicted upon enslaved persons and their descendants. The workshop explored the complexities of reparations, drawing from the insights of experts like Friday Jones and Devine Prince. Their emphasis on lineage-based reparations, rooted in the experiences of descendants of chattel slavery, aligns with my vision for a comprehensive and constitutionally sound reparations plan. I shared the challenges posed by alternative bills, stressing the need to avoid a broad approach that could dilute the intended repair for those truly affected by American chattel slavery.

The significance of this cause was underscored by the recent vote on the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies. I stood on the Assembly floor, advocating for a nuanced approach that includes a lineage-based study, ensuring reparations reach those directly impacted by chattel slavery.



Our recent Reparations Forum at the High School for Civil Rights and Law further illuminated the path forward. The itinerary delved into the historical context, lineage equity, legislative comparisons, and contemporary solutions. This comprehensive exploration ensures that our reparations efforts are rooted in a deep understanding of history while forging a path toward equitable and just solutions.

The journey toward reparations is ongoing, and your engagement is crucial. Let us continue this collective pursuit of justice, guided by the principle that repair must be specific and impactful for the descendants of those who endured the profound injustices of chattel slavery.



## HAT PAGEANT

I am overjoyed to share the delightful news of the triumphant return of the Easter Hat Pageant on April 6th, a heartwarming tradition I initiated in 2017 for our cherished East New York seniors. After a temporary hiatus prompted by the pandemic, last year's event saw an outpouring of community spirit, with over 350 seniors present in joyful celebration. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, a steadfast partner since the pageant's inception, graced the festivities alongside the esteemed Chris Banks and Turquoise Haskin. A heartfelt thank you to the distinguished Kings County Court judges, including Ed King, Rupert Barry, Jacqueline Williams, Ellen Edwards, and Lisa Ottley, who added a touch of prestige to the event. Congratulations to the talented winners of last year's contests, Brenda Doldron (1st place), Mary Saunders (2nd place), Willie Mae Glenn (3rd place), Rodney Boyd (1st place), Nigel Dupree (2nd place), and James (3rd place). This resounding success would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our incredible partners, including Congressman Jeffries, Millennium Development, New Wave Dance, One Brooklyn Health, Fusion East, Power of Hope, PATHS Dance @ Thomas Jefferson Campus, Find Community Connection, Brooklyn Printers, and Dunkin' Donuts. As we bid farewell to this remarkable year, I extend my deepest gratitude for the enduring support from our community, making the Easter Hat Pageant a symbol of resilience, unity, and community spirit.



## BACK 2 SCHOOL STREET FAIR

I hosted the Back 2 School Street Fair at Gersh Park and it was an incredible opportunity to connect with our community and provide essential support for our students. In collaboration with Congressman Jeffries and the generous sponsorship from One Health Brooklyn, Judge Ed King, East Coast Street Taco, Mylah Organization, and Dunkin' Donuts, we distributed 1000 backpacks filled with school supplies to eager students gearing up for the new academic year. This event was a testament to the power of collaboration and community spirit, ensuring that our young learners have the tools they need to thrive. I remain dedicated to initiatives that uplift and empower our community, and the Back 2 School Street Fair was a heartwarming celebration of unity and support for our students and their families.



## COMBATING SICK BUILDING SYNDROME INDOOR AIR QUALITY WORKSHOP

Hosting the Combating Sick Building Syndrome Indoor Air Quality Workshop on February 18th, in Albany during the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus was a pivotal moment for our community. In collaboration with CIMR Technologies, we brought together experts to shed light on the critical importance of indoor air quality. The workshop not only delved into the health implications but also highlighted substantial opportunities within workforce development and contracts. The discussion spanned industries directly impacted, including daycare centers, schools, churches, housing complexes, homes, and hospitals. Presenters from CIMR, Kawi Energy Group, Joseph Group, and LISC shared valuable insights, fostering awareness and empowering us to address the challenges our communities face in ensuring healthy indoor environments.

### JEFF FIELD

Embarking on a transformative journey, my commitment to revitalizing the long-neglected Thomas Jefferson football field reached a crucial milestone. Recognizing the field's decade-long disrepair, I conducted district walk-throughs with Mayor Eric Adams in July 2022 and, more recently, with NYC DOE Chancellor David Banks and SCA representatives on April 6th. Witnessing the neglect firsthand, we prioritized community involvement, ensuring key members participated in the decision-making process. This collaborative effort resulted in a true commitment to commence immediate construction on the Thomas Jefferson athletic complex, beginning with the track and baseball field. Chancellor Banks expressed concern over the field's disrepair, emphasizing a phased approach with stakeholder input, with the first phase set to complete within six months, bringing swift improvements. Simultaneously, preparations for the broader renovation, including the football field, bleachers, field house, and additional amenities, are underway, with construction anticipated in the fall.

The groundbreaking ceremony on June 29, marked a historic moment, symbolizing a new era for our community. The condemned field, a pressing issue for four years, has left local teams without a proper playing field. The collaborative efforts with Congressman Jeffries, Mayor Adams, Chancellor Banks, Mark Treyger, and the School Construction Authority (SCA) underscore the significance of this revitalization effort, prioritizing timely upgrades to the Thomas Jefferson athletic complex. The first phase, focusing on the track and baseball field, is expected to complete within six months, facilitating immediate improvements. Concurrently, preparations for the larger renovation project, encompassing the football field, bleachers, field house, and more, are in progress, with construction set to commence in the fall. This transformative project aligns with my 21st Century Rescue Plan, ensuring top-notch facilities that enhance the well-being of our students and community members. Your continued support is invaluable as we embark on this exciting journey.



### EAST NEW YORK WORKSHOPS

Engaging with our community during our workshops in East New York has been a profoundly gratifying experience. Hosting the session on "Discovering the Keys to Affordable Housing" not only allowed us to explore the intricacies of affordable housing but also provided practical support, aiding individuals in navigating Housing Connect and successfully applying for affordable housing. Witnessing the tangible impact of these efforts on my constituents is genuinely fulfilling. Moreover, our dedicated session on "Tools for Career Development and Entrepreneurship" aimed to empower individuals with the crucial skills and resources for personal and professional advancement. It is deeply rewarding to witness our community members equipped with the knowledge to navigate housing opportunities and pursue their career aspirations. As your Assemblymember, supporting and empowering our community remains my top priority.



### THOMAS JEFFERSON HOMECOMING TAILGATE PARTY

What an exhilarating homecoming tailgate party we had for the victorious Thomas Jefferson High Orange Wave! The energy was electric as we celebrated their triumphant win against Frederick Douglas Academy on our newly renovated practice field. Partnering with Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, and with the generous support of Mylah's organization, Judge Ed King, Highlanders Van Club, and One Brooklyn Health, the event was a true community success. It's moments like these that showcase the strength of our unity and the vibrant spirit of our beloved community. Cheers to the Orange Wave and to the collaborative efforts that made this celebration unforgettable!



showcase the strength of our unity and the vibrant spirit of our beloved community. Cheers to the Orange Wave and to the collaborative efforts that made this celebration unforgettable!



### WINTER WONDERLAND TOY GIVEAWAY (DEC 23RD)

I'm thrilled to share the joy we spread at our Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway, a heartwarming event co-hosted with Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and District Attorney Eric Gonzales. In collaboration with Shorefront Toys for Tots, we had the honor of providing toys to over 500 children at the Brooklyn Sports Club. The festive atmosphere was complemented by hot chocolate, delightful Christmas treats, and delicious food, creating a memorable experience for our community during this holiday season. It's moments like these that truly capture the spirit of giving and unity in East Brooklyn.



### TURKEY GIVEAWAY

I'm incredibly proud to share the success of our turkey giveaway, a heartwarming collaboration with Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, DA Eric Gonzales, and New Wave Dance. Together, we distributed over 500 turkeys, ensuring that families in our community could enjoy a warm and festive Thanksgiving. This meaningful partnership exemplifies the strength of unity and the shared commitment to uplifting our neighbors. As we gathered to provide essential support, the spirit of gratitude and generosity filled the air. I extend my deepest thanks to all involved, and it is moments like these that reaffirm the positive impact we can achieve when we come together for the greater good.



## BROWNSVILLE READS

I immersed myself on June 3rd in the vibrant atmosphere of Brownsville Reads!, a standout event orchestrated by Uncommon Schools in June, it was truly a privilege. The occasion stood as a sincere commemoration of both advocacy and education. Standing shoulder to shoulder with Assemblymember Latrice Walker, we had the pleasure of introducing special guest authors who brought an enchanting allure to story time. The day resonated with joy, a wealth of knowledge, and a profusion of opportunities, all conspiring to fuel the creative sparks in the minds of the youth, encouraging them to aspire beyond conventional boundaries.

## FAMILY DAYS AND BLOCK PARTIES

This past summer in our District was a true celebration of community spirit, with numerous family days and block parties bringing joy to our neighborhoods. Attending and supporting these events was not only a pleasure but also highlighted the importance of fostering a sense of togetherness. The presence of families, friends, and the NYPD made these occasions special, emphasizing the significance of collaboration in creating safe and enjoyable spaces for everyone. As we reflect on these vibrant gatherings, it underscores the continued need for such events, reinforcing our commitment to promoting community engagement and ensuring that our neighborhoods thrive with unity and happiness. My sincere gratitude to the NYPD for their involvement and dedication to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT & DET. BRANT PROCLAMATION

Celebrating National Night Out with the 75th, 73rd, and 69th precincts, alongside PSA 1 and PSA 2, was a true honor and a testament to the collaborative spirit within our community. It was a joyous occasion to recognize and commend the dedicated officers from each command, presenting them with well-deserved citations for their exemplary service. Additionally, I took a momentous opportunity to acknowledge and express gratitude for the remarkable 30-year career and retirement of Detective Walter Brant from PSA 2. Detective Brant's three decades of unwavering commitment and service to our community have left an indelible mark, and it was a privilege to honor his contributions during this special event. As we came together to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and our community, it became a poignant reminder of the importance of unity and cooperation for the well-being of our neighborhood.



## WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Launching the "Wellness Wednesdays" initiative this past summer has been a deeply fulfilling endeavor aimed at ensuring that our community's concerns are heard and addressed directly. Recognizing that not everyone can make it to our office, we took our services out into the heart of our neighborhoods, including Linden Plaza, Fresh Creek, Breukelen, Nehemiah, Starrett City, Linden Houses, Vandalia Houses, Sheridan Gardens, Penn Wortman, and Cypress Hills. The goal was simple but crucial—to foster accessibility and create a space for individuals who might otherwise suffer in silence. This initiative allowed us

to conduct overall wellness check-ins, addressing immediate concerns and providing assistance where needed. Being out in the community has reinforced the importance of direct engagement and has strengthened the bond between our office and the neighborhoods we proudly serve. As your Assemblymember, the well-being of our community is paramount, and "Wellness Wednesdays" exemplifies my commitment to ensuring that no one feels unheard or overlooked.



## HIP HOP 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip-hop was a remarkable moment for our community, underscoring the cultural richness of our district. Witnessing the vibrancy of hip-hop unfold in our neighborhood during the East New York concert, which featured over 20 talented artists, was a true honor as your Assemblymember. This event, highlighted by News12, showcased the power of music to unite and inspire, emphasizing the importance of preserving and cherishing our rich musical heritage. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the artists, organizers, and attendees who contributed to making this milestone anniversary a memorable and impactful experience for East New York. Ralph McDaniels, the visionary founder of Video Music Box, collaborated with my office, and renowned DJ Keith Watkins to spearhead this significant celebration, and I am delighted to announce that we plan to make it an annual tradition, ensuring it becomes a cherished staple for our community.



## WALK-THRU AND MEETING WITH DOT

In response to escalating safety concerns raised by our community, I engaged in a productive meeting with DOT Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray. Together, we delved into the pressing issues surrounding visibility, addressing constituent complaints of blind spots, and the palpable sense that a serious accident could be imminent on Cozine Ave. between Vermont and Van Siclen. To gain a firsthand understanding, we conducted a comprehensive walk-through of the parking area, evaluating potential hazards and seeking solutions to enhance safety. The safety and well-being of our community remain paramount, and I am dedicated to working collaboratively to implement measures that ensure our streets are secure for all residents.

## CASES

As your committed Assemblymember, I'm pleased to share that our office has handled 538 constituent cases. It's our unwavering commitment to diligently work on each case and ensure thorough follow-ups. Your concerns are our top priority, and we're dedicated to delivering effective and timely resolutions. If you have any further questions or matters that require attention, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we're building a stronger, more responsive community.

## BILLS SIGNED INTO CHAPTER LAW

A10142 - Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions dealing with tax exemptions for rent regulated properties occupied by certain persons

A10150 - Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to the establishment of certain water charges for hospitals and charities in New York city

A10159 - Extends the authority of the department of environmental conservation to manage American eel

A7359 - Increases the bonding authority of the New York city housing development corporation

## ASSEMBLYMEMBER LUCAS HELPED SECURE FUNDING FOR THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

Christian Cultural Center, Inc., Community Affairs Programs \$30,000

Be'er Hagolah Institutes, Inc., Library And Gym Operations, \$20,000

Developing Restoring Enriching Advancing Many Foundation, Inc., The D.R.E.A.M. Mental Health And Substance Abuse Restart Program \$20,000

Elite Learners, Inc., Youth Development/Violence Interrupters, \$25,000

Fresh Creek Nature Association, Canarsie Community Development, \$10,000

Muna Social Services, Inc., Food Pantry, \$20,000

New Wave Dance Youth And Community Development, Inc., Youth Program \$35,000

Southern Community Development Corporation, After School Program, \$20,000

Spring Creek Recreational Fund, Youth Enrichment Program, \$40,000

St. Pauls Community Baptist Church, Maafa Psycho Drama Healing Program, \$30,000

Bringing Resource And Care Everywhere, Inc., Food Pantry And Mental Health Workshop, \$20,000

Mylah's Organization, Inc., Food Pantry, \$20,000

Rose Of Sharon Outreach Services, Inc., Educational And Recreational Programs, \$20,000

Young Airmans Association, Purchase of one plane and transit van, \$500,000

Spring Creek Senior Partners, Senior Program, \$50,000

The Campaign Against Hunger INC, Food Pantry, \$25,000

Brownsville Think Tank Matters INC, Case Study, \$25,000

Christian Cultural Center INC, Community Affairs Programs, \$10,000

Hope Empowerment And Development Zone INC, Mental Health Program \$30,000

## NEW STATE LAWS

Upcoming 2024 state laws include a minimum wage increase, with New York City, Westchester, and Long Island reaching \$16 per hour. The Freelance Isn't Free Act provides safeguards for freelance workers, emphasizing written contracts and payment protection (S.5026). New legislation defends tenants from water and security issues, ensuring timely notifications and preventing unauthorized keyless security device installations (A.7273). An amendment grants victims and survivors of crime expanded support without requiring documentation to law enforcement (A.2105-A). "Matthew's Law" addresses the opioid epidemic, enhancing access to drug testing resources (S.2099). Senate Bill S2060A mandates colleges to publish accessible crime statistics and adopt plans for hate crime investigations. Additionally, public schools will observe Lunar New Year and Diwali as holidays (A.7769), while a new law allows 15-year-olds to work as lifeguards (S.6467-A). Governor Hochul signed legislation forming a state commission to study reparations on December 19th (A.7691).



New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

PRSRT STD.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Albany, NY  
Permit No. 75

For more information, please visit my website  
<https://www.nyasassembly.gov/mem/Nikki-Lucas/contact/> or contact my office:

## Assemblymember Nikki Lucas

425 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207

Office: 718-257-5824

Fax: 718-257-2590

[lucasn@nyassembly.gov](mailto:lucasn@nyassembly.gov)

