



## Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

May 8, 2020

Happy Mother's Day weekend to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and mother figures in our lives. This Mother's Day will be unique and may require a pause on our cherished family traditions, but there are so many wonderful ways to show that special person in your life that you love and appreciate them. Showing them how much you care may include staying away and relying on a virtual call or sending a gift and thoughtful card this Mother's Day. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has lost a special woman in their life due to the coronavirus or a different circumstance.

Thank you to all the wonderful women working in our essential businesses and on the frontline, making the ultimate sacrifice. You are what keeps our community strong.



## Updates From Albany

### **What Measures did the State Legislature Include in the 2020-21 State Budget to Combat Hate Crimes Based on Religion, Gender, Ethnicity, and Sexual Orientation?**

#### **This year's budget includes:**

The 'Josef Neumann Hate Crimes Domestic Terrorism Act', named in memory of Rabbi Josef Neumann, who died after being stabbed at a synagogue in Monsey, NY during Hanukkah in 2019. This act defines hate-fueled murder, with the intent to cause mass casualties, as an act of domestic terrorism with penalties equivalent to other acts of terrorism.

- The budget language establishes a "domestic act of terrorism motivated by hate" crime as a new A-1 class felony punishable by up to life in prison without parole.

#### **Additionally, contained in the budget was **funding for the State Police Hate Crimes Task Force.****

- The State Police Hate Crimes Task Force was established by Governor Cuomo in 2018 to address the increase in bias-motivated threats, harassment, and violence throughout NYS.
- The enacted budget also includes \$2 million to support the Task Force's ongoing work to bolster the monitoring of digital media which promotes violence, intolerance, selling of illicit substances, and terrorism.

When it comes to hate crimes and the safety of our diverse population here in New York, the legislature is making strides to advance laws that will prevent and denounce such heinous acts. A deliberate attack on any community is a frightening threat to the safety of overall community unity. While I am proud to support and vote for the aforementioned policies, it is very disturbing that issues of discrimination, hate, and xenophobia continue to plague our communities. My colleagues in the NYS legislature and I will always institute severe consequences to condemn and combat such horrific behavior.

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## **District 61 News**

### **Calling on the City of New York to Prioritize Summer Youth Employment and Community Schools Over Campaign Finance**

In April, the NYC Department of Education reported an approximate \$264 million budget cut due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest cut is estimated to take effect next year when \$100 million will be taken from the Fair Student Funding formula, impacting thousands of North Shore students. An issue of immediate concern includes the cancelation of the Summer Youth Employment Program and the potential loss of 75,000 city-funded summer jobs for youth ages 14 to 24 years old.

Though I understand that difficult decisions must be made by the city administration during this challenging time, when we have to choose between using taxpayer dollars to fund political campaigns or funding programs to benefit our students and community, our youth should always be our priority. NYC campaign finance matters should be revisited at a later date when the economy is in a healthier place. For several months, many of us have been working from home, and our students have been learning virtually. I am confident that government and community organizers can work together to create outlets for our SYEP participants to successfully work from home and continue supporting students and families that rely on our community schools.



(NYSABPRL Youth Conference, February 2020)

## NYC Face Coverings Distribution

It was great to join NYC Parks staff at The Big Park in Mariners Harbor and Corporal Thompson Park in West Brighton to help distribute free face coverings to the public. The city's free face coverings initiative has now been extended to Tuesday, May 12. Below you will find the North Shore pick up locations for the face-coverings distribution. There will also be hand sanitizer available courtesy of my office. Supplies are limited.

- Sunday, May 10, 2pm-4pm at Clove Lakes Outside Stonehenge
- Monday, May 11, 10am-12pm at the Big Park Grandview Ave and Continental Place
- **[Click here to find other Park distribution locations, dates, and times.](#)**



## COVID-19 Weekly Update for the North Shore

The impact of COVID-19 evolves every day and new resources and guidelines are released weekly to best address the growing needs and demands of this outbreak. Each week, I utilize my Facebook Live to connect with constituents in real-time and to discuss the matters most important to you. This week I spoke about the concerns of the NYC budget cut proposals to the Summer Youth Employment Program and community schools; the state's moratorium on COVID-related residential or commercial evictions until August 20 and the banning of late payments or fees for missed rent payments; the specific NYS Department of



Health ‘Protocols for Essential Personnel to return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection’, and much more. **Click here to watch my latest post and join me each week on my Facebook page where you can ask me questions in real-time.** Please reach out to my office if there is any information that you would like me to discuss with the community.



### **Positive Community Contributions**

This week in positive community contributions, I want to highlight the Clementine Collective Project, a blooming initiative to deliver free fresh foods to corner stores in Staten Island. The project is a collaborative effort between Brighter Corners: a graduate student group from Columbia University, including a local Staten Islander, Columbia University and Staten Island community advocate Professor Heather Butts, local community advocate Sarah Blas, and Susan Fowler of City Harvest. With the assistance of the owner of the Jersey Corner Store located at 506 Richmond Terrace, these organizers successfully launched a 4-week pilot beginning April 19, 2020. Each week, hundreds of clementines are purchased from

Gerardi's Farmer Market & Nursery and brought to the Jersey Corner Store where they have been extremely well received by community members of all ages.

I am proud to be a sponsor of this program focused on fostering a greater appreciation for healthy foods and healthier eating habits among Staten Island youth.



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## **Critical Updates, New Policies, and Recommendations to Protect You and Your Community From Contracting and Spreading COVID-19**

1. **COVID-Related Eviction Moratorium Extension.** Governor Cuomo announced that the state moratorium on COVID-related residential or commercial evictions will be extended for an additional 60 days until August 20, 2020. The state is also banning late payments or fees for missed rent payments during the eviction moratorium, and allowing renters facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 to use their security deposit as payment and repay their security deposit over time.
2. The coronavirus test site located at Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden is now open to the public. The facility will now test all residents, both those showing coronavirus symptoms as well as those who

are asymptomatic, to get tested. **The facility is operated by One Medical and is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 888-ONE-MED1.**

3. In order to expand access to healthcare and reduce the need for New Yorkers to leave their homes, the NYC administration has launched a **Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, available at (844) NYC-4NYC**. New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about Coronavirus (COVID-19) can call 1-844-NYC-4NYC to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 am - 9 pm.
4. All New York City civil service exams are postponed through June 1 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
5. The **City's Open Streets initiative** is designed to provide more active space for New Yorkers without compromising social distancing. Two Staten Island streets, Silver Lake Park Drive and Front Street from Canal Street to Edgewater Street are **open exclusively to pedestrians and cyclists every day from 8 am to 8 pm**.
6. If you have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, you should immediately isolate yourself at home. After three to four days, if you still feel sick, contact your health care provider. **Ways to get tested:**
  - i. To make an appointment at the **South Beach** drive-thru facility located at 777 Seaview Ave., call the **NYS Health Hotline at 888-364-3065**. Only those with an appointment can be tested at this site. Results are provided via phone, fax, or the **online patient portal**.
  - ii. To make an appointment at **NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health Vanderbilt, located at 165 Vanderbilt Ave., call 844-692-4692**.
  - iii. **Beacon Christian Community Health Center** is also offering offer services to patients and evaluating people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. **Call 718-815-6560 to speak with a professional.**

- iv. **CityMD** is providing COVID-19 testing; antibody blood tests; and exams to help patients who once had COVID, demonstrate they are currently negative and are able to return to work. **Call 718-571-9196 to make an appointment** at their West Brighton location, 812 Forest Ave.
- v. **If you have any of the following symptoms, go to an emergency room or call 911:**
  - Trouble breathing
  - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - New confusion or inability to stay awake
  - Blue lips or face

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### **Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

1. **NYC Civic Impact Funding** supports nonprofits engaging volunteers to deliver essential services, particularly meals and food, to residents throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The deadline for this funding is May 11, 2020.
  - The grants are open to all community-serving organizations and nonprofits. Preference is given to those that are food supplying and/or serving organizations that are engaging (or working to engage) volunteers to deliver services to communities. **Click here for more information.**
  - Applicants may request one-time funding of up to \$10,000, which must be used by June 30, 2020.
  - For help writing your grant, **email Tami DiCostanzo at [tdicostanzo@cssny.org](mailto:tdicostanzo@cssny.org) as soon as possible.**
2. **The NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is working to provide New Yorkers with emergency expense aid.** Individuals may apply for emergency financial help to prevent eviction, pay their energy or utility bills, or buy health-related items. They can apply to the NYC Human Resources Administration for a one-time emergency grant, also called the "One Shot



Deal." **Call (718) 557-1399 for more information.** Eligibility includes all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. Emergency assistance is provided for, but not limited to, the following situations:

- Homelessness
- Dispossess/Eviction
- Utility disconnected or pending termination
- Fire disaster
- Domestic violence
- Circumstances that affect the health and safety of the individual or family

### 3. **Small Business Resources**

- i. The Small Business Association has resumed accepting **Paycheck Protection Program applications** from participating lenders.
  - All impacted small businesses are urged to consider applying as soon as possible **as funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and demand is extremely high. [Click here to start your application.](#)**
  - Email [sbasupport@edc.nyc](mailto:sbasupport@edc.nyc) if you need a referral to a banking partner or other assistance in the application process. You can also call 311 for help with the application.
- ii. COVID-19 Business for All Grants. **[Click here to apply!](#)**

### 4. **Free Legal Help:** Available on things like notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more.

Providers below:

- **City Bar Justice Center. [Learn more here.](#)**
- **Lawyers Alliance.** For non-profit organizations only. Virtual consultations on SBA loans. **[Click here to register.](#)**
- **The New York State Bar Association** helps jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits if their claim has been denied. **[Click here to find out more information and request support.](#)**

5. The **NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center** continues to offer free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If you know somebody who is personally impacted by problem gambling and looking for help in Staten Island, **click here for more information, call (929) 955-3062, or e-mail [newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org](mailto:newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org)**.
  
6. The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** creates a new temporary federal program called **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**. PUA offers temporary unemployment assistance to those who are unemployed, partially employed, or unable to work because of COVID-19 and are not currently eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
  - For more information, please refer to the NYS Department of Labor's **PUA Fact Sheet here**.
  - **Click here to apply for PUA or Regular Unemployment Benefits and follow the instructions**.
  
7. **NYS Domestic Violence Hotline: It is 1-800-942-6906**
  - During this time of isolation at home it is important for people to know that if they're faced with a domestic violence situation, **they do not have to stay in those dangerous situations**. The state will help those in need to relocate and help find safe shelter.
  - If there is an issue where someone is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately. Otherwise, call the hotline for help at **1-800-942-6906**.
  
8. **Free Groceries:** The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened a Nutrition Kitchen (food pantry) to **distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it**.
  - The Staten Island Kitchen located at **340 Bay Street operates Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-noon. Call 718-876-8660 for more information**

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## **Useful Virtual Events**

1. My office is collaborating with Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am**. Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. **Email Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com to get the link to join!**



2. The Comptroller's Office is offering an **M/WBE University Webinars: Resources for Small Businesses and M/WBEs Impacted by COVID-19 every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 12pm until Thursday, May 14**. These presentations on Zoom will cover a range of topics including financial resources from the federal, state, and City government as well as the private sector, and current business opportunities within City and State procurement. Join them for the final week of webinars.
  - Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages

- **Click here for more information and to RSVP or email any questions to [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov)**

**NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER**

**COMPTROLLER'S M/WBE UNIVERSITY**  
MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

**WEBINAR SERIES: RESILIENCY AND RECOVERY POST-COVID-19**  
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Via Zoom

**June 9, 2020 | June 16, 2020 | July 7, 2020**  
COVID Resources and Best Practices with Minority Depository Institutions  
Where businesses can learn about government and private sector resources and learn best practices from Minority Depository Institutions.

**July 16, 2020**  
Investment Relationships with Pension Consultants Post-COVID  
Where M/WBE investment managers can learn and build relationships with NYC's pension consultants.

**August 6, 2020**  
Doing Business with the Comptroller's Office  
Hear directly from the Comptroller's Office about opportunities for professional services, standard services, and joint contracts.

**Save the Date: October 2020**  
Annual Emerging & M/WBE Manager Conference  
Rebuilding a special session on Executive Board Searches Post-COVID  
We highly encourage CEOs, Senior Partners, and Portfolio Managers of Public Equity, Public Fund Income, Private Equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Hedge Funds, Alternative Credit, and Economically Targeted Investment Firms and Entrepreneurs to attend.

To RSVP, visit <http://ComptrollerScottMStringer.com> or email [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov). Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Hebrew, Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

Government officials should take appropriate steps to ensure digital and other services remain available during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot advise you on such developments. Please contact US, NY, and NY COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

**GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY**  
If you are a business leader and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing [diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov). If you are a small-business and need assistance with opportunities or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at [action@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:action@comptroller.nyc.gov).

3. H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths continues to offer their virtual "**Saturday Night Lights**" Soccer Program each Saturday at 6pm! This is an opportunity for youth to get active, practice soccer drills, participate in healthy snack demonstrations, and much more. **Click here to register!**

**NYCFC/H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths Virtual Soccer Program**  
Saturday Night Lights

**Partners:**  
(New York City Football Club) NYCFC  
CFC  
H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths  
Manhattan and Staten Island District Attorney's Offices

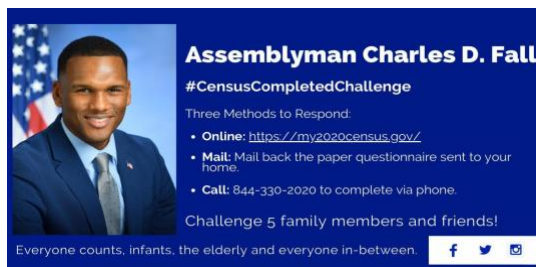
Saturdays at 6pm starting April 4, 2020  
Join our coaching team as we do warm-up, drills, exercises, healthy snack demonstrations, trivia, and more!

Please use the link below to register, virtual meeting information and the curriculum:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-for-youths-nycfc-saturday-night-lights-soccer-program-tickets-101818648318>

Questions? Please email [heather.butts@health4youths.org](mailto:heather.butts@health4youths.org)

## **How To Help**

1. The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, Borough President Oddo, and UFT are coordinating the '**Feeding Our Frontline**' campaign to provide grab and go meals to Staten Island hospital staff. **Click here for more information and to donate.**
2. All New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 are asked to contact the state and donate blood.
  - **Individuals who have recovered from the virus may have convalescent plasma in their blood, which has antibodies against the virus and could help with the development of a treatment for the virus.**
  - **Find more information about how to donate blood here.**
3. The First Responders Fund is a state initiative to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including childcare. The State Department of Health is accepting donations for the fund, and Blackstone is making an anchor \$10 million contributions to the fund. **Donations can be made electronically here.**
4. Individuals, organizations, or companies offering to donate Personal Protective Equipment **click here or click here.**
5. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.**



Wishing you all health and safety,



A handwritten signature in blue ink. The name "Charles" is written in a cursive style above a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Fall" is written in a similar cursive style.

Charles D. Fall  
Member of Assembly