



Assemblyman
Charles D. Fall
Assembly District 61

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

May 29, 2020

Updates From Albany

This week, my colleagues in the New York State Legislature and I returned to Albany to pass a multitude of bills focused on COVID-19 Pandemic Relief for NYS residents. We voted on over two dozen bills, three of which I co-sponsored and voted in the affirmative.

As Chair of the Consumer Fraud Protection sub-committee and a member of the Consumer Affairs committee, I voted on these bills:

- **A.10270:** This bill updates New York's statute regarding the price gouging of consumer goods by expanding it to cover essential medical supplies and services and other goods or services used to promote the health or welfare of the public.



[Click here to watch as I state my position on the updates to New York's statute regarding the price gouging of consumer goods.](#)

- **A.10522:** This bill enacts the "emergency rent relief act of 2020" to establish an interim residential rent relief program.

The specific intent of this legislation is to provide short-term relief to renters who are struggling in the wake of this pandemic, helping to lessen the pandemic's negative effects

on all New Yorkers. The legislation also aids property owners who are at risk of falling behind on essential mortgage, tax, insurance and maintenance payments.



[Click here to watch as I speak on the urgent need for the NYS Emergency Rent Relief Act.](#)

- **A.10523: The purpose of this bill is to establish a COVID-19 presumption to provide accidental death benefits to public employees who reported to work or an alternate worksite and subsequently died due to COVID-19.**

While there is great uncertainty about the complexity and extent of this pandemic, it is without a doubt that this pandemic has profoundly altered everyday life for all New Yorkers, especially our frontline workers such as police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses EMT's, teachers, and sanitation workers. We all realize that those who nobly risk their own well-being to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of others should be fairly compensated for their ultimate sacrifice. Allowing the families of these brave men and women who went to work each day to collect their hard-earned retirement benefits is the very least we can do to honor their sacrifice.

Many of the bills that we passed this week were a step forward in providing relief to New York residents, however, we have more work in the months ahead including strengthening protections for our supermarket, warehouse, convenience store, drugstore, and fast-food employees. The federal government also needs to work urgently to pass effective relief funding.

District 61 News

My Brother's Keeper Read Aloud Service Project

The NYC My Brother's Keeper Fellows program was an initiative created to close and eliminate the opportunity gaps faced by young men of color by supporting them on their journey to reaching their full potential. NYC MBK Fellows attend trainings, conferences and have mentorship opportunities. My office was entrusted to guide one of the four Staten Island MBK fellows, Tristen Butler, a graduating senior from the North Shore who is on track to attend college this fall! This week, all four MBK fellows from Staten Island orchestrated an interactive read-aloud event for over one-hundred elementary students of Public School 78. The fellows chose a unique story written to help young people cope with COVID-19. I am very proud of these four young men for their demonstrated leadership skills and persistent desire to engage with their communities through these difficult times.

It was also my pleasure to host Tristen and his MBK brothers in Albany back in February for the 2020 New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Youth Conference; where they were able to learn how local government affects them and how they can become civically engaged young people. Thank you to Executive Superintendent Anthony Lodico, Superintendent Vincenza Gallassio, Executive Director of Borough Support John Anzalone, P.S 78 Principal Jodi Contento, and P.S 78 Assistant Principal Kamor Olayokun for helping to support these fellows and all of our Staten Island youth.



[My Brother's Keeper Fellows at the 2020 NYSABPRL Youth Conference]



Positive Community Contributions

This week in community contributions, I want to spotlight the frontline medical professionals working at Brightpoint Bay Street Health Center, the Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI) Addiction Treatment Program, CHASI Next Step 24 hour Resource and Recovery Center and the medical staff at Health + Hospitals Gotham Health, Vanderbilt. My office was glad to participate in a caravan salute to these health care heroes this week!



CHASI and Brightpoint Health's Bay Street facilities provide residents with access to an extensive range of high-quality behavioral health care, social support service, primary care, addiction treatment and much more. Since the start of the pandemic, the staff at these essential organizations have worked tirelessly to continue providing telemedicine services to ensure all patients have their needs met.

Call (855) 681-8700 or [click here](#) to request an appointment at Brightpoint Health.

Call (718) 808-1439 to speak with an **Addiction Treatment Program** representative.



The H+H Gotham Health, Vanderbilt center was the first walk-in testing facility on the North Shore and the health heroes at this location have helped to test residents for COVID since April. Health + Hospitals is accepting donations to help with meals, groceries and supplies for their doctors, nurses and other health care heroes on the front lines battling COVID-19 across NYC. **[Click here to donate.](#)**

To get tested at the Gotham Health, Vanderbilt site call (844) 692-4692, Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30 pm.

If you or someone you know is doing positive work on the North Shore to uplift spirits or provide an essential resource in our community, please send an email to Agosas@nyassembly.gov with details and photos of their efforts to have them highlighted in a future newsletter.

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community During COVID-19

1. **An executive order signed by Governor Cuomo authorizes businesses to deny entry to individuals who do not wear masks or face-coverings.** The Executive Order builds on the state's ongoing efforts to protect New Yorkers and slow the spread.
2. Campgrounds and RV parks are opening statewide. NYS Park campsites, cabins, and cottages will open to those with existing reservations beginning June 1 and a limited number of full-service cottages and full hook-up RV sites **will be available to reserve starting June 1.** However, to reduce potential community spread of COVID-19, all Department of Environmental Conservation **campgrounds and pavilions are closed to overnight visitation through June 7.** **[Click here to find more updates on](#)**

camping in NYS.

3. Businesses in each region will re-open in phases. Re-opening refers to the non-essential businesses and business activities that are currently prohibited from in-person activity. **Click here to review re-opening guidelines for businesses that qualify to open in phase 1.** Essential businesses and business activities that are open will remain open.
4. As of Tuesday, May 26, Veterinarian practices are permitted to open in all regions of NYC.
5. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will pilot the use of proven UV light technology to kill COVID-19 in subway cars and crew facilities. The MTA currently cleans and disinfects trains daily between 1 am and 5 am.
6. Be part of an effort to re-open our communities by joining the **NYS Contact Tracing Initiative** by applying to be a **contact tracer, team supervisor, or community support specialist**. **Click here for more information about how you can help.**
7. **New York State vs New York City Beach Updates:**
 - **NYC beaches** will remain closed for swimming but are open for walking, jogging and sitting. Please keep in mind that there are no lifeguards on duty, stay out of the water!
 - NYS Parks have opened 16 beaches across the state for swimming at reduced capacity with lifeguards staffed at normal levels to ensure public safety. **Click here for a list of beaches and swimming hours.**

If you visit the beach, please observe the following service changes:

- Limit the length of your visit
 - Practice social distancing and wear a face covering
 - Barbecuing & grilling, gatherings and organized sports are prohibited
 - Drinking fountains are closed
8. **NYC BOE Absentee Ballot:** Registered NYC voters can request an absentee ballot for the June 23 elections. **Click here to request an NYC absentee ballot.** Registered voters should request their ballot by June 16.
 9. **Alternate Side Parking (ASP) will be suspended for two weeks through June 7.**
 10. **Locations to get tested for COVID-19:**

- 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**. Results are provided via phone, fax, or the **online patient portal**.
- ii. Free, walk-in testing is available at these NYC Health + Hospitals locations. **Call 844-692-4692 to make an appointment.**
 - **NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health Vanderbilt, located at 165 Vanderbilt Ave.**
 - **P.S. 21 Margaret P. Emery Elm Park, located at 168 Hooker Place**
- iii. **Beacon Christian Community Health Center. Call 718-815-6560 to speak with a professional.**
- iv. **CityMD** is providing COVID-19 testing and antibody blood tests. **Call 718-571-9196 to make an appointment at their West Brighton location, 812 Forest Ave.**
- v. The coronavirus test site located at **Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden** is open to the public. The facility offers testing for all residents, both those exhibiting coronavirus symptoms as well as those who are asymptomatic. 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. Check that your insurance provider covers any costs associated with exams at this location and click here for more information.**
- vi. **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

11. **Antibody Testing for New Yorkers:** Complete this survey to schedule an appointment: **Antibody Testing Appointment Survey** or call **888- 279-0967**. Please utilize the website, in order to keep the hotline free for those without internet access.

- Staten Island Location: St. John's Villa, 57 Cleveland Place

12. 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 to connect to a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from **9 am - 9 pm**.

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

1. The NYC Department of Education is facilitating **Hygiene Product Distribution**. Sanitary products will be available to the public at the DOE Meal Hubs across the city because they are a necessity - not a luxury.
North Shore pick-up location:
 - I.S. 61 located at 445 Castleton Avenue
 - **[Click here for updates on pickup locations](#)**
2. The **NYC Green Relief & Recovery Fund** supports nonprofits and community groups of all sizes with grants that support essential maintenance, stewardship, public programming, and management of parks and open spaces across the five boroughs.
Community groups are eligible for grants up to \$1,500.
 - Nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over \$10,000 must apply by **June 1** and community groups with budgets typically \$10,000 or less must apply by **June 12**. **[Click here to find the application](#)**.
 - Partnership for Parks is hosting a NYC relief & recovery fund webinar for grassroots groups on **Tuesday, June 2 at 12:30pm**. **[Click here to register](#)**.
3. The State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance released a document in response to frequently asked questions about the **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Food Benefits**. **[Click here to find more information](#)**.
4. The City of NY is providing **14-day temporary hotel rooms for COVID-19 patients and families that do not have a place to isolate**. This service is free and will not affect your health insurance or other benefits that you currently receive. **[Click here to learn more](#), or call 1-844-692-4692**.
5. **[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.

6. **NYC Burial Allowance Application.** Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Office of Burial Services (OBS) assist individuals in need of financial assistance to meet funeral expenses for a deceased low-income New York City resident. Payment may be authorized to reimburse funeral expenses that have already been paid or pre-approval for payment may be authorized for the cost of a planned funeral.
 - **[View the application for Burial Allowance and find out more about what HRA will cover.](#)**
 - Contact a city agent at 929-252-7731. Callers are encouraged to leave a message and an OBS staff member will return their call.

7. **Small Business Resources:**
 - **Small Business, Nonprofit COVID-19 Relief** helps provide free legal counsel and financial aid guidance from the SBLRA, an alliance of law firms and legal service providers. **[Click here to find more information.](#)**
 - **The New York Forward Loan Fund** is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on PAUSE. **[Click here to access the application.](#)**
 - **USA Small Business Administration** has established a **[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources webpage.](#)**
 - **The Red Backpack Fund is an opportunity** for women-owned businesses, the next round of applications opens on **June 1, 2020.** **[Click here for more information.](#)**
 - **Moving New York Forward: Business Reopening Plan.** NYS will allow non-essential businesses to reopen on a **regional and industry-specific basis**, as each region meets the criteria necessary to protect public health. Essential businesses can continue operating – to check if your business is designated as essential, **[visit the guidance page here.](#)**

8. **Free Legal Help** is available for notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more:
 - **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.](#)**

9. The **NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center** is offering free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If

you know someone 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**.

10. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** is a federal program that 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](#)**.

11. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available. **The Staten Island NYC Family Justice Centers is still operating virtually**. Victims and survivors in NYC can get help directly by **calling 718-697-4300 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm**.

12. **Groceries and Meals:**
 - 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**.
 - **[Click here to find a location](#)** near your home distributing meals for free. Hours and locations on this map are subject to change.

Useful Virtual Events and Opportunities

1. **CSI’s Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development is accepting applications for the Career Success Scholarship** aimed at supporting students in continuing education certificate programs. It is open to individuals seeking to advance their careers through education and training -especially those who are unemployed or seeking a career change, and who do not have access to other sources of funding that can pay for tuition and fees. This scholarship does not support current or future degree program studies.
 - **[Interested candidates should click here for more information and eligibility requirements](#)**

- **Applications due by August 3, 2020**

**Career Success Scholarship
Helena Rubinstein**

- Have you been affected by COVID-19?
- Are you unemployed and looking into the workforce?
- Are you looking to change careers into a industry that is more stabled?

If you answered yes, please apply for the Helena Rubinstein Scholarship. The Scholarship:

- Application will open May 25
- Covers up to 90% tuition

To apply, please consult with a Career Success Liaison: <https://bit.ly/2KAjA3C>

2. **Staten Island Business Outreach Center** is collaborating with small business organizations and agencies to provide a free webinar focused '**How to Start a Business**', scheduled for **Wednesday, June 3 at 10:30am**. RSVP required. SIBOC is also working with small businesses in need of any assistance. Small business owners can call their office at **(718) 816-4775** or email info@siboc.org to schedule a virtual one to one business meeting.

SIBOC NYC Small Business Services careers businesses neighborhoods **SBA** U.S. Small Business Administration

Presents a Free Small Business Webinar

How to Start a Business
June 3, 2020
10:30am—12pm

Ever thought of starting your own business? Tired of working for someone else? Do you know where to go to get started? The Staten Island Business Outreach Center/Women's Business Center knows what you need to and will help you plan your first steps. Join us!

RSVP REQUIRED!
Register on Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-start-a-business-tickets-106254632466>

Funded in Part By **Debi Rose** **SIBOC**

3. **Women Entrepreneurs NYC (WE NYC)** is offering a webinar on **Thursday, June 4 from 11am to noon** to help people understand what steps they need to take to ensure that their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan is forgiven. **Click here to register**

for this helpful webinar.

4. **NeON Summer is a six-week (July 6 through August 14) remote-learning summer immersion program connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with a paid learning opportunities designed to build skills to succeed in the workplace, strengthen community, and support young people and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The deadline for the application is June 15. Click here to apply.**



5. **The JCC Cornerstone at the Gerard Carter Center is hosting a Virtual Open Mic this Saturday, May 30 at 6pm for their Saturday Sessions programming. Poets, singers, dancers, comedy, and all performers are encouraged to sign up by emailing kourtnigill@gmail.com. The performance can be live or pre-recorded.**



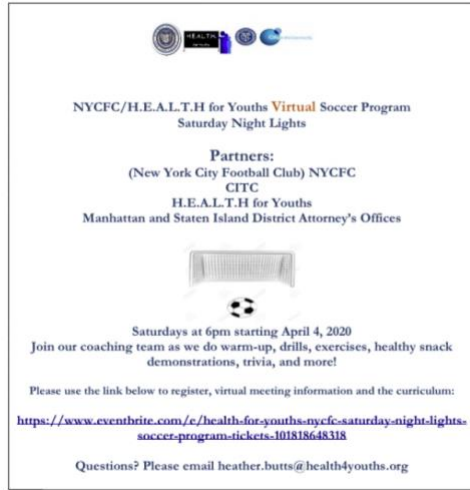
6. On May 30, 2002, the last steel column was removed from Ground Zero marking the end of recovery operations at the World Trade Center following the attacks on 9/11. Join the **National September 11 Memorial and Museum** this **Saturday, May 30, at 11am** for this special online ceremony of this anniversary, which can be viewed on **their website** or viewed on **their YouTube**.



7. My office has collaborated 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!



8. **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!](#)**



How To Help

1. 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.**
2. As regions prepare to reopen, the need for blood has rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels, but blood supply is dangerously low. Donors can call **800-933-2566** or **schedule an appointment online now.**
3. Individuals, organizations, or companies offering to donate Personal Protective Equipment **click here or click here.**
4. **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.**



Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

#CensusCompletedChallenge

Three Methods to Respond:

- **Online:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
- **Mail:** Mail back the paper questionnaire sent to your home.
- **Call:** 844-330-2020 to complete via phone.

Challenge 5 family members and friends!

Everyone counts, infants, the elderly and everyone in-between.



Wishing you all health and safety,



Charles D. Fall

Member of Assembly