



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall
March 4, 2021

District 61 News

Black History Month Celebration

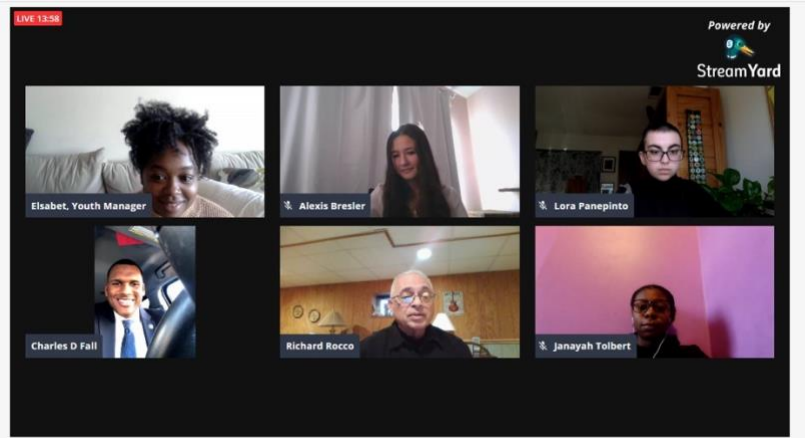
Last Saturday evening, I held my second annual Black History Month Celebration honoring special guests from within the Staten Island community. Those honored at the event were Deputy Inspector Tania Kinsella, Michelle Akyempong, Ahmed Kargo, Bianca Rajpersaud, Sonayon Agosa, Daniel Singleton and Honorable Max Rose. The honorees and audience were treated to the amazing live poetry of Maya Guilbert or “Da Poet Maya” and a beautiful pre-recorded performance by Dr. Stephen Aniyikaye, leader of the Aniyikaye Drummers. I want to thank those that participated in my Black History event, especially Senator Charles Schumer and the event honorees. Black History is a time when all American’s can reflect on the historical contributions and sacrifices Black people have made to bring about justice, equality and a sense of community. As the representative of the 61st Assembly District, I stand committed to keep this movement progressing.

[Click here to watch the full event.](#)



Virtual Youth Conference with NYC Smoke Free

I had the pleasure of partnering with NYC Smoke Free for a Q&A event with youth regarding health, vaping laws, and the well-being of the youth on Staten Island. We spoke about the steps being taken to curb youth smoking and how we can keep our most vulnerable safe from the health dangers of smoking. It is always a great experience to talk with youth about the issues that impact them. Thank you to all who participated and to NYC Smoke Free at Public Health Solutions for coordinating the event.



Updates From Albany

Bringing my daughter Maimouna to Albany for an educational trip

While attending her daily virtual classes this week, my daughter got to spend the rest of the day in Albany for an additional learning experience on how state government works. In the process, she was formally introduced at the beginning of [Wednesday](#)'s session and welcomed by the Speaker of the Assembly in the People's House. She is eager to share this learning experience with her teachers and classmates.

The New York State Assembly passes Nursing Home Reforms Package. I sponsored and voted for the passage of:

- **A.244-A:** Codifies the Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) in statute and requires DOH to share this aggregate data with other government entities and the public
- **A.1052-B:** Establishes guidelines to safely allow personal and compassionate caregiving visitation at nursing homes and adult care facilities
 - This includes – but is not limited to – visits for the purpose of providing personal care and end-of-life support or other dire medical circumstances
- **A.3919:** Establishes state guidelines for the transfer, discharge and voluntary discharge of individuals from nursing homes and prohibits any such transfer to a homeless shelter
- **A.3922-A:** Creates the Reimagining Long Term Care Task Force to study the state of long-term care services and challenges in New York, including issues specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - The Task Force would be required to produce a report related to COVID-19 issues by [December 1](#), 2021, and a full study by [May 1](#), 2022
- **A.5436-A:** Establishes the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Reform Act to raise awareness of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), improve communication between

ombudsman and the departments that oversee long-term care facilities, and to ensure ombudsman are included in a residential health care facility's pandemic emergency plan

- **A.5846:** Requires adult care facilities to include infection control assessments in their regular quality assurance plans and requires these facilities to create a quality improvement committee
- **A.5847:** Implements an antimicrobial stewardship program and training on antimicrobial resistance and control
 - The bill would help New York meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for hospitals and nursing homes
- **A.5848:** Requires nursing home operators to provide residents and their families with the materials they need to access information on nursing homes online so they can make informed decisions
 - This includes complaints, citations, inspections, enforcement actions and penalties taken against the facility

New Yorkers who lost loved ones in nursing homes faced unimaginable challenges on top of their grief, including a lack of clear communication and an inability to visit their family member or hold a proper memorial service. They deserved better.

The legislative package I sponsored and help to pass, reimagines nursing home care, increases oversight and transparency, prepares for future public health threats and guarantees safe nursing home visitations. We owe it to nursing home and adult care facility residents and staff – and their families and caregivers – to improve safety standards and promote accountability.



Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

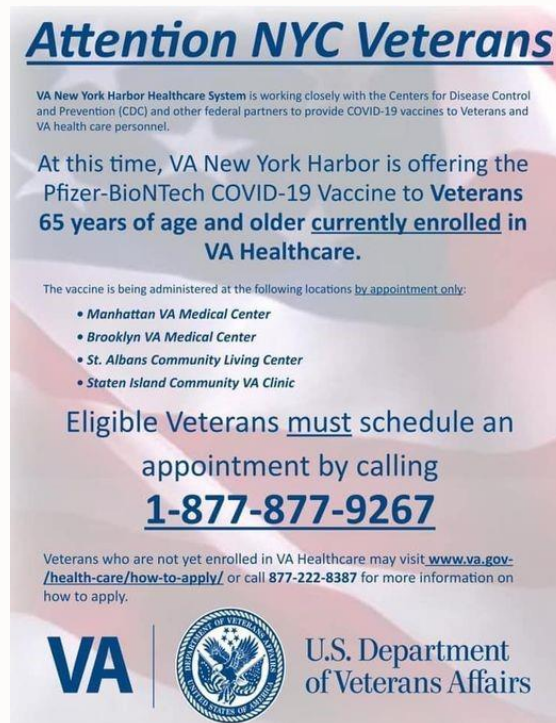
1. **Governor Andrew Cuomo also announced that beginning April 2, event, arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity, up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors.** If all attendees present proof of negative test prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors and up to 500 people outdoors. Social distancing and face coverings will be required by all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all applicable Department of Health guidance.
2. **Governor Andrew Cuomo announced New York State is launching a new pilot program to begin administering the Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine to eligible New Yorkers during the overnight hours at the Yankee Stadium, Javits Center and New York State Fair Mass Vaccination Sites.** Following a discussion with the White House COVID-19 Task Force, New York is taking measures to distribute the state's allocation of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as quickly as possible, as states have been informed there will be a lag in the following week's

allocation. As part of this effort, thousands of new appointments will be made available at each of the three sites in the coming days. Counties, pharmacies, and Federally Qualified Health Centers will also be receiving Johnson & Johnson allocations this week.

3. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - **The NYC Vaccine hotline at [877-829-4692](tel:877-829-4692) or [clicking here](#)**
 - **The NYS hotline at [888-364-3065](tel:888-364-3065) or [clicking here](#)**
 - **SOMOS, a community health provider at [833-766-6769](tel:833-766-6769)**

 - **Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category.** Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. **Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you and to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.**
 - **Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.**

4. **Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call [1-877-877-9267](tel:1-877-877-9267). If you are not yet eligible call [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) to enroll.**



Attention NYC Veterans

VA New York Harbor Healthcare System is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel.


At this time, VA New York Harbor is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to **Veterans 65 years of age and older currently enrolled in VA Healthcare.**

The vaccine is being administered at the following locations by appointment only:

- **Manhattan VA Medical Center**
- **Brooklyn VA Medical Center**
- **St. Albans Community Living Center**
- **Staten Island Community VA Clinic**

Eligible Veterans must schedule an appointment by calling
[1-877-877-9267](tel:1-877-877-9267)

Veterans who are not yet enrolled in VA Healthcare may visit www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/ or call [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) for more information on how to apply.

VA |  **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

5. **Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.**
 - View the Test-and-Trace corps **COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard** for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
 - **Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.**
 - **Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.**
 - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM - 9 PM.

- Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. **[Click here to learn more](#)** or call [\(844\) 692-4692](tel:8446924692). **[Please click here if you have any further questions.](#)**

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. **[Did you hear about SCORE-Staten Island?](#)** SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE, and as a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors, who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
 - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
 - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone or by video
 - Free business tools, templates and tips online
 - Inexpensive or free business workshop/webinars(locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
 - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited [here](#). Or you call them at [718-727-1221](tel:7187271221); email at info@scoresi.org and visit on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. **The Department of Education has also launched the 2021 Citywide and Community Education Council election application**, which is held every two years. **The application process for candidates runs through February 28, and voting will take place in May.** Education Councils help shape public education in NYC schools and make a difference for their school community! For this year's election, parents of all students are eligible to vote and parents must sign up for an NYC Schools Account to run for a seat or vote in the election. **[Click here to learn more.](#)**
3. Need free tax assistance? **Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation offers a free tax preparation program** that provides NYC residents with assistance filing their returns and maximizing their credits and refunds. Call NAMIC's hotline **Monday – Wednesday** 11 am – 7pm and **Saturday and Sunday** 9am – 5pm. Contact Maria Guzman-Colon at taxhelp@nmic.org or [929-415-8745](tel:9294158745) with any questions.



NYC FREE TAX PREP



FREE TAX PREPARATION

January 23 – April 15, 2021

Please be prepared with:

- Photo ID (New York State ID preferred)
- Social Security card
- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all family members
- W-2s for all jobs you held during 2020
- Any other tax-related documents
- Your bank account number and routing number (if you want to direct deposit your refund)

If you are filing jointly, your spouse must be present with photo ID.

When?
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11AM - 7PM
Saturday, Sunday 9AM-5PM

How do I sign up?
Book an appointment online at www.nmic.org/taxes

Who is eligible?
People who earned less than \$68,000 in 2020

Additional questions?
Contact us at taxhelp@nmic.org or (929) 415-8745

45 Wadsworth Avenue
New York, NY 10033
www.nmic.org
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:
NYC Consumer and Worker Protection **FREE TAX PREP**



NYC FREE TAX PREP



PREPARACIÓN GRATUITA DE IMPUESTOS

ENERO 23, - Abril 15, 2021

Por favor esté preparado con:

- Identificación con foto (se prefiere la identificación del estado de Nueva York)
- Tarjeta de seguridad social
- Contribuyente Individual Número de Identificación (ITIN) para todos los miembros de la familia
- W-2 para todos los trabajos que tuvo durante 2020
- Cualquier otro documento relacionado con impuestos
- Su número de cuenta del banco y número de ruta (si desea su reembolso por depósito directo)

Si presenta una declaración conjunta, su cónyuge debe estar presente con una identificación con foto.

¿Cuándo?
Lunes, Martes y Miércoles de 11 AM a 7 PM
Sábado, Domingo 9 AM - 5PM

¿Cómo me registro?
Haga una cita en línea en www.nmic.org/taxes

¿Quién es elegible?
Personas que ganaron menos de \$ 68,000 en 2020.

¿Preguntas adicionales?
Contáctenos taxhelp@nmic.org o (929) 415-8745

45 Wadsworth Avenue
New York, NY 10033
www.nmic.org
212-822-8300

In collaboration with:
NYC Consumer and Worker Protection **FREE TAX PREP**

4. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you.** For matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice and more. If you need **free legal help** during the Covid-19 crisis **call them at [718-233-6480](tel:718-233-6480)**.

DO YOU NEED FREE LEGAL HELP DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Staten Island Legal Services is here to help you and your family get through this together.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues ■ Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid ■ Eviction/Illegal Lockouts ■ Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Prevention ■ Small Business Advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Immigration ■ Bankruptcy and Consumer Help ■ Student Loan and Debt Collection ■ Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection, & Child Support ■ Education ■ LGBTQ/HIV+
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CALL STATEN ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
We speak your language and serve all 5 boroughs of NYC.


718-233-6480

STATEN ISLAND Legal Services NYC DEMAND JUSTICE

legalservicesnyc.org

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION NETWORK





Since 2007, Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network has assisted nearly 17,000 New York City homeowners facing foreclosure. With community-based foreclosure prevention projects in our Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island offices, our dedicated team of nearly 40 attorneys and advocates provide critical legal services to homeowners navigating the judicial foreclosure process and fight to help them save their homes. LSNYC Foreclosure Prevention Network partners include non-profit organizations, housing counselors, social service agencies and local government. Our advocates conduct trainings, outreach and education activities in conjunction with community and government partners.

WHAT WE DO

Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network attorneys represent homeowners in foreclosure as well as in state and federal court litigation challenging predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, scams targeting vulnerable homeowners, and fair housing and lending violations. We are the largest group of free civil legal services attorneys that help NYC homeowners by:

- Representing homeowners in court-mandated settlement conferences
- Providing legal advice and pro se assistance to homeowners through court-based clinics
- Helping clients negotiate home-saving solutions
- Advocating for fairer lending rules, and for better enforcement of laws protecting consumers from predatory practices

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Ms. M, a 68-year-old Black homeowner, fell one month behind on her mortgage when she had to pay for her sister's funeral expenses. For one year, her mortgage company continued to accept her payments, but then her servicing was transferred to a new company. The new mortgage company refused to accept Ms. M's payments unless she could catch up on the one missed payment. For three years, Ms. M tried to negotiate with her lender, but it refused to work with her even though she had sufficient income and was caring for her husband, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After being sued in foreclosure, Ms. M was able to connect with Brooklyn Legal Services, who helped her negotiate a modification with a lower interest rate and more affordable monthly payment, saving her \$300 per month on her housing expenses and allowing her family to remain in their home.

CONTACT US

Homeowners can talk to an LSNYC foreclosure advocate by contacting our citywide access line at 917-661-4500. For more information about our services, you can reach our leadership team, listed below.

Citywide: Jacob Inwald
Citywide Director of Foreclosure Prevention
jinwald@lsnyc.org

Bronx: Alexis Lorenzo
Director, Bronx Foreclosure Prevention/Community Economic Development Unit
alorenzo@lsnyc.org

Brooklyn: Shabnam Faruki
Interim Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project
shfaruki@lsnyc.org

Queens: Christopher Newton
Acting Director, Queens Homeowner and Consumer Rights Project
cnewton@lsnyc.org

Staten Island: Sara Manuugh
Director, Staten Island Homeowner Defense Project
smanuugh@lsnyc.org

CONTACT US FOR FREE LEGAL HELP AT 917-661-4500

5. **Small Business Resources:**

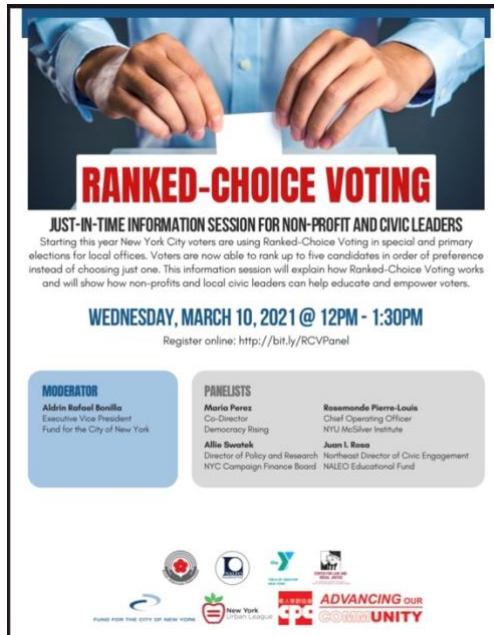
- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus crisis.** The PPP application for all lenders is now open. There are limited funds, so applicants are advised to apply early! **[Click here for more information and to find the right application for your business.](#)**
 - In preparation for your application, gather your documentation. For a complete list of required documents and additional PPP information, **[click here.](#)**
 - **List of participating lenders:**
 - Lower East Side People's Credit Union- North Shore Branch, for PPP inquiries, email lending@lespfcu.org or apply directly online on their **[website.](#)**
 - TruFund, **[click here for an application](#)** or email Mark Brazier (English) at MBrazier@trufund.org or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at mreyes@trufund.org.
- **Free Digital Ordering Program**, food businesses who join Ritual ONE through **March 31, 2021**, will have their commission, credit card processing fees, and subscription fee waived. **[Click here to apply.](#)**

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **HEALTH For Youths is hosting a Pop-up Fresh Food Pantry. Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Located at 1 Clyde Place, SI, NY, 10310.**



2. You are invited to this Ranked Choice Voting for non-profit and civic leaders on **March 10 at 12:00 PM**. Starting this year, New York City will be the largest and most diverse jurisdiction to utilize Ranked Choice Voting. Voters will be asked to rank their top five choices in primary and special elections for local offices. Join the panel of experts as they explain the challenges, opportunities, and best practices in the work to ensure voters are prepared to rank their vote. Please see the attached flyer for more information and **[RSVP.](#)**



RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

JUST-IN-TIME INFORMATION SESSION FOR NON-PROFIT AND CIVIC LEADERS

Starting this year New York City voters are using Ranked-Choice Voting in special and primary elections for local offices. Voters are now able to rank up to five candidates in order of preference instead of choosing just one. This information session will explain how Ranked-Choice Voting works and will show how non-profits and local civic leaders can help educate and empower voters.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 @ 12PM - 1:30PM

Register online: <http://bit.ly/RCPPanel>

MODERATOR
Aldin Rafael Bonilla
 Executive Vice President
 Fund for the City of New York

PANELISTS

Mario Perez
 Co-Director
 Democracy Strong

Rosamonde Pierre-Louis
 Chief Operating Officer
 NYU McSherry Institute

Justin L. Basso
 Northeast Director of Civic Engagement
 NALEO Educational Fund

Alfie Swartzek
 Director of Policy and Research
 NYC Campaign Finance Board

Logos for: Fund for the City of New York, New York City Campaign Finance Board, Democracy Strong, NYU McSherry Institute, NALEO Educational Fund, and Advancing Our Community Unity.

3. The National Council of Negro Women, Staten Island Section, presents their **2021 High School Achievers Award** to students currently attending a high school in New York City or New Jersey who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and community involvement. **For more information, email ncnws@gmail.com or chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com.**



**National Council of Negro Women
 Staten Island Section**
Proudly presents



2021 HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVERS AWARD

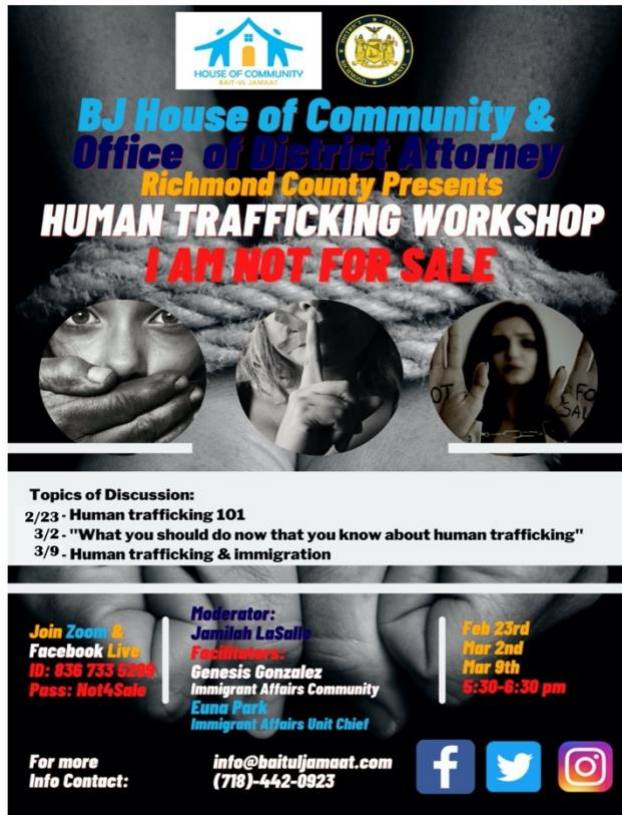
Award Eligibility:



- * Currently attend a High School within NYC or the State of New Jersey
- * Outstanding Academic Achievement
- * Demonstrate Community Involvement
- * Obtain a letter of recommendation

For more information, email:
ncnws@gmail.com
 or
chaplain.ncnws@gmail.com

ncnw logo

4. **BJ House of Community and the Office of the DA are hosting three Human Trafficking Workshops. On 3/09 you can join them on Zoom or Facebook live from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Use ID: [836 733 5299](https://www.zoom.us/j/8367335299) and password: Not4Sale. For more information, contact [718-442-0923](tel:718-442-0923) or email info@baituljamaat.com**



BJ House of Community & Office of District Attorney
Richmond County Presents
HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP
I AM NOT FOR SALE




Topics of Discussion:
 2/23 - Human trafficking 101
 3/2 - "What you should do now that you know about human trafficking"
 3/9 - Human trafficking & immigration

Join Zoom & Facebook Live
ID: 836 733 6286
Pass: Not4Sale

Moderator:
Jamillah LaSalle
Facilitators:
Genesis Gonzalez
 Immigrant Affairs Community
Euna Park
 Immigrant Affairs Unit Chief

Feb 23rd
Mar 2nd
Mar 9th
6:30-8:30 pm

For more Info Contact: info@baitujamaat.com
(718)-442-0923

5. **The Pride Center presents - St Pat's for everyone a Virtual Parade. Sunday, March 7th. 12:00 PM on Youtube.com**




 Please join the Pride Center of Staten Island in celebrating:

St Pat's for Everyone
 a Virtual Parade 

We wish to celebrate the diversity of Irish American Staten Islanders, and invite the community to join us!





St Pat's for Everyone Parade
 Sunday, March 7th.
 12 Noon on YouTube





6. **Student volunteers from Wagner College - Are you a non-profit organization looking for volunteer support from a dedicated student? Students from Wagner are searching for volunteer/internship opportunities as part of their senior capstone class. Please send your job posting or volunteer information to Tara Chiari at this email cace@wagner.edu so she can help connect with the students to apply.**
7. **During these difficult times, the Northfield Bank Foundation is offering a grant opportunity for COVID-19 emergency related requests for health and wellness and feeding the hungry**

initiatives. The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates - Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. **[Click here to learn more about the grant process.](#)**

8. **Richmond County Savings Foundation - Nonprofit organizations may request funding for program or project support, journal ad or event sponsorship.** Grant requests are reviewed throughout the year for amounts up to \$5,000. Please use the quick link to complete a Grant request and submit this request on-line. You will be required to submit your IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter and the first page (signed / dated) of your current year's CHAR 500 with the New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau or The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. **Staff may contact you if they require additional information. [See here for more information.](#)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles D. Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946
DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942