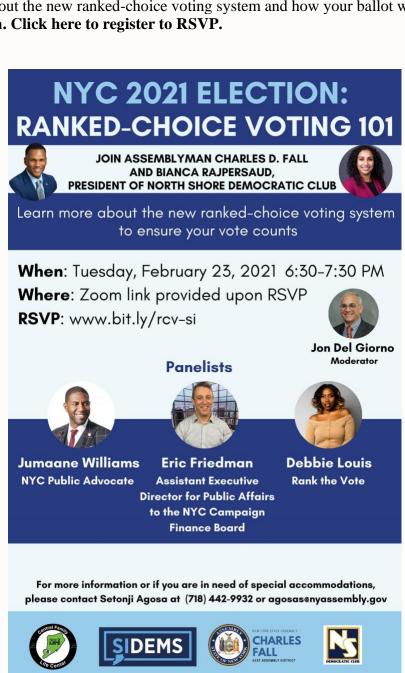


Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall February 18, 2021

Upcoming Events

Join me on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 6:30 pm for a virtual forum on Ranked-Choice Voting. Learn more about the new ranked-choice voting system and how your ballot will be different in the upcoming June election. Click here to register to RSVP.



Join me on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM for my 2nd annual Black History Month

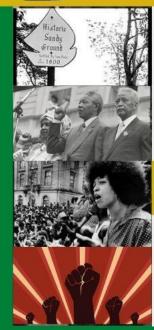
Celebration. This year's virtual event will celebrate several community leaders making positive impacts on the Staten Island community. **Click here to RSVP and receive the zoom link.**



Join Assemblyman Charles D. Fall in



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM Virtually on Zoom

RSVP: www.bit.ly/bhm-fallc

Honoring special guests from the Staten Island community



For more information contact 718-442-9932 or Parnellj@nyassembly.gov

District 61 News

Distributing Groceries and PPE in Park Hill

Food insecurity is an issue that continues to impact too many households across Staten Island. I partnered with my colleague Senator Diane Savino, Project Hospitality, Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island, to secure nearly 200 boxes of groceries to Park Hill Residents. Along with the boxes of food we also handed out masks, hand sanitizer and literature with Covid-19 test and trace information. A special thank you is owed to Project Hospitality, and Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island, the African Community Alliance of Staten Island, the Empowerment Zone and NYC Health + Hospitals for working to get food on more tables during these difficult times.









Updates From Albany

I co-sponsored the Stock Transfer Tax legislation to bring an immediate revenue source into the state to address Post-COVID Recovery.

- **A.3353**; Repeals the rebates for stock transfer tax paid and dedicates funds of the stock transfer tax fund and stock transfer incentive fund to various funds.
- Commonly asked questions about the Stock Transfer Tax:
 - O: What is the Stock Transfer Tax?
 - A: The Stock Transfer Tax is a ¼ of 1% sales tax on the transfer of stock and securities. It was in place from 1905, when it was enacted by the Republican Party, until 1980. It is still in statute, but we rebate 100% back to the brokers. Since 2008, New York State has rebated back over \$130 billion to Wall Street.
 - Q: New York State has some of the highest taxes in the country, compared to other states – why do we need more taxes?
 - A: New York State has high taxes for a reason. We do not export our state tax burden to other states. Alaska, Oklahoma, and Texas all have an excise tax that goes into their state coffers. It is an average of 35% tax on their biggest exports (such as gas, oil). New York State residents subsidize their state budgets in so many ways, at the pump, heating our homes/hospitals/nursing homes, cooking our food, the list is endless. New York State's biggest export is the financial markets which do not have a sales tax. In addition, New York State exports 20% of its federal tax benefits to pay for federal benefits to citizens of other states. This came about because we are a wealthier state and the federal government was redistributing money to poorer states.
 - o Q: Won't Wall Street just leave New York State if we tax them?
 - A: This argument has been rendered moot by a Supreme Court ruling on internet sales tax. The seller does not need to have a physical presence in the state, but any activity in furtherance of the sale in the state creates a nexus in New York State. Additionally, New York State had this tax for 75 years and they did not move.
 - O: Why do we need this tax?
 - A: New York State is experiencing falling traditional revenues and has done nothing to raise new revenue. We are currently facing a multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall. In 2019, the NYS issued a report stating NYS must increase its revenues. In addition, following a national trend, economic growth in our State has been concentrated in the centers of high tech and high finance. The tax can assure that some of the benefits of financial activity are more evenly spread out throughout the State.
 - O: Will this impact middle-income New Yorkers' retirement accounts?
 - A: Opponents of the Stock Transfer Tax like to focus on the very small fraction of the tax that could be borne by the middle-income households with retirement savings, instead of focusing on those that would pay the vast majority of the tax the very wealthy. The Stock Transfer Tax has an ancillary benefit of slowing down trading, by reducing unproductive trades, those not in the interest of investors and only purpose is to generate fees for financial institutions. In this case, households with retirement savings could see lower costs, rather than higher costs, resulting from a Stock Transfer Tax. Even if the Stock Transfer Tax does not affect trading volume, the impact on middle-income family's retirement plans would likely be extremely small. In theory, anyone owning stock indirectly through a mutual fund or other savings vehicle could be affected because the increased cost of trading assets would be passed onto them. A recent report from *Public Citizen* estimates the average retirement-related cost increase among the middle 20 percent of households, only 53 percent have

retirement savings and for those households, the average cost increase would be \$13 annually.

- Q: I have heard about the Stock Transfer Tax before; what makes your bill different?
- A: New York State has a massive infrastructure problem and it is not going away. A.3353 directs the revenue raised by the Stock Transfer Tax into the following infrastructure: state highways and bridges, local roadways and local governments, the MTA, New York City Housing Authority, Amtrak, local water infrastructure, upstate and downstate transportation, as well as the Clean Energy Fund.
- Q: I thought legalizing marijuana and creating another wealth tax will solve the problem?
- A: Unfortunately, neither is an immediate solution. NYS simply cannot pursue the necessary improvements in its infrastructure without this tax. Legalizing marijuana will only raise approximately \$300 million and the wealth tax is a *direct* tax solely on residents. The Stock Transfer Tax is an *indirect* tax and is predominantly borne by wealthy non-New York State and non-United States residents. Regardless, there is no other revenue stream that will bring in approximately \$13 billion annually.

I have chosen to co-sponsor this legislation due to the drastic need to develop a quick response for a reliable and just revenue stream, a revenue stream that was once used and valued to the state's economy.

This legislation will assist in meeting our obligations to provide resources for education, infrastructure, housing, healthcare, mental health and persons with disabilities, while also supporting our non-profit partners who care for our most vulnerable citizens.

The NYS Assembly announced the creation of a Post-COVID Mass Transit Working Group. I sit on the Cities and Corporations, Authorities and Commission Committees.

- The working group will examine challenges that transit systems across the state are facing as a result of the public health crisis, which includes a dramatic drop in ridership.
- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) ridership dropped 63 percent from 2019 to 2020, and non-MTA transit systems also experienced ridership losses, some at levels of 50 percent or more.
- This has left these systems struggling, and many have been forced to reduce services as a result.
- Additionally, the working group will look at transit systems capital investment and operating needs, transit's impact on the economy and jobs, transit deserts in rural areas of the state, social equity and addressing climate change, and ways to help cities and local governments provide efficient transit services.

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

- 1. According to guidance from Governor Cuomo, sports and entertainment events in major stadiums and arenas with a capacity of 10,000 or more people can re-open with limited spectators beginning February 23.
- 2. New Yorkers with comorbidities and underlying conditions can begin making appointments at state-run mass vaccination sites. Excess vaccine supply meant for hospital workers can be used to open eligibility for New Yorkers with comorbidities and underlying conditions. Local health departments will determine how, where and when to schedule appointments in their jurisdictions.
 - To show they have comorbidities or underlying conditions, New Yorkers must provide documentation as required by the facility where they are getting vaccinated which

must be either a doctor's letter, medical information evidencing comorbidity, or signed certification.

- 3. NYC Schools will welcome back blended learning students in grades 6-8 for in-person learning starting on Thursday, February 25. Middle school staff will return on Wednesday, February 24, to prepare for students' return. Here are the protocols to keep schools open:
 - **Weekly Testing:** All schools will have 20% of students and staff randomly tested on a weekly basis.
 - **Student Consent:** All students are required to provide consent for testing by their first scheduled in-person learning day. Families can submit consent using NYCSA or a paper form.
 - **Staff Consent:** All staff are required to provide consent by the first day they report to their school building. Staff can submit consent using the daily Health Questionnaire or using this paper form.
 - **Situation Room:** The Situation Room remains schools' main points of contact for any possible cases of COVID-19 in school buildings, and will continue to guide schools through any COVID-19 cases occurring in their buildings.
- 4. **Effective March 15, marriage receptions can be held under limited state guidelines.** Events must be approved by the local health department and there will be mandatory testing of all guests before an event. Capacity at weddings and receptions will be limited to no more than 150 people or no more than 50% of the venue's capacity, whichever is lower. All patrons must be tested prior to the event.
- 5. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - o The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
 - o The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here
 - o SOMOS, a community health provider at 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.
- 6. Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call 1-877-877-9267. If you are not yet eligible call 877-222-8387 to enroll.



- 7. 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. Please click here if you have any further questions.

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

- 1. The Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) has released a 'COVID Supplies and Other Needs Assessment Survey' to assess how they can best assist communities and organizations on Staten Island respond to COVID-19. Click here to complete their five-minute survey.
- 2. Middle school and high school application deadlines have been extended to ensure families have enough time to thoughtfully complete applications.
 - The High School Application deadline is extended from Tuesday, 2/23 to Monday, 3/1. LaGuardia registration deadline is extended for families from Tuesday, 2/23 to Monday, 3/1. The audition submission and internal assessment deadline is extended from Monday, 3/1 to Monday 3/8.
 - The Middle School Application deadline is extended for families from Tuesday, 2/9 to Tuesday, 2/23.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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 11am 7pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am 5pm. Contact Maria Guzman-Colon at taxhelp@nmic.org or 929-415-8745 with any questions.



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.
 - o 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 Reves (Spanish) at mreves@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.
- Join the Staten Island Business Outreach Center for the next Winter Webinar Series, scheduled for February 25 at 3 PM. Interested participants can click here to register. RSVP is required.



Presents a Free Winter Webinar Series

Negotiations and Renegotiating a Contract:
Options, Strategies and Tactics in Crisis & Beyond
February 25, 2021 @3pm

Planning for Success: Legal Foundations for Launching Your Business March 4, 2021 @3pm

Considering Commercial Lease Agreements: COVID 19 and Beyond March 25, 2021 @3pm

RSVP REQUIRED! Register on Eventbrite

https://www.eventbrite.com/o/staten-island-business-outreach-center-7646657521

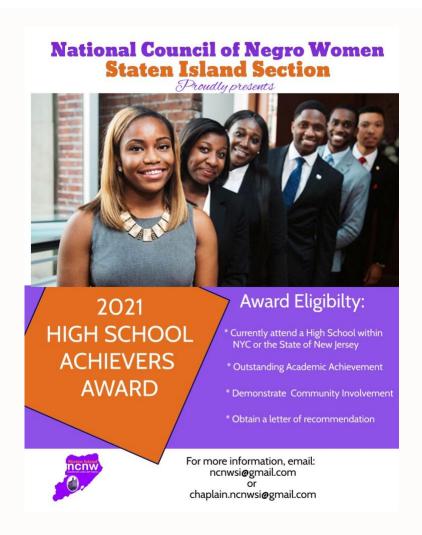


• NYC Restaurant Week To Go' has been extended through February 28! Help support a local restaurant by bringing home your favorite meal for take-out and delivery. Register your Mastercard to get deals. Click here to find out which local eateries near you are participating in restaurant week.

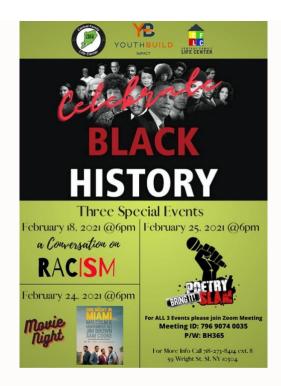


Useful Events and Opportunities

1. 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 ncnwsi@gmail.com or chaplain.ncnwsi@gmail.com.**



2. Three events in one place to enjoy the comfort of your home. Youth from our communites have put together a power packed series for Black History Month. Tonight, Feburary 18th at 6:00 PM is the kick off with a very open and needed conversation. See flyer to log on and participate.



3. BJ House of Community and Friends is hosting a Winter Coats and Warm Essentials Drive. This Saturday, February 20th, at 11:00 AM at El Centro del Immigrante, 260 Port Richmond Ave, SI, NY. For more information please contact Jamilah at 718-442-0923 or email info@baituljamaat.com

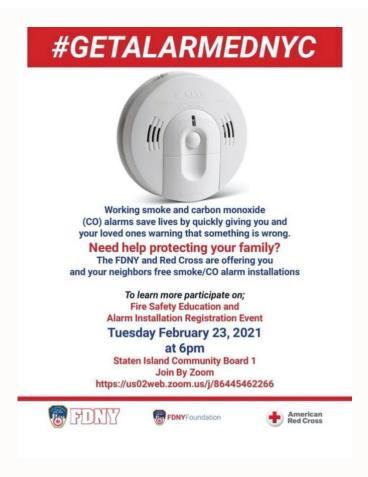


4. BJ House of Community and the Office of the DA are hosting three Human Traffickinng Workshops. On 2/23, 3/02, and 3/09 you can join them on Zoom or Facebook live from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Use ID: 836 733 5299 and password: Not4Sale. For more information please contact 718-442-0923 or email info@baituljamaat.com



- 5. Students 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.

8. Join the FDNY on Tuesday, February 23 at 6pm for a fire safety education and alarm registration event. Click here to join the Zoom event.



9. Join Staten Island University Hospital North Shore Community Summit on Thursday, Feb. 25 from 2PM- 5PM at First Central Baptist Church, 117 Wright Street. Please RSVP to Frank Morisano for a Zoom link at fmorisano@northwell.edu if you would prefer to join virtually.



10. LiteracyINC hosts a Virtual Bee Program every Friday until February 26, at 12 PM. During this weekly series parents and caregivers will discuss fun and engaging ways to include early literacy in their daily routine. Click here to register now and for a list of more events by LINC.



Sincerely,



Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

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