



*Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall*

*March 23, 2023*



# Week In Review



I was happy to spend a day this week volunteering at my daughter's elementary school - oftentimes, additional support of the PTA can be what makes the difference in making sure our teachers, administration and staff have what they need for our students to succeed.



I was extremely happy to stop by Curtis High School and recognize Sebastian, Emilee and Kaetlynn for winning the prestigious Questbridge Scholarship. Numerous congratulations to the students, Principal Jaenicke and the entire faculty at Curtis High School



Happy to stop by Masjid Un-Noor earlier this week for Jumma prayer. Thankful to our community for their humility and graciousness as we prepare to enter the Holy Month of Ramadan. May your blessings be multiplied and hearts filled with gratitude



Glad to stop by and check in on my neighbors at the African Political Action Committee - thank you for all that you do!



Always a pleasure to speak to my good friend Bishop Victor Brown. Indebted to his continuous partnership with me and my office in bringing viable solutions and initiatives to the North Shore.



Got to spend a day helping get DA McMahon and Kamillah Hanks get on the ballot followed by supporting our small businesses at the “Forest Avenue Crawl for All” - Shout out to Carol and everyone at the Pride Center of SI for organizing!



Honored to attend the New York Building Congress 2023 Building and Construction Industry Legislative Reception this week. Thank you to my dear friend Carlo Scissura and everyone at New York Building Congress for being committed to the growth and success of the building industry here in New York.





It was an honor to meet the Archbishop Elpidophoros of America in his visit to the New York State Capitol. Thank you to Speaker Heastie and my colleague Assemblyman Tannousis for introducing me to his

eminence.

**ISLAMIC RELIEF USA** **NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER** **MSSSI** **A CHANCE IN LIFE**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton** **Assembly Member Charles D. Fall**

☆☆☆☆☆ INVITE YOU TO ☆☆☆☆☆

# Iftar

**ON THE GO**

**DATES**

**March 29 | April 5 | April 12 | April 19**

**4:30pm every Wednesday in Ramadan while supplies last.**

**A Chance In Life / The Village**  
1100 Castleton Ave, Staten Island, NY 10310

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This Ramadan, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's Office is partnering with Islamic Relief and community-based organizations to distribute halal iftar meals to families in need at grab-and-go sites in every borough.

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For more information or if you have questions, please call (212) 669-4315.  
♿ Accessible facility | Printed in-house

As we begin to embark on the Holy Month of Ramadan, I'm proud to partner with New York City Comptroller Brad Lander to distribute

halal Iftar meals to families in need across the district.



OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER  
CHARLES D. FALL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: [ShabaniF@nyassembly.gov](mailto:ShabaniF@nyassembly.gov)

May 22, 2023

**STATEMENT FROM ASSEMBLY ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER CHARLES D. FALL ON THE  
BEGINNING OF RAMADAN**

Ramadan Mubarak to the entire Muslim community here in New York as we prepare to enter the holy month of Ramadan. For many, this month gives us the opportunity to self-reflect, practice patience and forgiveness, have compassion for the less fortunate and unite together as a community.

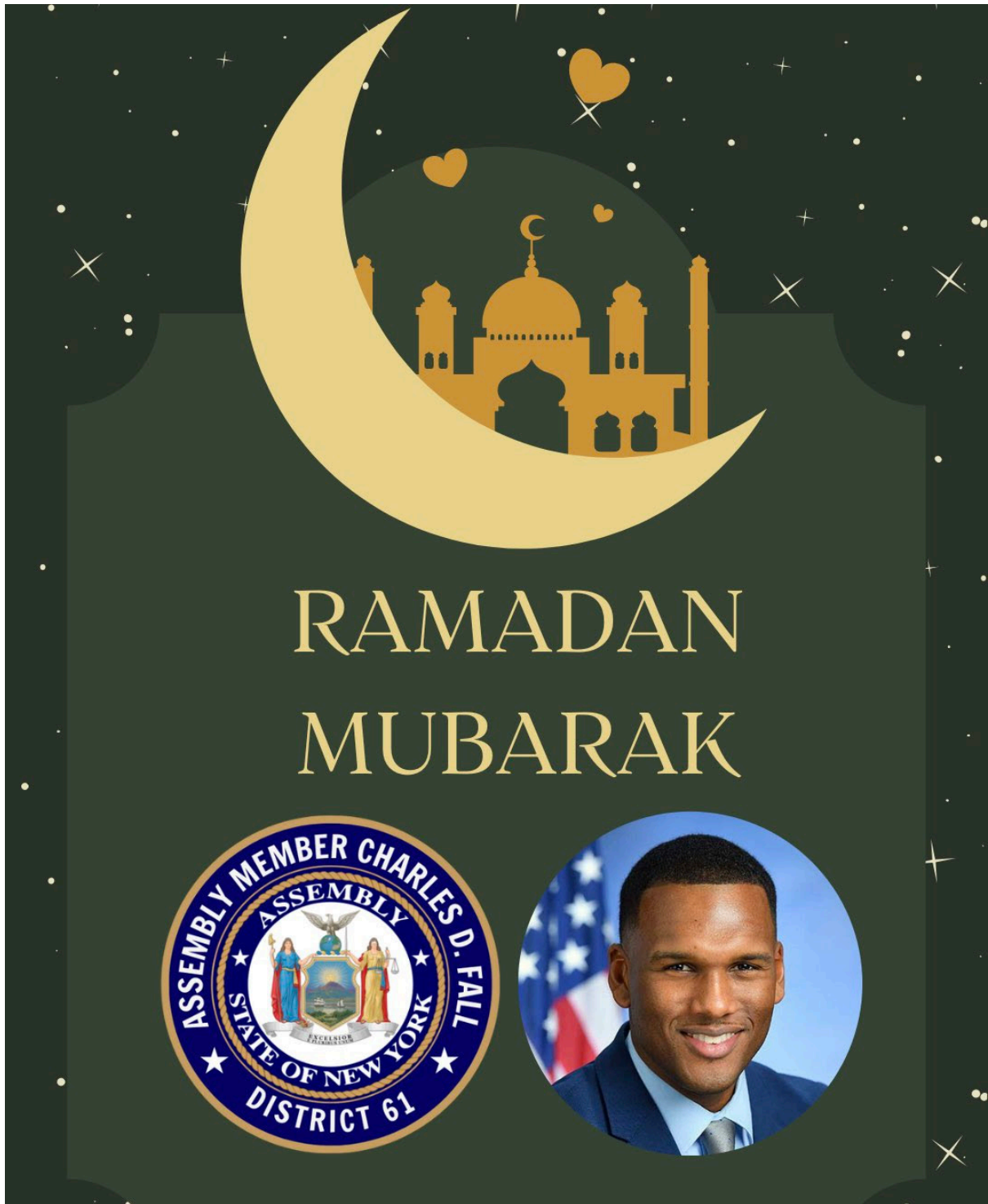
Our guidance and wisdom from faith leads us to the responsibility we have as human beings to one another, and to God. The universal values of giving generously, and putting the needs of others before our own are exhibited this month, and throughout the year.

Through the daily act of breaking fast and sharing a meal, Ramadan revitalizes community bonds and emphasizes community service. In this spirit, we reflect upon our mutual responsibilities for one another, regardless of faith, and strive to be the best version of ourselves.

I extend my sincere gratitude and wish you and your families a blessed month ahead.

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My statement on the celebration of the holy month of Ramadan



Ramadan Mubarak to all my brothers and sisters in Islam. Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful month of Ramadan



It was an honor to have Imam Tahir give an invocation on the first day of Ramadan in his visit to the New York State Capitol

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 21, 2023

Contact: [shabanif@nyassembly.gov](mailto:shabanif@nyassembly.gov)

**ASSEMBLY ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER CHARLES D. FALL INTRODUCES FOUR TRANSPORTATION RELATED BILLS THAT WILL PRIORITIZE STATEN ISLAND RESIDENTS**

Today, Assembly Assistant Majority Leader Charles D. Fall (D-Richmond, New York, Kings) announces package of legislation that will put Staten Islanders first. Assembly Bill A03396 will exempt Staten Island residents from Verrazzano-Bridge tolls. Assemblyman

Fall has also introduced a bill which will consist of having revenue collected from Verrazzano-Bridge tolls by non-Staten Island residents to be used for completion of projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit and the extension of the HOV lane on the Staten Island expressway.

“I have long called for the completion of the Bus Rapid Transit and the extension of the HOV lane in order to alleviate roadway congestion on the Staten Island Expressway. Our residents continue to suffer from cost-of-living increases; revenue collected over these tolls at the very least should be spent in supplying the transportation and infrastructure projects that Staten Islanders are in dire need of.” said Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

“I am proud that I was able to secure the Staten Island resident discount in our one-house so we have our discount even if our tolls are raised. Staten Islanders already deal with some of the longest commutes in the country and we need to make sure we are doing everything we can to alleviate the burdens of their commutes including exempting residents from tolls” said State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Additionally, the third and fourth bill introduced by Assemblyman Fall, Bill A03401 and Bill S4294 relate to speed cameras and Park-and-Ride permits here in Staten Island. Speed cameras in school zones are one of the goals aimed at reducing traffic fatalities in New York City. Therefore, the program should be kept intact for the safety of our children, pedestrians and crossing guards. However, current guidelines in existing law associated with activation times and radius surrounding institutions of learning are causing an unfair burden on drivers in many areas throughout New York City and New York State. The intent of Bill A03401 is to further promote the effectiveness of the school speed zone program however on streets/roadways located immediately within a school radius and to amend current guidelines in

existing law to promote a more justified area and timing of said speed cameras. In addition, Bill S4294 will require residents of Staten Island to have a Park-and-Ride permit free of charge and out of state residents will need to pay an annual fee for such permit.

“Our residents have continually received the short end of the stick when it comes to transportation and infrastructure. This package of bills prioritizes Staten Islanders and addresses some of the most urgent needs. Toll collected revenue will further supplement capital projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit and the extension of the HOV lane. Enhancing and further promoting the effectiveness of the school speed zone program through better activation times in surrounding school speed zones is something that needed to be addressed in easing an unfair burden to commuters in New York City & New York State. Staten Island commuters deserve the convenience of being able to find parking at Park-and-Rides and not pay the same permit fees that out of state residents pay; through the Park-and-Ride bill, the burden of having to drive through congested roads will be lessened; furthermore, reducing gridlock traffic by assisting to the use of public transportation.” said Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

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## **Free Tax Prep Clinics**

**Ahead of tax day, the City’s Department of Consumer and Worker Protection has launched free tax preparation services for individual New Yorkers who earned \$56,000 or families who earned \$80,000 or less. NYC Free Tax Prep**

provides free, professional tax preparation that can help New Yorkers keep their full refund, including valuable tax credits, like the newly enhanced New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (NYC EITC). The new NYC Free Tax Prep for self-employed New Yorkers will provide income tax services to freelance workers and small businesses. The IRS has begun accepting returns as of January 23rd and ends April 18.

**NYC Free Tax Prep Services include:**

- **In-Person Tax Prep**—sit down with a volunteer preparer: At in-person tax prep sites, knowledgeable IRS certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) volunteer preparers help filers complete an accurate tax return. Nearly 140 sites across the city will be opening in the coming weeks.
- **Drop-off Service**—drop off your documents and pick up your completed return later: With drop-off service, filers can drop off their tax documents and pick up the completed return later.
- **Virtual Tax Prep**—like in-person free filing but online: Virtual Tax Prep is an online service where an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer will video conference with filers to help prepare their tax return using a secure digital system. Filers can submit photos or scans of tax documents to the preparer, confirm their identity, and complete their return by video call with a preparer. Filers will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone; a stable internet connection; and the ability to download secure video conference software.
- **Assisted Self-Preparation**—free online tax prep on your own or with help: Assisted Self-Preparation allows filers to complete their tax return online on their own and an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer will be available by phone or email



to answer questions. Filers will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone; a stable internet connection; an email address, and their 2021 adjusted gross income (AGI) or self-select PIN.

**You can call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/taxprep](https://nyc.gov/taxprep) to choose the best filing option for you and find the most convenient location if choosing in-person or drop-off tax prep.**

### ***Governor Hochul Announces Initiative to Improve Food Benefit Access for Women, Infants and Children***

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a new client feedback initiative that will improve understanding of the challenges New Yorkers face enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC. Announced as part of Governor Hochul's [2023 State of the State address](#), the New York State Department of Health will partner with [Code for America](#) to pilot a live, online chat program that will help the agency gather client feedback to improve the WIC program and enrollment statewide.

"Despite being a critical resource for struggling families, the WIC program isn't used by nearly as many New Yorkers who are eligible for these food benefits or by many families who are already enrolled in the program," Governor Hochul said. "This initiative will help us identify ways to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles, simplify the enrollment processes and implement new technology so that struggling families have better access to healthy, nutritious foods."

Initially, Code for America will help implement a live online chat function to replace the Department of Health's automated chat bot that appears on the agency's [WIC page](#), which will connect individuals

to a WIC staffer for live interaction. Live interaction is an effective way to guide applicants through the process and enrollees with using their benefits, while also providing an invaluable source of feedback that can be coupled with client interviews and other qualitative and quantitative research methods to better understand challenges with WIC enrollment and usage.

During a second phase of the project, the Department of Health will work with Code for America to implement improvements to the WIC program based on the gathered feedback. The partnership will enable the agency to determine what is preventing eligible families from participating and taking full advantage of the program and then use that information to improve the delivery of WIC services.

Acting Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "By gathering input from families participating in the WIC program, we can enhance the customer experience and make it easier for New York families to access the nutritious foods required for healthy growth and development of children. By collaborating with Code for America to test live chat and other techniques for gathering input, we can seek ways to help increase participation and make the program more user-friendly for those who depend on WIC."

The WIC program provides federal funding to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women; and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk. The Department of Health was among four agencies selected to participate in the second cohort of Code for America's Safety Net Innovation Lab, which is aimed at making state-administered public benefits programs more equitable and accessible.

Nationally, about half of the families eligible for WIC participate in the program and those enrolled in the program do not consistently use

their food benefits. Data compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service this year found that roughly 706,000 New Yorkers were eligible for WIC in 2020, but only 363,000 participated in the program.

Food insecurity has been consistently associated with poor health outcomes in children, including poorer overall health status, acute and chronic health problems, and limited healthcare access. Participation in WIC has been associated with healthier births, improved birth weights, reduced risk of infant mortality, better infant-feeding practices, more nutritious diets, better access to primary and preventive health care, and improved cognitive development in children, among other positive health outcomes.

The initiative with Code for America is part of Governor Hochul's plans to make government work better for New Yorkers by transforming the way they access services and benefits. Significant technological enhancements are now being implemented to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and improve access; reduce call wait times; use e-signature technology; launch 'one ID' to improve how residents interact with certain state agencies online; and modernize state agency websites and applications to improve the user experience.

Code for America Chief Executive Officer Amanda Renteria said, "Code for America works shoulder-to-shoulder with government partners and community organizations with the goal of creating a human-centered safety net. Through the Safety Net Innovation Lab, state governments are taking major steps toward systemic change in how people receive benefits like food assistance, health care and other basic needs."

# Resources for the 61st District



## FOOD PANTRY POP UP

**Date:**  
Saturday  
March 25, 2023

**Time:**  
11:00AM-2:00PM

**Location:**  
150 Granite Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10303

In collaboration with Amanda Donates, PCCS will be hosting a food pantry pop up, open to all. If you are in need of canned goods, non-perishable food items or household items please complete this registration form to attend.

\*LIMITED TRANSPORTATION HOME AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE AND FAMILIES SUPPORTED BY PCCS\*

To register scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/emFNlygYnN>



If you have any questions, please contact  
Brendon Luka at [BLuka@pccsny.org](mailto:BLuka@pccsny.org).




## JOB FAIR

Meet with our team and learn about available positions at Catholic Charities of Staten Island. We will hire qualified candidates on the spot!

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Dial: (718) 984-1500  
[www.CC-SI.org](http://www.CC-SI.org)

**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH**  
**2PM-7PM**

**LOCATION**  
120 ANDERSON AVENUE  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302

**2023**

SOME OF OUR JOB OPENINGS INCLUDE:

- Chief Operating Officer
- Case Managers
- Direct Care Professionals
- Group Home Managers
- Teachers Assistant
- Accounting
- And More!

COMPETITIVE SALARIES, HEALTH INSURANCE, BENEFITS & MORE



## Our Community Baby Shower

MARCH 25, 2023  
SET UP : 11:30AM  
EVENT START: 12:30PM  
NYCHA RESIDENTS ONLY: 12:30PM-1:30PM  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 1:30- 3:30PM  
RAFFLES: 3:00PM  
BREAKDOWN(CLEAN UP): 3:30PM

Help us bring much needed baby essentials to parents-to-be or new parents on Staten Island. Please get in touch with us to table or donate. We are looking for donations of baby gear, necessities, gift cards, new or like new clothing, coats, toys, etc. Please, no used clothing, no rusty, expired strollers or furniture, and no opened or soiled items.

Contact us via TEXT (646)568-5094 or email me to table, donate or sponsor at [a.campbell@urbanfairiesofsi.com](mailto:a.campbell@urbanfairiesofsi.com)

155 NORWAY AVE (COMMUNITY CENTER)SI, NY 10305

Register here:





## NYC Parks is hiring for the summer!

Help keep New York City's green spaces beautiful and safe! We offer a range of seasonal job opportunities, including positions in:

- Maintenance
- Security
- Recreation

Visit [nyc.gov/parks](http://nyc.gov/parks) for more information and to apply.



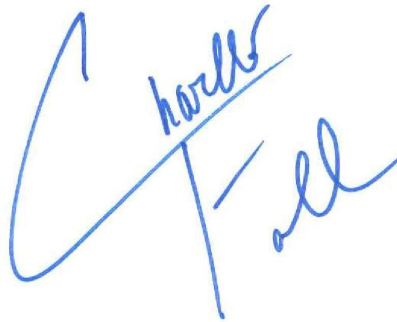
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer



For Resources Click Here

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

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 729, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946**

**Staten Island DISTRICT OFFICE: [853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310](#). [718-442-9932](#), [FAX 718-442-9942](#)**

**Manhattan District Office: [250 Broadway suite 2203 22nd Floor](#), 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942**