



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

Upper West Side ■ Morningside Heights ■ Manhattan Valley

SUMMER 2019



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

This year has been among the most productive legislative sessions of my career. As your representative in Albany, I have worked with my colleagues to pass laws on many of the most pressing issues of our times. In this newsletter, you will find updates on housing, criminal justice reform, LGBTQ rights, gender equity, and environmental protection.

In addition, my office continues to address our local community needs, from the crisis in affordable housing, to protecting our seniors, children, and schools. My office is available to assist you with whatever issues you may be having at 212-866-3970.

Very truly yours,

FIGHTING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

There are two types of sea change. The good kind of 'sea change' is what we've experienced in Albany, where a new legislature has passed sweeping legislation on a range of top priorities. The bad kind of 'sea change' is literal: the alarming rise in temperature being reported in oceans across the world, leading to extreme weather, rising seas, and disastrous human consequences. That is why protecting our climate and environment continues to be my highest priority as your representative, and I continue to push strong action to tackle the issue.

This year, the NYS Assembly passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which sets ambitious standards to limit greenhouse gas emissions and support the communities most impacted by climate change. This legislation, which I cosponsored, puts New York at the forefront of combating climate change. In addition, I have fought for a bill banning the use of 'fracking water' on our highways as a de-icer or dust suppressant, a bill strengthening protections against lead-contaminated soil, and a bill addressing environmental justice by making it easier to call for environmental quality reviews. I look forward to pushing even further in the years to come to ensure we are looking out for the long term interests of our climate, city, children, and communities.



Assemblymember O'Donnell listens to advocates and experts at the hearing in May for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

INVESTING IN LOCAL GREENERY

Last year, I allocated capital funding to make the comfort station on Central Park’s Great Hill ADA accessible, upgrade the Westside Campaign Against Hunger’s pantry, and support the medical wing of the Wild Bird Fund. This year, I’ve allocated funding to community groups taking action to protect the environment and promote local green spaces and gardens. Here is the list of organizations and the projects being funded by our allocation:

West Side Community Garden (123 West 89th Street)

The funding will go toward a summer series of five live classical, jazz, and Latin concerts – part of the WSCG’s year-round program of service to the community. All concerts are free and open to the public.

West 111th Street People’s Garden

Funding will go toward building a wooden gazebo, and purchase of two pop-up tents, as well as chairs and tables.

La Perla Garden (76 West 105th Street)

Funding will help the garden purchase a solar charging station, gardening tools, furniture, and plant material.

West 104th Street Community Garden

The garden features a gazebo, patio, peach trees, and open space for meetings, social events and performances.

Mobilization for Change Garden (955 Columbus Avenue)

Funding will support a solar charging station & materials for this garden’s public parades, concerts, and classes.

Upper West Side Recycling

Funding will support the free bimonthly UWSR Eco Letter, which includes in-depth commentaries on important environmental topics as well as listings of substantive events for the three months following the date of publication. UWSR focuses on recycling but also addresses related areas, such as climate change, air and water pollution, energy conservation, renewable energy, and urban greening. Sign up at www.uwsr.org

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Speaking with students at the Booker T. Washington School Civics Day and hearing their input on today’s hot topics



Enjoying sun, community, and gardening at “Love Your Street Tree Day” on Amsterdam Ave & 84th Street



Discussing subway accessibility with NYC Transit President Andy Byford at the 110th St B/C Station

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

HISTORIC HOUSING BILL PASSED

During my time in the Assembly, I've seen too many neighbors and constituents get pushed out of their homes due to skyrocketing rent costs and landlord harassment. That's why when I was first elected, I promised to have a dedicated Housing Specialist on staff to support renters across the district. I still do!

This year, I am proud to share that the New York State Legislature passed historic legislation that levels the playing field between tenants and landlords, preventing harassment, destabilization, and financial hardship moving forward. I was an early cosponsor of the legislation, and many of my bills, like preventing excess fees from being passed along to tenants, were included. The laws will improve lives for many residents across our district, and across New York State.

The new rent laws:

- Repeal Vacancy Decontrol
- Repeal High-Income Deregulation for Stabilized Units
- Repeal the Vacancy and Longevity Bonuses
- Make Preferential Rent Permanent
- Reform Major Capital Improvement (MCI) Charges
- Reform Individual Apartment Improvement Charges
- Cap Rent Increases for Rent Controlled Tenants
- Extend Rent Overcharge Look-Back Period
- Reform Co-op and Condo Conversions

Perhaps most importantly, we made these changes permanent, so tenants can rest easy knowing that the law of the land is now pro-tenant, and will stay that way. Even with these victories, I am committed to going further. From passing Good Cause Eviction laws to expanding affordable housing, I will continue pushing for tenant rights and protections in the years to come.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

In a democracy, every adult citizen living in society should have the right to vote. That's why I'm pushing for a bill granting the right to vote to the formerly incarcerated – strengthening our community and our democracy. When someone serves their time, our priority should shift from rehabilitation to reintegration, allowing them to contribute to and strengthen our communities. This bill will be a huge step toward expanding voter rights and addressing generations of injustice in the criminal system.

GENDER EQUALITY IN NYS

While states throughout the country are passing extreme restrictions on women's right to choose, thankfully, the New York legislature this year codified Roe V. Wade and the right to reproductive healthcare, ensuring that New York will remain a safe haven no matter what.

EXPANDING LGBTQ PROTECTIONS

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riot – the event that kickstarted the modern LGBTQ movement. When New York State passed my bill legalizing marriage equality, it was a watershed moment for the country. Today, New York State is still expanding rights, especially for the transgender community. This year, New York State passed critical protections for LGBTQ community, adding 'gender expression and gender identity' to the Human Rights Law, banning harmful 'conversion therapy', and passing my bill eliminating 'gay and trans panic' defenses that were used to target people for their identity. The world is brighter place when everyone is free to love who they love and be who they are – it's that simple!



UPCOMING EVENTS HOSTED BY MY OFFICE

- Paper Shredding Day – June 22nd
- ‘Rat Academy’ – June 24th
- Support for SCRIE/DRIE – June 26th
- NYC Pride March – June 30th
- District Health Fair – August 8th
- Fall Paper Shredding – Date TBD
- Environmental Policy Forum – Date TBD
- Composting Education – Date TBD

Contact my office at 212-866-3970 to join us for any or all of these events!

245 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
**DANIEL
O'DONNELL'S**
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION UPDATE

Daniel O'Donnell, Assembly Member, 69th District
Upper West Side ■ Morningside Heights ■ Manhattan Valley

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Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell:
245 W. 104th Street, New York, NY 10025 • 212-866-3970 • Fax: 212-864-1095
712 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5603 • Fax: 518-455-3812
Email: odonnelld@nyassembly.gov
Open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.