



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

Upper West Side ■ Morningside Heights ■ Manhattan Valley

Fall 2022



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As your representative in the New York State Assembly, I am always working on your behalf to stand up for our values and improve our lives. Please say hello when you see me, or call or email my office, to share your thoughts on state and local policy.

My office and I are here to assist you. My team includes constituent liaisons with experience navigating unemployment, state benefits, and other community-wide concerns. For those with specific housing problems, my office has a dedicated specialist on staff.

Call or email us at 212-866-3970, or odonnelld@nyassembly.gov. Email me to join my e-list for regular updates on Albany and the district.

Very truly yours,

STRONG LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES



Sen. Chuck Schumer and me at my Zoom event for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

It's no secret: we live in trying times. The past few months - and years - have shown us that conflicts we hoped were long-settled are here to test us again: fights for our fundamental rights, existential threats to democracy, and the rolling challenges of the pandemic. Rather than provoking despair, times like these demand that we muster our spirits and rise to meet the challenges of the day.

As your representative, I am working to ensure our community and our state are leading the charge to build a better future. Within days of the US Supreme Court's decisions overturning *Roe v. Wade* and invalidating a 100-year-old New York State gun safety law, I returned to Albany with my colleagues to take action. I proudly voted to codify reproductive rights in the New York State Constitution. I also voted for new gun safety measures, including banning concealed weapons from sensitive locations like bars, schools, public transit, and churches. With the national political landscape uncertain, I was proud to take swift action with my New York State colleagues to fight back and ensure our rights and safety are protected.

There is, of course, more work to do. We must continue to set (and meet) ambitious environmental goals to curb climate change. As marginalized groups, including Black, Latino, Jewish, Asian, and LGBTQ communities, face bias and hate, we must defend, empower, and support diversity. And with everything from voting rights to respecting the outcome of elections on the line, we must bolster the underpinnings of democracy. These are not small tasks. But I am confident that we will work together, tackle these challenges, and ensure brighter days ahead.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



I am proud to report that many of my bills have passed and been signed into law

The Shows Must Go On: My bill (A10500) regulating ticket sales for live events keeps performances of all kinds up and running, and adds new protections for consumers. Now, all tickets sold (or resold) will show you the full, ‘all-in’ price (including fees and taxes) up front, ensuring that consumers know the true price and don’t get hit with last minute charges at checkout. From sports leagues to stadium shows to local theaters to Broadway - this bill keeps New York open for entertainment, and brings fans back to the events and shows they want to see!

Supporting Our Parks: As Chair of the Committee on Parks, I passed legislation creating a Senior Trail Guide (A4271), highlighting accessible trails in NY State Parks for those with limited mobility, including seniors. I also launched a new State Parks Passport Program, mirroring the National Parks Passport (A9142), to encourage usage of our parks and help park-goers track their trips, have fun, and learn about New York’s outdoor opportunities.

Fighting Epidemics: I passed two bills this year focused on increasing access to healthcare that will improve and save lives. One (A4485) mandates that public universities train staff in the use of Narcan, a medicine used to reverse opioid overdoses, and maintain a supply in all college dorms. My second bill (A807) mandates that insurance companies cover PEP and PrEP, pills that prevent the spread of HIV and have been essential to fighting AIDS.

Funding the Arts: During this year’s budget deliberations, I negotiated a modern-era highwater mark for arts funding in New York State. The pandemic took a heavy toll on the arts and artists across our state from Broadway to local theaters and museums, and many are still struggling. State support is essential to arts and cultural institutions to keep their doors open and keep us inspired by their work.

Environmental Readiness: As I continue to advocate for greater climate action, I passed legislation (A3435) encouraging electric car chargers in parking garages, so we keep building the infrastructure to support lower carbon transportation options. I am also advocating for many bills that curb carbon emissions in our state.

Next Up: Looking ahead, there are several pieces of legislation I carry that I am committed to fighting for, along with many more I co-sponsor and will work with my colleagues to pass. Some of the bills I wrote and sponsor focus on criminal justice reform (including my fight to **Ban No Knock Warrants** in NY (A2683), and my push to create a **Correctional Ombudsman** office (A905) to address the multiple crises in prisons and jails), fighting bullying and stigma (including my bill to establish a **Student Suicide Prevention** (A7762) plan in every school, which complements the new Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, accessed by dialing ‘988’, and my push to update **HIV education** (A9873) to be medically accurate), and keeping our children safe (including **removing lead from playground water fountains** (A4551) and mandating new **childproof features on guns** (S1419)).

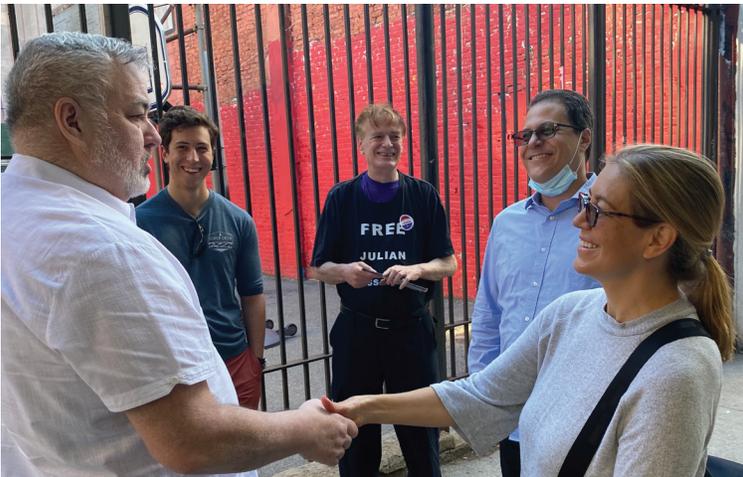
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



Pandemic Resources: Throughout the pandemic, my office has distributed thousands of home tests, masks, hand sanitizer, and vaccine appointments to our neighbors to keep our community safe as we navigate waves of COVID-19



Shredding: My free and secure paper shredding events are popular and great chances to speak with neighbors. I've held recent shredding and e-waste disposal events in every corner of our district, with more to come. Email odonnell@nyassembly.gov to be sure you're notified about my next Shred Event



Funding Local Improvements: I was proud to allocate new funding to several wonderful local organizations doing important work to improve our lives and our neighborhood, including support for:

Broadway Mall Association

Planting and maintaining the trees, bushes, and flowers in the medians up and down Broadway Avenue.

Columbus Amsterdam BID

Improving street cleanliness and rat prevention along Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues from West 96 St to 110 St.

Goddard Greenkeepers

Providing street sanitation, pest control, and horticulture to Columbus, Amsterdam, and Broadway in the West 80s & 90s.

Service Program for Older People (SPOP)

Providing mental health support and counseling for older adults in our community.



Morningside Heights Historic District Committee

Supporting local organizing to connect with neighbors, produce educational programs, and build strong community ties.

Straus Park

Fighting rats with new, upgraded trash cans in this treasured and historic community park at 106th St and Broadway.

West Side Community Garden

Supporting repairs and beautification of the garden on West 89th and 90th St, which serves as a welcoming community space for performances, gatherings, and relaxation.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES

Although much of society has resumed activity after shutting down during the pandemic, new variants of COVID-19 continue to pose challenges to public health and impact our lives. We can all do our part to keep our community, and especially high risk individuals, safe by testing regularly, getting booster vaccines, and wearing masks in the recommended public settings like the subway and when in large crowds indoors.

To get vaccinated or boosted, visit: vax4nyc.nyc.gov

To see local testing sites, visit: maps.nyc.gov/covid-testing/ or text "COVID TEST" to 855-48

To check the latest on public health guidance, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov/ for information from the State and www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page for information from New York City

Still have questions? Contact my office at **212-866-3970** or odonnelld@nyassembly.gov and we can help you.

245 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
**DANIEL
O'DONNELL'S**
**Community
Update**

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

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, N Y 12248 • 518-455-5603 • Fax: 518-455-3812
Email: odonnelld@nyassembly.gov
Open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.