

Assemblymember  
**Tony Simone**

Assembly District 75



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Dear friends,

Happy December! Tonight is the fifth night of Hanukkah. The festival of lights is a beautiful time of year, and I wish Happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate.

As the weather is getting colder, please stay connected by signing up for [NotifyNYC](#), where you can get alerts on severe weather that may impact road and transit conditions. If temperatures are below 55 degrees and your landlord has not turned on your heat, please let my office know by calling (212) 807-7900 or emailing [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov); we can help get your heat turned on.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season,

Tony

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**Recent News**

**Volunteering with God's Love We Deliver**

The best way to spend Thanksgiving is giving back to the community! I was grateful to join God's Love We Deliver to prepare meals for those in NYC who aren't able to shop for their Thanksgiving dinners. Thank you to the entire God's Love We Deliver team for all your work year round, keeping New Yorkers fed and healthy!



**Medicare Information Event**

My office held an information event on the open enrollment period for Medicare, which closed on December 7th. We had an expansive presentation from a Medicare expert on

what seniors can do during the open enrollment period, including updating their coverage, join prescription coverage options, and more. While the enrollment period has closed, my office may be able to help if you have questions on your coverage. Please reach out to us!

### Penn Station

Last week, the Penn Station Community Advisory Committee Working Group (CACWG) came together where we considered the future of the public realm in the Penn Station area. I was pleased that this meeting was held publicly, and [you can view materials presented at the meeting by ESD here](#). The CACWG includes various stakeholders from the community who take part in responding to Empire State Development's plans for the neighborhood around Penn, and it's clear that there is still more work to be done to find a way forward that works for everyone. I believe that the future of Penn must include through running, averting demolition of the block south of the station while creating a more efficient transportation hub for everyone. I look forward to continuing to work with all my partners on this important project.

### World AIDS Day

Every year on December 1st, we mark World AIDS Day. This somber holiday is an opportunity to remember those who have been lost to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and to recommit to fight the stigma that people who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS face every day. [I was at the AIDS Memorial in the Village on December 1st](#) to read the names of some of the more than 100,000 New Yorkers who have perished from his terrible disease, and to join the LGBTQ+ community in committing to fighting for a cure.



### Talks with Tony

I held my first in a series of Talks with Tony in Chelsea, gathering with members of local block associations to discuss the issues facing our community. Street safety is one of the top issues I hear about from constituents; people are afraid to walk down the sidewalk or cross the street because of the proliferation of e-bikes. That's why I introduced [the E-Bike Commercial Licensing Act](#) with Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal; to require that the large number of e-bikes that are being used for commercial purposes are registered, and can be identified for illegal behavior. Neighbors also shared ideas for street infrastructure, sanitation, and improvements for mental health care availability. Thank you to everyone who took part, and I'm looking forward to the next Talk with Tony!



### West Side Tenants' Conference

Last weekend, I was a keynote speaker at the West Side Tenants' Conference, where residents from all over New York City came together to learn about tenant organizing, and how to protect themselves from bad landlords. New York City is in the middle of an affordability crisis, and housing is the most salient part of that crisis for most people. More than ever, everyday New Yorkers can no longer afford to live here, and [many low and middle-income people are leaving](#). That's why the state must pass critical tenant protections like Good Cause Eviction and expand Right to Counsel statewide. We also have a responsibility to increase the supply of housing; because when there is more availability, prices will go down for everyone.



Fulton Tenants Association Tree Lighting

It was a joy to join the Fulton Houses Tenants Association for their Christmas tree lighting! The holiday season is upon us, and it's wonderful to spend it with the community. I even got to meet Santa!



Preparing for the 2024 Session

Last week, I headed back up to Albany for a legislative retreat with the Assembly Democratic majority. It's hard to believe, but the 2024 session kicks off in just a few

weeks with [Governor Hochul's State of the State address](#), and starting in January I'll be in Albany every week fighting for policies that make your life better. If you have ideas for bills or issues you would like me to consider, reach out to my office. It is always helpful to hear what my constituents are thinking about, and what they want to see from their elected officials! Call my office at (212) 807-7900 or email me at [simonet@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonet@nyassembly.gov).

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## **Community Resources and Events**

### **Affordable Apartments Available for Purchase via CHDC**

CHDC builds community by preserving and creating high-quality, permanent affordable housing for households of low, moderate, and middle incomes in the Clinton/Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea neighborhoods on the West Side of Manhattan. CHDC integrates community, cultural, and green spaces into developments and provides consulting services for larger community initiatives.

CHDC has apartments available now, and applications are being accepted through December 12th. [View the posting here and apply today!](#)

### **Holiday Pop Up Shop at FIT!**

The Garment District Alliance (GDA) and the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) will host a Holiday Pop-up Shop offering apparel and fashion accessories manufactured in New York's Garment District. The pop up will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12 and 13, from noon–5 pm at John E. Reeves Great Hall at FIT. Get there via the guest entrance at 218 West 28th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. I hope to see you there!

### **Youth Insights Artists at the Whitney**

[Youth Insights \(YI\) Artists](#) is a free, after-school program open to New York City high school students in ninth through twelfth grade. Each semester, YI brings teens together with contemporary artists and Museum staff, providing opportunities to work collaboratively, discuss art critically, think creatively, and create art inspired by this exchange. Learn new art techniques that culminate in a final exhibition!

Participants will meet once a week in-person at the Whitney on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoons from 4:00–6:30 pm. The program will run from February to May.

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

NYC high school students in ninth through twelfth grade. Participation in the program is free and all supplies are provided. Prior experience in similar programs is not required for students to participate in Youth Insights Artists.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

[Apply online now.](#) Applications are due by Friday, December 22 at 11:59 pm. Students must have a teacher/reference fill out the [online recommendation form](#) in addition to the online application. References should not be related to the applicant.

### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Students and teachers should contact Teen Programs directly with any questions by emailing [youthinsights@whitney.org](mailto:youthinsights@whitney.org).

### **Funding for Suicide Prevention Programming from OMH**

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Department of Health (DOH), released requests for proposals and applications for funding that will support the TGNCNB

communities and expanded the Lorena Borjas Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund. OMH is soliciting proposals for funding to support suicide prevention programming for TGNCNB youth and DOH AIDS Institute's Division of HIV, STD, HCV Prevention, Office of LGBTQ Services is soliciting applications for funding to provide services that address key social determinants of health impacting TGNCNB communities (component B of the request for applications). [You can find more info here.](#) Applications are due January 4th.

Flatiron/NOMAD Partnership Winter Solstice

Join the Partnership and the [National Museum of Mathematics](#) (MoMath) on Thursday, December 21st at 4:30pm for a winter solstice celebration. Stop by the Flatiron North Plaza to experience the joyful reflection of a life-sized kaleidoscope.