



# Assembly Member **REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**

## *March is Women's History Month*

*Dear Neighbor,*

*March is Women's History Month. In March we honor women who live or work in the 76th Assembly District, who are making a difference every day with the Women of Distinction Awards. Join us on Thursday, March 7 at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Auditorium, 430 East 67th Street (between First and York Avenues) for the celebration!*

*One year before the 100th anniversary of their right to vote, I am proud to have been the lead sponsor in the Assembly to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to guarantee equal rights for women in our State's Constitution. Over ten million women live in New York State, so adding the ERA is key!*

*My legislation adding sexual orientation as a protected class for Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) employees and bringing transparency to the outdated RIOC enactment clause also passed this State Assembly this week.*

*If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!*

*Sincerely,*

*Rebecca*

### **In Albany**

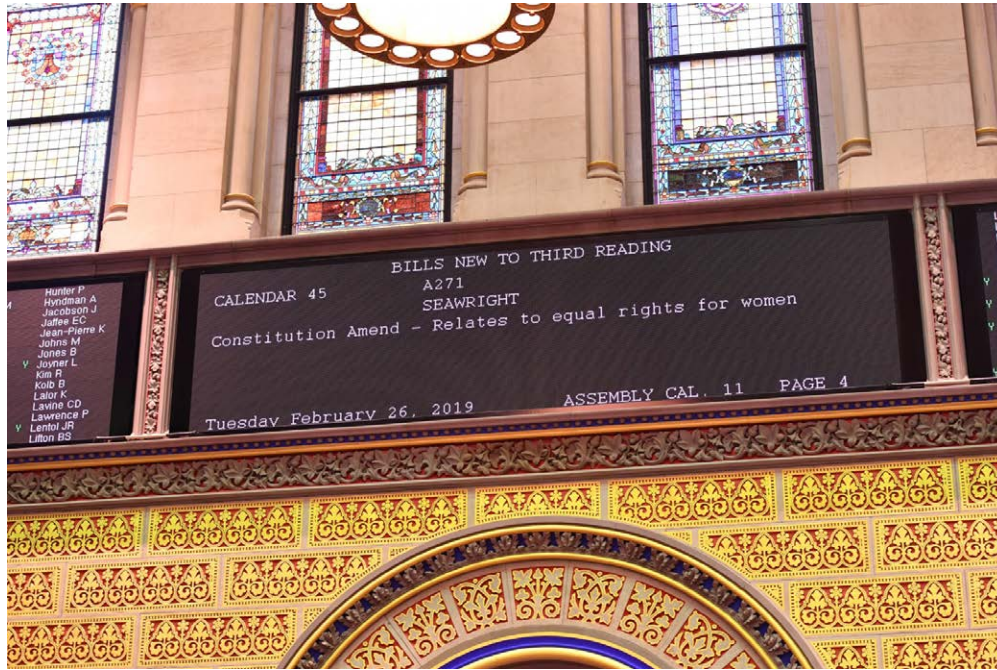
#### **Seawright's New York State Equal Rights Amendment Bill Passes Assembly The Renewed Fight for Equal Rights for Women in our State and Nation Gains Momentum**



On Tuesday, February 26, 2019 the New York State Assembly passed Seawright's Equal Rights Amendment Bill (A.271/S.3249), to guarantee equal rights for women in New York State's Constitution.

***"Over ten million women residents of New York State will see the shining light of our signal vote, one year before we celebrate the 100th anniversary of their right to vote," Assemblymember Seawright said. "The time is now for my daughter and the***

**families of all of our constituents to grow up and live in a state where there is equality of opportunity, of pay, and where fairness is our shared value by including women in the constitution," said Seawright.**



***"The Assembly Majority is committed to ensuring that everyone in our state is treated with dignity and respect, and are not subject to discrimination based on who they are," Speaker Heastie said. "It is time for our constitution to reflect those values, and protect the equal rights of the women of New York."***

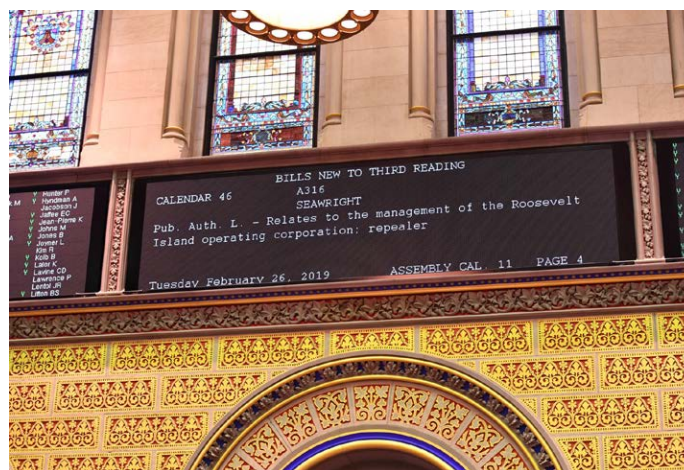
While New York State is one of the most progressive states in the nation, tackling issues such as paid family leave, equal rights are not explicitly provided for in the State's constitution. In recent years, there have been efforts to roll back women's rights in education, health, employment, and even domestic violence. A State level ERA would ensure that New York State women are protected from sex-based discrimination. Many are unaware that equal rights are not currently enshrined in the US Constitution. To this day, the right to vote is the only right guaranteed to women in the constitution. Congresswoman Maloney has championed and reintroduced a Federal ERA 12 times, but it has not yet received a vote.

***"With the federal political atmosphere changing, there is a renewed call to ensure that basic equal rights are guaranteed for women. I am proud to have introduced and passed an Equal Rights Amendment Bill in Albany and I applaud Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for reintroducing this important legislation every year since she has been in office. We are determined to end sex-based discrimination and guarantee equal rights for women under our constitutions," said Seawright.***

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## **SEAWRIGHT PASSES ROOSEVELT ISLAND BILL IN THE ASSEMBLY**

***The Bill will provide important updates to of Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) law***



A Roosevelt Island bill introduced by Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright regarding the management and organizational structure of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. The bill was previously introduced in the Senate by Senator José Serrano.



Seawright speaking in the Legislature on Assembly Bill 316 which provides updates to the RIOC laws that are outdated and need clarification of the intent of specific provisions in the original laws of 1984. This legislation will include sexual orientation in the equal employment opportunity section of the laws. The bill has been delivered to Senate.

***“I am proud to have introduced this bill and obtained passage in Assembly today. We worked closely with Senator José Serrano, the community, and the Roosevelt Island Residents Association Government Relations Committee to draft a bill that will support Roosevelt Islanders. The clarification and update of RIOC laws is long overdue and it is important that the laws governing the corporation are added to the Public Authorities Law so anyone with interest can easily find its enabling statute,” said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.***

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### **Seawright Questions MTA President Patrick Foye on F Train Delays, York Ave Bus Corridor, Select Bus Service and Other Transit Issues**



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### **Seawright Cosponsors and Votes to Pass ‘Revenge Porn’ Legislation**

#### **Helps Ensure Our Laws Keep Up With Technological Changes**

As our world becomes more technologically connected, our laws need to keep pace, especially when it comes to protecting a person’s privacy. Someone’s most intimate moments should never be strewn across the internet and shared with the world without their consent. The distribution of intimate photos or videos can have devastating consequences for a person’s reputation, employment and emotional and physical well-being and can lead to severe threats, harassment and stalking.

To prevent the unauthorized sharing of such private material, the Assembly passed legislation to make sharing or publishing an intimate image without consent a class A misdemeanor (A.5981). The new charge would apply in cases where the individual depicted had a reasonable expectation of privacy and the offender knew or should have known that the other party didn’t want their photo shared. The bill also allows a person to pursue civil action against the offending individual, regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed. The person whose photos or videos were shared can also petition the court to require websites that published the media to permanently remove them.

***“This legislation ensures that someone who violates another’s trust in such a cruel and personal manner will be held accountable for their abusive behavior. In the face of unprecedented technological advancement, we can’t allow privacy to become a thing of the past. New York is sending a clear message that consent and bodily autonomy are just as important online as they are offline,” said Seawright.***

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### **New Yorkers Deserve to Live, Work in A World Free of Discrimination and Hate**

Assembly Member Seawright announced that she helped pass anti-discrimination legislation, including

a measure expanding New York’s sexual harassment laws to help ensure no one feels threatened or unsafe in the workplace.

“The #MeToo movement has helped ensure that victims of discrimination and harassment are no longer relegated to the shadows,” said Seawright. “As New Yorkers, we understand that our shared progressive values and the inherent strength of our diverse communities demand we take action against senseless hate and give a voice to everyone. This legislation will help ensure that intolerance has no place in the Empire State.”

### Expanding anti-discrimination laws

While last year’s budget included important sexual harassment statutes, the Assembly legislation would expand and clarify these protections. The bill would establish a model policy and model training program to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, military status, familial status, marital status, predisposing genetic characteristics or domestic violence victim status (A.5976). In addition, the bill would require a public employee to reimburse a public entity within 90 days of it awarding a discrimination claim to ensure the perpetrator is held financially responsible for the misconduct.

The Assembly legislation would also:

- clarify that all employers are subject to state anti-discrimination laws;
- prohibit mandatory arbitration clauses related to workplace discrimination;
- require companies involved in a competitive public bidding process to have a written policy on discrimination prevention;
- authorize the state attorney general to bring a civil action or prosecute cases of discrimination; and
- expand discrimination protections to include non-employees, such as contractors, vendors or consultants.

“Workplace discrimination can jeopardize an employee’s livelihood, close off opportunities for advancement and promotion, and impact an individual’s physical and emotional well-being,” said Seawright. “With this legislation, we can ensure that this shameful, disgusting behavior is not tolerated and perpetrators are held accountable.”

The Assembly also passed a measure to extend anti-discrimination protections of the state’s Human Rights Law to all public schools (A.3425). Ambiguity in the current law and a recent decision from the state’s highest court has led to the protections pertaining only to private schools, rather than all educational institutions, noted Seawright.

Further, the New York State Constitution currently only protects against discrimination based on race, color, creed or religion. To expand protections and help make full women’s equality a reality, the Assembly once again passed an amendment to the state constitution to guarantee equal protection to persons on the basis of sex (A.271).

### Addressing other forms of discrimination

To ensure religious adherents are treated equally and fairly in the workplace, the Assembly passed a bill prohibiting employment discrimination against religious attire, including facial hair (A.4204). The measure would prevent employers from requiring an individual to violate or forgo requirements of their religion unless the employer can prove it causes an undue hardship on their business.

In addition, Seawright helped pass legislation which clarifies that lactation is a pregnancy-related condition and requires employers to make reasonable accommodations in the workplace (A.5975).

“Breastfeeding has undeniable benefits for both mom and baby,” said Seawright. “A mother should never be forced to give it up because she also works to support her family, and she should certainly never be forced to pump in a storage closet or her car.”

Earlier this year, the Assembly achieved a major victory in the fight against hate and discrimination when the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) was finally signed into law after passing it each year for over a decade (Ch. 8 of 2019).

### New Laws Taking Effect – March 2019

| Effective Date | Chapter Number  | Bill Number                                       | Summary  |
|----------------|-----------------|---|--|
| 3/5/2019       | Ch. 323 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.7470</a><br><a href="#">S. 8318</a> | Ensures that students, parents and school staff are aware of the dangers related to substance abuse and are given educational materials and access to resources for treatment. |
| 3/7/2019       | Ch. 362 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.7557</a><br><a href="#">S.5714</a>  | Requires People In Need of Supervision (PINS) agencies to review and document efforts by school districts to resolve issues with truancy or school misbehavior.                |
| 3/7/2019       | Ch. 392 of      | <a href="#">A.588-B</a>                           | Provides feminine hygiene products at no cost to individuals in state and local correctional   |

|           |                 |   |  |
|-----------|-----------------|---|--|
|           | 2018            | <a href="#">S.8821-A</a>                              | facilities.  |
| 3/21/2019 | Ch. 373 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.2688-B</a><br><a href="#">S.3780-B</a>  | Requires charitable organizations to include the website and phone number of the Charities Bureau of the Attorney General's Office in solicitations to potential donors.   |
| 3/21/2019 | Ch. 409 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.9886</a><br><a href="#">S.7891</a>      | Authorizes the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development to accept the DD Form 214 issued by the US Department of Defense as proof of the race or ethnicity of an applicant for certification as a minority-owned business.      |
| 3/21/2019 | Ch. 410 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.10311-B</a><br><a href="#">S.7373-C</a> | Allows for more firefighter skill training requirements to be completed at local departments or online, according to guidelines developed by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and New York State fire organizations. |
| 3/21/2019 | Ch. 421 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.9970-B</a><br><a href="#">S.177-C</a>   | Allows animal shelters to put stray cats up for adoption after three days, and after an exam by a veterinarian, if no owner can be identified.   |
| 3/25/2019 | Ch. 3 of 2019   | <a href="#">A.775</a><br><a href="#">S.1099</a>       | Allows individuals to have their voter registration automatically transferred to their new address in New York State.  |
| 3/28/2019 | Ch. 471 of 2018 | <a href="#">A.4903-A</a><br><a href="#">S.3491-A</a>  | Prohibits debt collection agencies from making any representation that surviving families and households are required to pay the debts of a deceased family member.  |

## In Our Community

**Seawright to Honor Women Who Live or Work in the 76th District at Awards Ceremony Thursday, March 7 at Memorial Sloan Kettering**



**Assembly Member**  
**REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**

**Women's History Month Celebration**

**• THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019 AT 6:00PM •**

*Honoring Women of Distinction in the 76th District  
Who Are Making A Difference Every Day!*

**Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Auditorium**  
430 East 67th Street  
(Between First and York  
Avenues)

To RSVP:  
Call 212-288-4607  
or email [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Event is wheelchair accessible,  
free and open to the public.

### 2019 Honorees

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
|  | <b>Keynote, Brigadier</b> |
|--|---------------------------|



***General (Ret.) Loree  
Sutton, MD***

*Founding Commissioner for  
New York City's  
Department of Veterans'  
Services (DVS)*



***Khadijah Julia  
Abduraham***

*Creator of World to  
Roosevelt Island*



***Alexandria Abenshon***

***Webster Library  
Manager***



***Ruth Berghammer***

***Upper East Side  
Community Activist***



***Lori Bores***

***Community Board 8  
Member***



***Jennilie Brewster***

***Founder and project lead  
for OPEN DOORS at Coler  
Hospital on Roosevelt  
Island***



***Alida Camp***

***Chairwoman of  
Community Board 8***



**Rossana Ceruzzi**  
**President and Founder**  
**of the Wildlife Freedom**  
**Foundation**



**Christine Crowther**  
**Executive Director of**  
**The New York Center**  
**for Children (NYCC)**



**Julia Ferguson**  
**Language Teacher at**  
**the UN International**  
**School**



**Faith Fraser**  
**Marketing Associate**  
**and Neighborhood**  
**Volunteer**



**Shakima Grant**  
**Memorial Sloan**  
**Kettering Community**  
**Affairs Specialist**



**Ruth Gutman**  
**Community Activist**  
**and Television**  
**Producer**

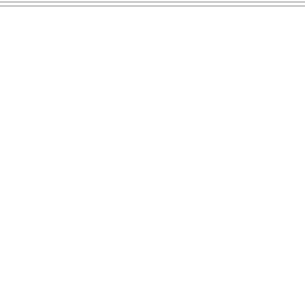
**Lori Murray**  
**19th Precinct**  
**Neighborhood**



***Coordination Officer***



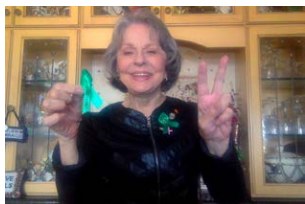
***Ashley Pappas***  
***19th Precinct***  
***Neighborhood***  
***Coordination Officer***



***Jovemay Santos***  
***Director of Therapeutic***  
***Recreation Services at***  
***Coler Hospital on***  
***Roosevelt Island***



***Lorraine Wade***  
***19th Precinct***  
***Neighborhood***  
***Coordination Officer***



***Arlene Williams***  
***Activist for Civil Rights***  
***and the Legalization of***  
***Marijuana***

**This Week's Highlights**



***A morning stretch at Chair Yoga in the District Community Office with Esther Yang.***

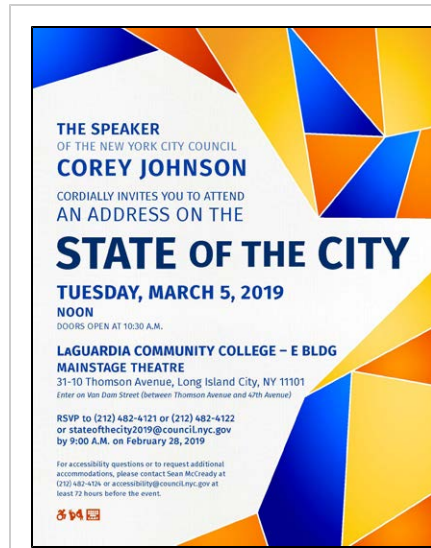




To ensure the State and City remain in compliance with relevant federal laws and rules regarding benefits issuance dates and to ensure that the gap between benefits issuance dates is as small as possible, some SNAP recipients will see their March benefits issued early, as well. This means that March 2019 SNAP benefits will be issued between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

This is a compressed seven-day schedule, rather than the usual 14-day schedule. This change will not affect other SNAP case processing timelines and will not affect Cash Assistance benefits, which continue to be issued on their normal schedule. We are advising SNAP recipients to monitor their accounts carefully. At this time, we have not been made aware of any changes to the April 2019 benefits delivery schedule.

## Upcoming Events



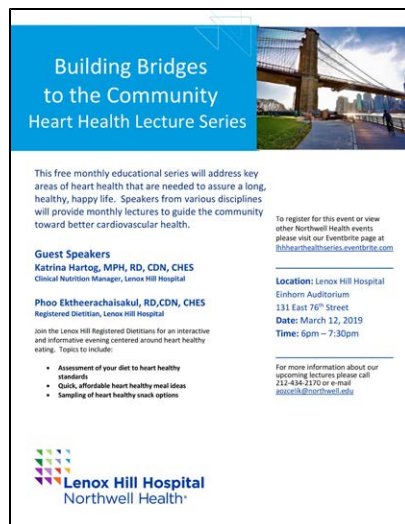
**Speaker Corey Johnson State of the City Address**

**Tuesday, March 5 - Noon**

**LaGuardia Community College- E Building**

**Mainstage Theatre, 31-10 Thomson Ave,  
Long Island City, NY 11101**

RSVP [Stateofthecity2019@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Stateofthecity2019@council.nyc.gov)



**Building Bridges to the Community – Heart Health Lecture Series**

**Tuesday, March 12 – 6:00-7:30pm**

**Einhorn Auditorium – 131 E 76<sup>th</sup> Street**

**This lecture series is free and everyone is welcome!**

**Join the Lenox Hill Hospital Registered Dietitians for an interactive and informative evening centered around heart healthy eating.**



**Department of Finance Rent Freeze Clinic**

**Friday, March 15 - 11:00am- 2:00pm**

**District Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright**

**1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)**

**Make an appointment to learn about the NYC rent freeze program!**

Call 212.288.4607 or email [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov) to schedule and appointment.

**Shred-a-thon: Erin Go Bragh 2019 Edition**

**Saturday, March 16 from 10:00am- 2:00pm**

**82nd Street Greenmarket**

**SHRED-A-THON**  
ERIN GO BRAGH 2019 EDITION



Assembly Member  
Rebecca Seawright      Council Member  
Keith Powers      Council Member  
Ben Kallos

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
**10:00AM-2:00PM**  
**82ND STREET GREENMARKET**  
**(82ND ST./ FIRST & YORK AVE.)**



Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 212-288-4607  
Office of Council Member Keith Powers, 212-818-0580  
Office of Council Member Ben Kallos, 212-860-1950

*(82nd St./ First & York Ave.)*

**AFA**  
ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

**AFA's Care Connection**  
**March 2019 Community Classes**

Connecting makes all the difference as we age. Take advantage of AFA's Education and Resource Center's community programming.  
*All classes are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FREE!*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Monday, March 4</b><br/>Chair Yoga<br/>TIME: 1:00pm-2:00pm<br/>Presented by: Tonya Sicco</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 7</b><br/>Creative Arts<br/>TIME: 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>Presented by: Margalit Catler</p> <p><b>Monday, March 11</b><br/>An Afternoon of Therapy Dogs<br/>TIME: 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>Presented by: The Good Dog Foundation</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 13</b><br/>Dramatic Improv<br/>TIME: 3:00pm-4:00pm<br/>Presented by: Kate Bell</p> | <p><b>Monday, March 18</b><br/>Jazz Concert<br/>TIME: 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>Presented by: Anthony Ferrara</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 20</b><br/>Gardening for Life: Seed Starting Workshop<br/>TIME: 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>Presented by: NYU Langone Medical Center</p> <p><b>Monday, March 25</b><br/>Ballroom Barn Dance<br/>TIME: 3:00pm-4:00pm<br/>Presented by: Rhythm Break Cares</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 28</b><br/>Broadway Concert<br/>TIME: 2:00pm-3:00pm<br/>Presented by: Sing For Your Seniors</p> |
|--|---|

AFA's Education and Resource Center  
322 8th Avenue - 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
Register online at [www.alzfdn.org/events](http://www.alzfdn.org/events) or call 866-232-8484

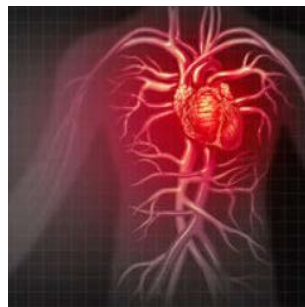
**Alzheimer's Foundation of America**

**[March Events Calendar - Click Here](#)**

**322 Eighth Avenue, Fl 7**  
**New York, NY 10001**  
**Office: 866-232-8484**



**[Webster Library March Events Calendar - Click Here](#)**



**[NY- Presbyterian March Events Calendar - Click Here](#)**

**Rebecca Seawright**  
Assembly Member

**Seawright Community Events Calendar**

Click to view, download and share free community events!

**[Check on our website for other community event postings!](#)**

## **Construction Updates**

**[Roosevelt Island Library Construction Newsletter](#)**

### **MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER & CUNY/HUNTER COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY- East 73rd/74th Street and FDR Drive site**

**Necessary construction activity will take place at the site on Saturday, March 2nd, and Sunday, March 3rd, 7:00 am– 6:00 pm.**