

August 30, 2019

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

While for many Labor Day simply means a long weekend, school right around the corner, and the final days of summer, for New Yorkers this day has special meaning. Ever since one of the first significant union strikes in the country took place in New York City, an uprising of 20,000 female shirtwaist makers against sweatshop conditions in 1909 and the ‘Triangle Shirtwaist Factory’ fire in 1911, New York has been at the forefront of the organized labor fight. In fact, the first Labor Day celebration in the country took place in New York City in 1882, six years before it would be recognized as a federal holiday. It was Samuel Gompers, the first AFL president and a New York City resident, who first called New York City the “cradle of the labor movement.” It was in New York where European immigrants in the early 20th century united together to organize strikes pushing for higher wages and safer working conditions, and in the years following World War II, New York City led the return of labor strikes and unions that was abandoned during the War. New York City was also where titans of the movement such as Samuel Gompers, President of the AFL, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, leader of the Industrial Workers of the World and founding member of the ACLU, A. Philip Randolph, leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first predominantly black labor union, Sidney Hillman, one of the founders of the CIO, and so many others got their start.

As we celebrate workers and unions of the past, we must remember that there’s still much more that needs to be done to ensure all working people are treated with equality and respect. The Assembly made great strides this past legislative session to strengthen workers’ rights and make the workplace a safer environment for all. Every worker should have modern rights and be given the compensation they deserve. That’s why I helped pass the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, which extends worker protections – including collective bargaining and mandatory overtime pay – to New York farm-workers. In addition, the Assembly remains committed to fighting for true pay equality – an issue that’s almost unfathomable to believe still exists in 2019.

To combat wage disparities, I helped pass a law that expands equal pay provisions for substantially similar work and prohibits differentials in pay based on factors including age, race, gender identity or expression, national origin and all other protected classes. Further, no one should ever feel threatened or uncomfortable at work. To that end, I helped pass a law removing the requirement that harassment be “severe or pervasive” to be legally actionable. This limited definition has caused employees to be silenced for far too long, and this law will empower more victims to tell their story and let them know we’re listening and will always work to protect them.

Our Community Office will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. Please join us at any of the upcoming events I am pleased to sponsor:

Department of Finance Rent Freeze Clinic

Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

Wednesday, September 4 from 10:00am-1:00pm

Roosevelt Island Shred-a-thon

Motorgate Turnaround, 688 Main Street

Saturday, September 14 from 10:00am-1:00pm

Emergency Preparedness Training

Cornell Tech, 2 West Loop Road, Roosevelt Island
Thursday, September 19 from 2:00pm - 3:30pm

New York State Assembly Manhattan Delegation Census Job Fair

Uptown Event -Location TBD

Thursday, September 26th from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Downtown Event-Location TBD

Wednesday, September 25th from 6:00pm-8:00pm

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca



[Click to Visit Our Website](#)

Assembly Member Seawright: On Women's Equality Day, We Are Continuing The Fight For True Pay Equity



Assembly Member Seawright alongside Congress Member Carolyn B. Maloney and other women's rights leaders, advocating for a constitutional Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in order to ensure fair and equal treatment for the 10 million women of New York State.

Gender and race should never be deciding factors in a person's chance for economic security or opportunity. New York State has always been at the forefront of progress and a steadfast advocate for women's rights. In order to continue living up to that legacy, we must fight harder than ever to uphold our state's true values – equality, fairness and respect. A key part of that fight is closing the gender pay gap. As we celebrated Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, and commemorated the ratification of the 19th Amendment, we'd like to also take a moment to let you know the strides we made this past year to make our state more equal.

Gender and racial pay gaps hurt women, families and our economy. Women across the country only earn 80 cents for every dollar a man earns. It's even less for African-American and Hispanic women, who earn 61 cents and 53 cents, respectively, for each

dollar their white male counterparts earn. Even more troubling, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) predicts that, at the current rate, we won't reach pay equity nationally for 100 years – a staggering statistic that demands corrective action. For that reason the Assembly is constantly focusing on this issue – passing two new laws this year to reach pay equity as soon as possible.

One of these measures expands equal pay provisions for substantially similar work and prohibits differentials in pay based on factors including age, race, gender identity or expression, national origin and all other protected classes. Sexism and bigotry simply have no place in our state. To further combat wage inequality, we passed a law prohibiting employers from requesting, requiring or seeking a current or prospective employee's salary or wage history as a condition of employment or promotion. Currently, four states and Puerto Rico have laws forbidding wage history questions, and earlier this year, a federal appeals court ruled that employers cannot justify paying women less based on their previous salaries.

To help ensure public employees receive equal compensation regardless of status within a protected class or classes, the Assembly passed legislation implementing a principle of fair and equal pay for substantially similar work in terms of skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. Further, the Assembly passed measures that would direct the Department of Civil Service, in conjunction with the Office of Information and Technology Services, to study and publish a report examining the wage disparities in civil service job titles. In addition, it provides public employees with a private right of action to enforce their right to equal pay for substantially similar work and ensure the state complies with the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Nearly 100 years after women won the right to vote, the fight for equality and opportunity wages on. Today, tomorrow and always, the Assembly will lead that fight, because every New Yorker deserves to be paid equally for a hard day's work.

New York State's Red Flag Laws Go Into Effect

New York State's Red Flag Law, also known as the Extreme Risk Protection Bill, went into effect last Saturday, keeping guns out of the hands of those deemed unfit to possess them, ensuring a safer New York State. The new law, which Assembly Member Seawright co-sponsored, prevents individuals who exhibit potential of harming themselves or others from possessing or purchasing any firearm. Under the new law, the court, following a hearing process, can temporarily seize the firearms of anyone who displays "red flags" such as violent behavior.

New York joins 17 other states in passing some form of Red Flag Law and is the first-in-the nation to empower teachers and other school faculty to pursue court intervention when they detect a "red flag" from a student. The law will help prevent school shootings such as the killing of 17 students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where the perpetrator was widely reported to have been disturbed and dangerous,

Regarding the Red Flag Law, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy

Pelosi stated, "These bills are bold and far-reaching, containing strong, comprehensive solutions to save lives and end the crisis of senseless gun violence in America." As New York continues to be on the forefront of gun control, Assembly Member Seawright will continue to fight to ensure the safety and security of all of New York's citizens.

Upcoming Events

LEARN ABOUT THE NYC RENT FREEZE PROGRAM!

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

&

NYC
Department of Finance

LEARN ABOUT THE SENIOR CITIZEN/ DISABLED RENT INCREASE
EXEMPTION PROGRAM FOR RENTERS IN NEW YORK CITY!

WED. SEPTEMBER 4
WED. NOVEMBER 6
10:00AM - 1:00PM

COMMUNITY OFFICE OF
ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT
1485 YORK AVE (78/79 STREETS)



TO RSVP CALL 212-288-4607
OR EMAIL SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



Carl Schurz
PARK
Conservancy

presents the 47th

**GRACIE
SQUARE
ART
SHOW**



East End Avenue
84th to 88th Streets

Saturday & Sunday
Sept. 7th & 8th, 2019
10:00am - 5:00pm

Rain or Shine
Free Admission

www.graciesquareartshow.org



Forum on the New Rent Laws



In June 2019, New York State passed landmark legislation establishing the strongest new protections for rent regulated and market rate tenants in at least a generation. At this forum you can learn about the new rent laws, how they will be implemented, and get answers to your questions.

**Tuesday
September 10th
6pm to 8:30pm**

**CUNY Graduate Center
Proshansky Auditorium
365 5th Avenue
btwn 34th and 35th Streets**

Speakers:

- Ellen Davidson
Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society
- Delsenia Glover
Executive Director, Tenants & Neighbors
- Ruth Anne Visnauskas
Commissioner, NYS Homes & Community Renewal



Sponsored By
NYS Senate Manhattan Delegation:
Senators Liz Krueger, Brian Benjamin, Brad Hoylman,
Robert Jackson, Brian Kavanagh, and Jose Serrano

RSVP at tinyurl.com/RentLawForum or by calling (212) 490-9535.

Forum on the New Rent Laws September 10th:

In June 2019, New York State enacted landmark legislation establishing the strongest new protections for rent regulated and market rate tenants in at least a generation. Learn about the new laws, how they will be implemented, and get answers to your questions. Speakers include Delsenia Glover, Executive Director, Tenants & Neighbors, Ellen Davidson, Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society, and RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner, NYS Homes & Community Renewal. The forum will take place on Tuesday, September 10th from 6 to 8:30pm at The Graduate Center, CUNY, Proshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue, between 34th and 35th Streets. RSVP required. RSVP online at tinyurl.com/RentLawForum or by calling 212-490-9535.

Roosevelt Island Community



SHRED-A-THON



**Senator
José M. Serrano**



**Assembly Member
Rebecca A. Seawright**



**Council Member
Ben Kallos**

Saturday, September 14, 2019

10:00am-1:00pm

Motorgate Turnaround

688 Main Street

(Next to Gristedes)



Office of Senator José M. Serrano, 212-828-5829
Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 212-288-4607
Office of Council Member Ben Kallos, 212-860-1950



**GOVERNOR ANDREW M.
CUOMO & NYS SENATOR
JOSÉ M. SERRANO**



INVITE YOU TO AN



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Thursday, September 19th, 2019
2:00 - 3:30 PM

Cornell Tech
2 W Loop Rd
New York, NY 10044



Learn how to prepare for emergencies and receive a

FREE NYS Disaster Preparedness Kit!

RSVP Required. Register online at

<https://prepare.ny.gov/training-events>

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP WITH REGISTRATION, PLEASE
CONTACT SENATOR SERRANO'S OFFICE AT

212-828-5829

In conjunction with:

Congressmember Carolyn Maloney, NYS Assembly Member Rebecca
Seawright, NYC Council Member Ben Kallos, & Manhattan
Community Board 8