



Assembly Member
Rebecca A.
Seawright
REPORT TO SENIOR CITIZENS



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‘We Will Not be Intimidated’: Seawright on Anti-Semitic Graffiti



On the morning of August 11, 2020, upon opening our office we discovered vandalism and a hate filled, anti-Semitic note at our doorstep. We were later joined by prominent interfaith leaders to decry any acts of intolerance in our community at a press conference in front of our district office.

Seawright stated, “We will never be intimidated by this criminal act. We have called for a hate crimes investigation. We stand before you today to denounce this disgraceful and hateful crime. We will remain vigilant.”

The incident is under investigation by the NYPD Hate Crimes Unit.

SENIOR JOB RESOURCES

The Department for the Aging’s Senior Employment Services (SESU) is a part of the federal Senior Community Service Employment Program. SESU has decades of experience placing older adults in jobs in data processing, administrative work, customer service, security services, airport services, home care, and other fields.

Participants must:

- Be 55 or older
- Live in the five boroughs
- Be unemployed
- Have a family income of no more than 125 percent of the federal poverty level
- Be willing to learn new skills

SESU prepares trainees for employment through classes on computers, customer service, job-search techniques, resume-writing, and interviewing.

For more information, call 212-602-6958 or 311 and ask for senior employment services. You can also visit SESU on the sixth floor of 2 Lafayette St. in Manhattan.

The Board of Elections in the City of New York is hiring Poll Workers to serve at poll sites across New York City.

Become an Election Day Worker and you can earn up to \$2,800 for working up to 10 days. Apply online: <https://nyc.electiondayworker.com/r/2018>. Call 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692) for additional information.

2020 Census

It’s not too late to apply for a temporary part-time position with the 2020 Census. Apply to earn extra income and help your community. Take the next step toward joining the 2020 Census team! Complete your application today. If you’ve already applied or been offered a job, check your status or review your application at 2020census.gov/jobs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the CARES act to help individuals that are negatively impacted by the coronavirus epidemic. An important component of individual relief, Economic Impact Payments, are distributed by the IRS.

If you were not required to file a 2018 or 2019 federal return, or did not provide direct deposit information on either return, you may use the IRS get my payment tool to provide direct deposit information, if they have not already sent your payment: www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment.

Seawright Cosponsors Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020

Assembly Member Seawright is proud to have cosponsored and strongly supported emergency legislation to protect tenants and homeowners:

- **A.10522** to enact the “Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020” to establish an interim residential rent relief program for low-income tenants.
- **A.10351B** to require New York State regulated banking institutions to grant 180 days of mortgage forbearance, with the option for an additional 180 days, on a residential mortgage on their primary residence to any mortgagor who can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **A.10252A** to permit municipalities to defer certain property taxes during the COVID-19 State of Emergency and permit installment payments to be determined by the local legislative body. No additional interest or penalties will accrue during such deferment.
- **A.10521** to prohibit a utility corporation or municipality from terminating or disconnecting services to any residential customer for the nonpayment of an overdue charge for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This moratorium will last 180 days from the expiration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency for those residential customers that have experienced a change in financial circumstances.

Seawright Advocated for the Rent Guidelines Board Decision to Approve a Rent Freeze for Rent-Stabilized Apartments in NYC

The RGB passed the proposal by a 6-3 vote. Rents are now frozen on one-year leases and the first year of two-year leases. During the second year of two-year agreements, landlords can bump rent up 1%. The changes will go into effect for leases beginning between October 1 and September 30, 2021.

Met Council on Housing

No-cost emergency home repairs to low-income seniors during this pandemic through SenioRepair Program. If you or someone you know is in need of repairs, call **929-292-9261**.

Housing's Hotline for Tenant's Rights

For assistance, call **212-979-0611**

- **Monday** • 1:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday** • 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday** • 1:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- **Friday** • 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Housing Court Answers

Get information on the status of housing court, COVID-19 resources, emergency repairs for your apartment, nonpayment cases and more. To reach their hotline, call **212-962-4795** Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Consider Our Office a Resource for Your Housing Questions

Sign up for our no-cost Tuesday night housing legal clinic by calling **212-288-4607**.

Tele-Health: Keeping Healthy During Quarantine

In response to the critical need to keep in touch with physicians during quarantine, Seawright cosponsored Assembly Bill 10404A to ensure audio-only and video-only telehealth and telemedicine services will be eligible for reimbursement. This legislation addresses cases in which individuals may not have access to a webcam but still receive care over the telephone and need to be covered.

Seawright Cosponsors and Passes Ballot Access Legislative Package

Ballot access is central to our democracy and we must hold the Board of Elections accountable in doing their part to educate voters, simplify the processes of voting including requests for absentee ballots, and the accurate count and validation of those ballots submitted by mail. Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we have as citizens and is essential to our democracy, and therefore, must be protected at all costs.

Our office has been working on reforming our election processes. The Governor signed my Assembly Bill 9001 to save taxpayer resources and to promote efficiency and transparency by allowing candidates to duly satisfy local and state requirements in order to run for office. We strongly supported the Executive Order by Governor Cuomo expanding voting by mail during the pandemic to ensure that voting could still take place with safety in mind. Seawright is a proponent for the registration and tracking of absentee ballots to ensure that every vote counts.

Protecting Vulnerable Nursing Home Residents

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright cosponsored legislation to establish a nursing homes “annual pandemic emergency plan” which will include protocols for:

- Communicating the status of each nursing home resident to family members
- Protecting patients, staff, and visitors from infection
- Ensuring hospitalized residents be cleared of infection before readmission to the facility
- Preserving a resident’s place in the facility if they have been hospitalized
- Ensuring the facility maintains at least a two-month supply of personal protective equipment.

In our community, Seawright advocated for our district’s Coler Hospital on Roosevelt Island by holding a press conference to spotlight COVID-19 response at Coler and to distribute life-saving personal protection equipment (PPEs) to staff. She also co-hosted a meeting with patients, advocates, elected officials, and the city’s Health + Hospitals leadership to get answers about Coler’s patient care during the crisis. As a result, a new community-based task force has been established to monitor operations at Coler, including COVID-19 testing and related protocols. Our advocacy for Coler Hospital residents on Roosevelt Island continues.



Seawright joins the East 79 Street Association in support of a 210 foot height cap on new residential developments in our neighborhood.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Betty Cooper Wallerstein, President of the East 79 Street Neighborhood Association.

Additionally, Seawright is proud to cosponsor and strongly support the following measures passed by the Assembly this session:

Automatic Voter Registration - would allow state and local agencies to provide the New York State Board of Elections with voter registration information for people that submit an application for services or assistance.

Legislation to promote the timely use of absentee ballots during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Assuring voters concerned about the transmission of COVID-19 that they may obtain an absentee ballot (A.10833)
- Allowing applications for absentee ballots to be processed earlier than 30 days before the election, as provided by current law (A.10807)
- Imposing a presumption that an absentee ballot envelope without a postmark is timely if it is received at the board of elections by mail the day after the election (A.10808-A)
- Allowing a number of current defects on an absentee ballot envelope to be timely “cured” by a voter after notice from the board of elections (A.10830)

SENIOR CITIZEN RESOURCES

New York Coronavirus Hotline • New York State has established a helpline for employees to report their employer if they believe they are not following proper PPE, hygiene, and social distancing guidelines. Employees can call 888-364-3065.

Worker Protection Hotline • Individuals can call 311 or 212-436-0381 with questions regarding reopening, health and safety guidelines for their workplace, or to report their employers if they are not following reopening guidelines.

Protecting Your Pets • As a reminder, the Animal Care Centers of New York is encouraging pet owners to have a plan in place for your pet in case you need to go to the hospital. If you need assistance, you can all call the NYC COVID-19 Pet Hotline seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at 877-204-8821.

Need someone to talk to? Try Search and Care's "Talkin' it Out" program • Talkin' it Out is free of charge for adults 60+ and provides safe, confidential, one-on-one telephonic counseling where you can privately express your thoughts and feelings, with no judgement or commitment. Call Search and Care's Millie or Chris (both bilingual social workers) to learn more. Let's "Talk it Out" can be reached at 212-289-5300.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) • NYC Department for the Aging is continuing to offer their Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. This program is designed to provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program •

Coupon Sign-Up:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/dfta-farmers-market-2020

Coupons can be used at the following greenmarkets in our area:

82nd Street Saint Stephen's Greenmarket

• Open Year-Round on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(82nd Street, between First and York)

92nd Street Greenmarket

• Open June 21- November 22 on Sundays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
(92nd Street and First Avenue)

Visiting Nurse Service of New York Virtual Exercise and Wellness Presentation • VNSNY CHOICE launched a series of online classes and workshops. They have partnered with community groups, including local community centers, senior advocacy groups and health and wellness experts to deliver these programs. The virtual exercise events will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Visit: www.vnsnychoice.org/attend-events.

YMCA • Stay healthy with workouts designed for older adults. Visit: www.ymcanyc.org/ymca-home/for-seniors
Seawright is committed to being a part of the COVID-19 crisis response including meal deliveries to homebound seniors.

LiveOn NY •

LiveOn NY is an authorized enroller for the GetFoodNYC program and able to register New Yorkers for home delivered meals. For those in need of home delivered meals, please reach out to their Benefits Outreach program number by calling 212-398-5045 or emailing benefits@liveon-ny.gov.



Volunteer Jane Foss joins Assembly Member Seawright in distributing no-cost PPE supplies.

GetCool Air Conditioner Program • The City of New York is providing free air conditioners through the GetCool Air Conditioner Program to seniors who pre-qualify based on their enrollment in City benefits programs. Those who are eligible for the program will be contacted by a City case manager.

Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) • Toll-Free Caregiver Hotline: (866) 665-1713. PSS is an innovative, multi-service nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency whose mission is to strengthen the capacity of older New Yorkers, their families, and communities to thrive.

NYS COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline • 1-844-863-9314

NYS Domestic Violence Hotline • 1-800-942-6906

NYC Domestic Violence Hotline • 1-800-621-HOPE

Price Gouging Hotline • 800-697-1220

24-Hour Coronavirus Hotline • 1-888-364-3065

Census Self-Response • 844-330-2020

Diagnostic Testing Sites in NYC •

All New Yorkers are now eligible for free COVID testing, regardless of whether you have symptoms or are at an increased risk. Call our office or 311 to find your nearest site.

NYC H + H is continuing to operate their NYC Test and Trace Corps. If you test positive for COVID-19, you will receive a call from the Test and Trace Corps. These calls

will either appear on caller ID as "Test and Trace," or a 212 number. Contact tracers will never ask for your Social Security number, your immigration status, any private financial information, or a credit card number.

Beat the Heat With HEAP Assistance • The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that helps low-income homeowners and renters pay for utility and heating bills.

If you have received an electric, gas, or heating disconnect notice, you can apply for emergency financial help. You may also qualify for help if you have a low supply of heating fuel or a broken boiler or furnace. Active SNAP/Cash Assistance clients and clients receiving SSI who live alone are automatically eligible for HEAP benefits. For more information on HEAP, contact the Manhattan Department of Social Services at 212-331-3126.

Additionally, families and individuals who meet certain criteria can apply for the Utility Assistance Program (UAP) for financial assistance to help pay their energy bills. If you meet the requirements for UAP, contact 212-331-3150.

Con Edison • As a reminder, Con Edison will not be shutting off anyone's power for failure to pay during this pandemic. If your bill is more than you can pay right now, you may be able to arrange a flexible payment agreement by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).

Department of Motor Vehicles •

On July 6th, limited in-person transactions began at DMV locations across New York City. Driver licenses, non-driver identification cards and vehicle registration that expired on or after March 1, 2020 were extended, along with vehicle inspections that expired on March 31, 2020. The enforcement deadline for the REAL ID has been extended to October 1, 2021. For more information: <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/dmv-reopening-guidance>.



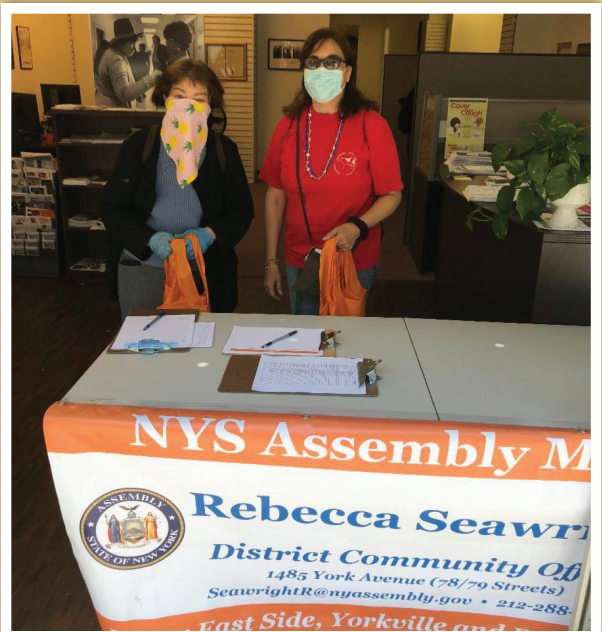
Volunteers Bradley Hershenson and the Honorable Judge James Clynes pack senior meals at the Isaacs Center for Meals on Wheels with the Assembly members weekly volunteer program.



Delivering senior meals to those who were homebound during the pandemic.

Seawright Distributes Thousands of Personal Protective Equipment Kits at District Office Giveaways

Seawright held giveaways of personal protective face coverings and hand sanitizer out of the local York Avenue storefront community office. The first giveaway of the series was held on Thursday, May 21, and was attended by over 200 constituents where she gave away over 1,000 face coverings and hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizer. To date, she has given away over 4,000 pieces of vital PPE to prevent the spread.



Volunteers Jane Foss and Georgette Anagnostaras-Petersen.



Our district office is here for you! Please stop by to have your questions answered, or to pick up Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Seawright with constituent Mark Zeller discussing the new rent relief program authorized by the New York State Legislature.

Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
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Assembly Member
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Report to Senior Citizens

Seawright Works with Former Long-Time Assembly Member and First Deputy State Comptroller on Reopening Our Neighborhood

Alexander “Pete” Granis shared information on how to claim your unclaimed funds by calling 1-800-221-9311. New York State’s Abandoned Property Law requires certain entities to transfer abandoned money or securities to the New York State Comptroller’s Office of Unclaimed Funds. Unclaimed funds can include, for ex-



ample, banks, insurance companies, corporations, and state agencies. The funds come from inactive bank accounts, uncollected insurance policies or refunds, amounts due for undelivered goods or services, abandoned stocks, uncashed checks and more.

In early March, our office launched “Virtual Town Hall Tuesday,” a live streaming show delivering vital information directly to constituents. To date, we have live-streamed 17 shows and counting. Remember to send your questions for the show which streams Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. on my Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright>.



Seawright delivers senior meals on Roosevelt Island.