

# Rebecca Seawright



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*There are many reasons to remain vigilant, and get vaccinated to protect yourself and your neighbors from COVID-19. SUNY leadership made the case in an Opinion Editorial in the New York Daily News today. Chancellor Jim Malatras, Trustee and President of the SUNY Student Assembly Brad Hershenson, and President of the SUNY United University Professions Fred Kowal wrote that despite limitations of labor rules and the lack of full FDA approval for students, the State University of New York implemented a comprehensive policy that requires students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated or be subject to weekly testing, mask wearing, social distancing, restrictions on housing and extracurricular activities. We are pleased to see that SUNY is leading the way, and setting an example for other institutions.*

*You may have heard that the CDC released new guidance on mask wearing. The State and City are reviewing the CDC's new recommendations closely in consultation with federal and state health experts. As there is a rise in COVID cases in New York State and across the country, due to the Delta variant, the State and City are working to curb the spread with vaccine incentives including \$100 cash payments at city-run vaccination sites. More information on masking is forthcoming according to health officials.*

*NYC Homecoming Week will be a citywide celebration, featuring live concerts at iconic venues, free movie screenings, cultural activities, public art, and more. Homecoming Concerts have been announced and are happening during the week of August 16-20. To sign up for email updates on NYC Homecoming Week events and tickets, go to [nyc.gov/HomecomingWeek](https://nyc.gov/HomecomingWeek).*

*Baseball is now the official sport of New York State. Governor Cuomo today signed legislation (S.5363/A.5156) designating baseball as the official sport of the state of New York. This bill was proposed by a Cooperstown Elementary School 4th grade class. The National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is returning to Cooperstown after a COVID-19 pause. Cooperstown, NY is the birthplace of baseball and home to some of the most popular teams in the sport including the New York Yankees and New York Mets, as well as the New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers which moved to*

*San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively, in 1957.*

*Please join us for one of the events we are pleased to sponsor:*

- *Tuesday, August 3 at 2:00 pm by telephone- **No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.** [RSVP here.](#)*
- *Tuesday, August 3 from 5:00 pm- 8:00pm- **NYPD 19th Precinct National Night Out** at John Jay Park, East 77 Street and Cherokee Place.*
- *Thursday, August 5, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)- **No-Cost Face Covering Giveaway.** [RSVP here.](#)*
- *Thursday, August 5, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Zoom- **Virtual Knitting Social.** [RSVP here.](#)*

*Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.*

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

*Sincerely,*



**As Featured In...**

**OUR TOWN**   
*The local paper for the Upper East Side*

**Schumer and Seawright Hear from UES Leaders**

By Emily Higginbotham



*"... John Philips, who owns and operates the Mansion Diner, spoke of a common pain the restaurant industry in particular has felt through the pandemic with the major loss in revenue.*

*He said that if the city were to shut down again in response to another wave, his decades-old family business would likely go under. He said he did not receive any money from the \$26 billion Restaurant Relief Fund.*

*Schumer said he is working to put more money for restaurants in the legislation..."*

[Read the full article by Emily Higginbotham in Our Town.](#)

## As Featured in Daily News Opinion: Vaccinate New York's Public Colleges Now

By JIM MALATRAS, BRADLEY HERSHENSON and FRED KOWAL



### ***MALATRAS, HERSHENSON AND KOWAL: VACCINATE NEW YORK'S PUBLIC COLLEGES NOW...***

*"... SUNY is leading the way. But let's not wait for a full mandate. Let's take charge of our destiny this fall by getting every SUNY student and staff member vaccinated now, so we can focus on what college should be about — rich classroom learning experiences, new*

connections, the kinship of sports and clubs, all the things we've missed most over the past 18 months. We are now a little more than halfway through SUNY's #30DayVaxChallenge to urge students and staff to get vaccinated before returning to campus. SUNY students are leading the effort..." [Read more here.](#)

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## Seawright Lauds New York State Announcement of Sweeping \$125 Million Debt Relief Program For At Least 50,000 Students

The CUNY Comeback Program is a sweeping plan to eliminate up to \$125 million in debt for at least 50,000 students who attended CUNY and suffered financial hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative is one of the nation's largest student debt forgiveness plans of its kind.

*"The CUNY Comeback Program is a major step forward in helping tens of thousands of students get an education and pursue their biggest dreams. An investment in CUNY is an investment in the future of our state and city. I am proud to be a CUNY Law alumni!"* said Seawright.

Additionally, students who did not accrue unpaid tuition and fee balances during the period but experienced financial hardship stemming from the pandemic will receive relief in the form of enhanced Student Emergency Grants.

Many CUNY students come from communities that were the hardest hit by the pandemic and its resultant economic fallout. During the pandemic, students' debt to CUNY nearly doubled. The objective of the CUNY Comeback Program is to remove financial barriers to access the education New Yorkers of limited means need to move up the economic ladder.

The program will be funded through federal stimulus assistance allocated to CUNY through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December 2020 and President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act, which was passed by Congress in March.

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## Seawright Election Reform Updates

*Ballot access is central to our democracy and we must hold the Board of Elections accountable, simplify the processes of voting including requests for absentee ballots, and the accurate count and validation of those ballots submitted by mail.*

*Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is proud to cosponsor and strongly support the following measures in the Assembly:*

### EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO VOTING

(Signed into law)

A4448A: Restoring voting rights to citizens of New York State who are on parole.

A2574: Expanding participating agencies to include the State University of New York as a designated Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) agency.

### STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

(Passed both houses)

A5424-A: Enacting the "Make Voting Easy Act" to require the Board of Elections to designate at least one early voting polling place for every thirty thousand registered voters in each county.

A4431: A Constitutional Amendment allowing "no-excuse" absentee voting.



A502: A Constitutional Amendment allowing same-day voter registration.

A6046: Making permanent the option to submit a request for an absentee ballot online.

A6047-A: Permanently changing the last day to postmark an absentee ballot to Election Day. Temporarily allowing voters flexibility when asking for an absentee ballot during the COVID-19 pandemic by permitting a ballot to be requested without a signed application.

A2168: Requiring the posting of information concerning a change in the location of a polling place.

A6220: Ensuring access to absentee ballots at nursing homes, residential care facilities and other facilities under Department of Health jurisdiction.

A4364: Allowing party designations and nominations to be conducted virtually.

A7931: Expediting the count of absentee ballots.

### **BUILDING MOMENTUM**

**(Election Bills Introduced, Cosponsored by Seawright)**

A5691: Professionalizing the NYC Board of Elections.

A454A: Requiring poll sites for districts that serve a certain concentration of college voters to be located on campus.

A482: Authorizing college students to act as poll workers in their college's election district.

A4128A: Allowing boards of elections to establish absentee ballot drop box locations.

A4189: Providing a separate line at polling places for people with disabilities.

A38: Requiring the Board of Elections to notify absentee voters of the status off their absentee ballot and to correct an unaccepted ballot.

A6685: Requiring the reporting of contributions by business entities and individuals.

A4255: Creating a website where voters can check the status of their absentee ballot.

## **Small Business Recovery Grants**

**A Message from the PACE Small Business Development:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that it will launch a streamlined **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** forgiveness application portal on August 4 to allow borrowers with PPP loans of \$150,000 or less to apply for forgiveness directly through the SBA.

The new **streamlined PPP application portal** will accept applications from borrowers that have a PPP loan with a **participating lender** that opted into the forgiveness portal, simplifying forgiveness for millions of small businesses.

PPP borrowers can check out the **Direct Forgiveness Portal User Guide** for detailed instructions or attend an SBA-sponsored training session on the new SBA Direct Forgiveness Portal - **click here for upcoming dates**.

The SBA is also setting up a PPP customer service team to directly assist borrowers with their forgiveness applications. Borrowers needing assistance can call 1-877-552-2692, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. or **meet with a Pace SBDC Business Advisor**

## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

New Yorkers who have been unable to pay rent due to the impacts of COVID-19 can apply for help through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Emergency Rental

Assistance Program (ERAP). Both tenants and landlords can apply for ERAP benefits. Payments are made directly to landlords. To view eligibility details and to apply, [visit this link](#). You can direct questions to the State's ERAP call center: 844-NY1-RENT(844-691-7368) or the hearing-impaired TTY number: 1-833-843-8829.

## Re-Opening Updates

### Open Restaurants / Sidewalk Cafes Text Amendment

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of City Planning (DCP) are proposing a citywide zoning text amendment that will allow the DOT to administer the Permanent Open Restaurant program (POR). The proposal will remove sidewalk café regulations from the Zoning Resolution to increase geography eligibility as sidewalk cafes will become part of a unified sidewalk and roadway outdoor dining program administered at DOT. View the material for this [here](#).

[Community Board 8 wants your feedback on the open restaurants program at a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 2nd at 6:30 PM.](#)

### Reopening of HRA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Job Center, and Medicaid locations

Masks will be required in all locations, and self-service drop boxes for completed Cash Assistance (CA), SNAP and HEAP applications will be available at all CA and SNAP sites, in addition to the self-service PC banks and scanners available at the majority of HRA SNAP and Job Centers.

Our local HRA site:

#### East End

2322 Third Avenue, Manhattan

Client Reopening Date\*: [August 9, 2021](#)

Up-to-date information on the opening status of HRA Centers, along with maps and opening hours, is displayed on the HRA Locations page on the [website](#). Clients can apply for SNAP or CA online anytime via ACCESS HRA without having to visit an office location in person. Clients age 65 and older or who have a disability may call HRA's Medicaid Helpline at 1-888-692-6116 to request a Medicaid application. All other clients should apply for Medicaid through the New York State of Health available at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or by calling 1-855-355-5777.

### City Artist Corps

[City Artist Corps Grants is part of City Artist Corps, a new \\$25 million recovery initiative designed to help artists who were both hard hit by the pandemic and who may have been left out of other local and federal funding opportunities. Follow the Link for More Info](#)

# Curbside composting sign up is coming. Get notified!

Let us turn your food scraps and yard waste into compost and clean energy. Using your brown bin keeps your neighborhood clean, and helps fight climate change.

**Make Compost, Not Trash.**



**To be notified when the curbside composting sign up form is available,** register at [nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting](https://nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting) or call 311.

We need you—this FREE service can't begin until enough residents in your neighborhood sign up.

   NYCsanitation • NYCzerowaste



**sanitation**

## COVID-19 Vaccination Information

By Labor Day, all state employees will be required to either get vaccinated or get tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis

We look forward to working closely with our brothers and sisters in labor to implement the program quickly and fairly. This vaccination or testing requirement will help ensure the health and safety of our incredible workforce at a time when Delta is spreading.

**NEW YORK CITY \$100 VACCINE INCENTIVES – \$100 for ANYONE getting their first dose at sites using [vax4nyc.nyc.gov](https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov)**

If you get your first vaccine dose at a New York City-run vaccine location, you will be

eligible to choose one of the incentives listed below, including a \$100 pre-paid debit card as of July 30, 2021. If an individual receives their first dose on July 28 or 29, they should wait until July 30 to go to [www.vax4nyc.nyc.gov/incentives](http://www.vax4nyc.nyc.gov/incentives) to redeem their \$100 pre-paid debit card. People ages 18 and older can also enter to win exclusive prizes. Once your first COVID-19 vaccine dose is complete, you will receive an email with instructions on how to select your money or incentive and enter the contest.

### **NYC Vaccine Referral Bonus Organization Application**

The City is seeking civic groups to perform outreach to encourage New Yorkers to get vaccinated. Approved organizations will receive \$100 for every individual they refer that receives their first vaccine dose at a City-run vaccination site. Organizations will be able to earn up to \$20,000 (i.e. 200 referrals).

<https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/VaccineReferralBonus>

#### Visit the New York State Vaccine Site Locator

Call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

#### or Visit the New York City Vaccine Site Locator

Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)

If you are unable to get to a vaccine site, NYC will bring the vaccine to you! Sign up now for an in-home vaccination and get the protection you need, without having to leave the comfort of your home.

Phone: 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)

Website: <http://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home>

### **Walgreens/Duane Reade**

(800) 925-4733

1524 2nd Avenue, Manhattan, 10075

1328 2nd Avenue, Manhattan, 10021

401 East 86th Street, Manhattan, 10028

1111 3rd Avenue, Manhattan, 10065

1498 York Avenue, Manhattan, 10075

## **Upcoming Events**



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**TUES. AUGUST 3**

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 2:00 PM ATTORNEYS FROM  
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE  
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL  
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST  
FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE  
76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, A  
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL  
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE PHONE  
SESSION WITH ATTENDEES.**



**SCAN ME TO  
RSVP!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:**

**CALL: 212-288-4607**

**EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

**RSVP to the Legal Clinic**

**FREE!  
RAIN OR  
SHINE**



**Music,  
Refreshments,  
Giveaways &  
More!**

POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

# **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2021**

**JOIN THE ROOSEVELT ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT & YOUR NEIGHBORS TO BUILD A STRONGER  
AND SAFER COMMUNITY**

**AUGUST 3, 2021  
6 PM - 9 PM**

**GOOD SHEPHERD PLAZA  
543 MAIN STREET**

**TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING COMMUNITIES  
SAFER, MORE CARING PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK**



**Roosevelt Island  
Operating Corporation**



# WE'RE BACK!

Come celebrate NYC's re-opening! Join the NYPD, the 19th Precinct Community Council, and your neighbors to build a stronger, safer community. There will be raffles and entertainment for the whole family. The first 200 people to arrive receive an extra special treat!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 2021

5-8 PM

JOHN JAY PARK



EAST 77TH ST AND CHEROKEE PLACE



## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

LESTER'S  
CLOTHING - SHOES - ACCESSORIES



212.452.0613 |   @NYPD19Pct



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## METROCARD BUS

STOPS HERE (79/York):

**WED. 8/4, 8/18**

**10:00AM- 12:00PM**

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REFILL YOUR  
METROCARD

APPLY FOR  
REDUCED FARE

CASH ONLY





# NO-COST NOTARY

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)



[View as Webpage](#)



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