

Assemblymember
Tony Simone

Assembly District 75



DISTRICT OFFICE

214 West 29th Street, Suite 1002, New York, NY 10001
212-807-7900
simonet@nyassembly.gov

ALBANY OFFICE

LOB 326, Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4941
simonet@nyassembly.gov

Dear friends,

I hope you're staying dry today and looking forward to a joyful, restful Thanksgiving!

The City has put out a weather alert for today and tomorrow which can be found below. Also below can found updates on my legislation and what I've been up to in the community!

My Community Office at 214 West 29th Street, 212-807-7900, Simonet@nyassembly.gov is here to help you in any way we can. Please contact us if you're having a problem with a government agency, your landlord, a utility, or if you have concerns about the neighborhood.

Tony

Weather Advisory

There is a weather advisory in effect today (11/21) and tomorrow (11/22) so please read the information below, especially if you plan to travel during this time:

- Anticipated citywide rainfall is 1-2 inches, potentially higher in some areas, leading to coastal flooding. Wind speeds of 30-40 mph are forecasted, with gusts up to 45 mph along the southeast coast.
- Allow for extra travel time. New Yorkers are urged to use public transportation. If traveling, check with your airline or airport on any possible delays or changes.
- If you must drive, drive slowly. Use major streets or highways for travel whenever possible.
- If you live in a basement apartment in a flood prone area, prepare to move to higher ground.
- Do not drive into flooded streets or enter flooded subway stations.

- Check on friends, relatives, and neighbors, especially older adults and people with disabilities, access and functional needs, or health conditions. Help them to prepare if needed.
- For more safety tips, [visit NYC Severe Weather.](#)

Upcoming Event

The Medicare open enrollment period ends December 7. In order to help you make the most informed decisions, I am hosting an information session in partnership with Esco Pharmacy, Hudson Guild and Penn South Program for Seniors. We will be joined by a certified Medicare insurance planner who can help answer any questions you may have, including how to lower prescription costs!

Date: Wednesday, November 29th

Time: 11am-1pm

Location: Hudson Guild Elliott Center, 441 W 26th Street

[Click here to RSVP](#)

You can submit questions in advance through the RSVP link.



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

TONY SIMONE

Questions about enrolling? Want lower Rx costs? Need help maximizing your entitlements?

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION SESSION

Have your questions answered by a Certified Medicare Insurance Planner!

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, 11AM TO 1 PM
HUDSON GUILD ELLIOT CENTER
441 WEST 26TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10001

Sign up link: bit.ly/Simone-Medicare



Recent News

Veto of Pet Food Accountability Act

I was greatly disappointed (as was Radar) by the Governor's vetoing of A.7658, which I passed in the Assembly, and which would have regulated the labeling and marketing of pet food. Currently pet food is not legally required to meet the criteria for edible food, and is actually classified as animal feed. Without any regulations prohibiting this 'feed' from being labeled as "premium natural pet food" and using appealing pictures of food on the bag, pet owners are being kept in the dark and misled about what it is they are feeding their beloved companions. This bill would establish the "human food grade" designation which would allow pet owners to make informed decisions about what they are bringing into their homes and feeding their companions. A "human food grade" designation will clearly indicate that a food meets basic safety and quality standards used for human food, but was designed for the unique nutritional needs of pets. I will continue to negotiate with the Governor's office to achieve a law that allows people to make informed decisions about what they are feeding their pets.



The Rev. Christine Lee met my best friend Radar at St. Peter's Chelsea for their annual Blessing of the Animals event! I passed the Pet Food Accountability Act to help Radar and all of our pets!

New law! Streamlining Nonprofit Administration

Nonprofits serve New Yorkers in so many ways and it is critical they are managed and use their resources as efficiently as possible. Legislation I passed, A.6940, brings our law up to modern governance standards so organizations can focus more time on their mission and servicing communities, and less on red tape. I'm grateful for Senator Leroy Comrie who passed the bill in the Senate and Governor Hochul for signing the bill into law.

Community Town Hall

I hosted a community town hall at Hartley House on October 28th, and we had a wonderful turnout! Thank you to Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, and Councilmember Erik Bottcher for joining me on the panel, to London Terrace Tenant Association President Inge Ivchenko for moderating, and to everyone who turned out! We

discussed a number of issues, including: sidewalk and pedestrian safety; the future of NYCHA; the renovation plans for Penn Station; public safety and the mental health crisis; and more.

[You can read about the town hall in Chelsea Community News here.](#)



One Fair Wage

I'm proud to have stood beside Attorney General Tish James and Assemblymember Jessica Golzalez-Rojas to call for a One Fair Wage for New Yorkers! Working as a waiter was one of the hardest jobs I ever had, and it is unacceptable that those who literally serve us are not paid enough to live comfortably in our city. We must pass One Fair Wage legislation so that every working person is paid a living wage! [Read more here in Our Town.](#)

Entrance Re-opens at Penn Station

I am happy to announce that the entrance to Penn Station on 7th Avenue at 32nd Street has reopened! It's now 50% wider and fully accessible with a new elevator. How we enter and exit our transit systems matters, which is why I'm working to ensure we have grand entrances on the 8th Ave side of the new Penn!



Addressing Public Safety Issues on West 42nd Street

While crime has been steadily trending down since the height of the pandemic, there are still serious public safety issues in our district that I am working to address. One of the most concerning areas is West 42nd Street between 8th and 9th Avenue where there is a daycare center situated and there have been multiple violent crimes committed just this year.

To address issues there, I organized a walkthrough of the area with the NYPD, the Department of Homeless Services, the Port Authority, the District Attorney's office, State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, and Councilmember Erik Bottcher. After the walkthrough and listening to testimonies from constituents who work in the area and frequently experience these issues, we met to discuss solutions. I'm hopeful that we will see real change in this area as long as we all continue working together and giving this area the attention it needs.



Phase Three Kickoff of New Hudson River Tunnel Construction

New York City has been in dire need of a new Hudson River tunnel so I am pleased to have watched US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, US Senator Chuck Schumer, and Governor Kathy Hochul's kick off of the phase 3 of the Gateway concrete casing construction project. With phase 3, we are one step closer to building a new Hudson River tunnel that will improve service and decrease disruptions. [Read more about it here.](#)

Volunteering with Hell's Kitchen's Litter Legion

Congratulations to the Litter Legion on winning the W42ST newspaper's 2023 Best Community Organization Award! I'm grateful for all the invaluable work that Litter Legion does to keep our neighborhood clean and safe. I had a great time helping to clean up the street with them this month!



Panel on LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness

I was honored to be a panelist at the Somos forum on LGBTQ+ youth homelessness in New York and Puerto Rico. In 2021, 28% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives — and those who did had two to four times the odds of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those with stable housing. We must fight to protect these extremely vulnerable young people, and to end bigotry so that one day, all young people feel safe and loved in their own homes. Thank you to the Ali Forney Center and Casa Ramón for joining me on the panel and for their advocacy on this issue.

To learn more about the services provided by the Ali Forney Center [click here](#).

Get Vaccinated!

If you have not yet received your flu vaccine or covid booster this year, please make an appointment! It's important to get vaccinated not just to protect ourselves, but also to protect our

older and immune-compromised fellow New Yorkers! Thank you to Esco Pharmacy for their help administering doses during the two flu vaccine events I hosted earlier this month!

[Find a vaccine provider here!](#)

Winter Coat Drive

As winter approaches, it is crucial that we help our neighbors who are struggling with the cold. I was glad to join Community Board 4 and Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries for their coat drive this year. Donations of all kinds are still needed so please reach out to our office and we can connect you with a local charity group!



Halloween Celebrations!

I had a great time this Halloween celebrating with my neighbors and seeing all of the amazing costumes! Big shout out to the West 69th St BA, Karen Jacobs & the West 22nd St community, and neighbors at Penn South for all you do to make Halloween fun for all!



Fun at the West 50's Block Association Social!

It was wonderful to see so many neighbors and friends at the West 50th Neighborhood Association's social! We had a great evening, discussing issues and sharing ideas on making New York a city for everyone.



Upcoming West Side Tenants Conference

Have your housing and tenants rights questions answered at the 18th Annual West Side Tenants Conference, hosted by West Side Neighborhood Alliance and Housing Conservation Coordinators, where I am excited to be giving the keynote address! The conference will be on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:30am to 4pm at Fordham Law School at 150 West 62nd Street. They will be providing free breakfast and lunch! [Sign up here.](#)

THE 18TH ANNUAL WEST SIDE TENANTS' CONFERENCE

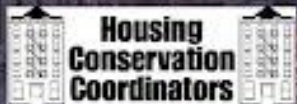
DECEMBER 2, 2023
9:30 - 4 PM

Fordham Law School
150 W 62nd St
Free breakfast & lunch

WORKSHOPS ON:

- FIGHTING FOR TENANTS RIGHTS IN ALBANY
- ORGANIZING YOUR BUILDING
- HOW TO WIN REPAIRS
- STOPPING AIRBNB
- HUD 101
- IMMIGRATION & HOUSING
- OLDER ADULT ISSUES

More info
+ RSVP:
bit.ly/WSTC2023
Or call our mainline
(212)-541-5996



FREE CONFERENCE, ORGANIZED BY HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS INC. IN COALITION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND TENANT ADVOCATES