



Assemblyman

CHARLES BARRON

Reports to the People



Assemblymember Charles Barron welcomed to the New York State Assembly chamber.

Dear People of East NY,

Thank you for electing me to represent you in the New York State Assembly, in Albany. My first six months have been historic and extremely productive. We have a new Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Speaker Carl Heastie of the Bronx, the first African American Speaker in the history of the New York State Assembly. You would be proud to know that your newly elected Assembly member played an important role in this historic leadership transition.

During the budget process we were a strong outspoken voice for working families in general and Black and Latino communities

in particular. We initiated and supported legislation regarding missing persons, senior citizens, homeowners, renters, and our youth, just to name a few. Presently two pieces of legislation of which I was the prime sponsor, passed both houses (Assembly and Senate) and are sitting on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed into law.

I've been appointed to the committees on Aging, Energy, Social Services, Economic Development, Small Businesses, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In addition I was appointed Chairperson of the sub-committee on Community Integration of Seniors. We also secured 2 million dollars for security cameras for our NYCHA developments, 1.5 million dollars for capital projects and one hundred thousand dollars for programs for our libraries, senior centers, and our youth (this is a partial list of accomplishments). This is quite a bit for six months!

Living under this capitalist system, with its systemic racism, we have an awesome responsibility to unite and fight for social justice, economic liberation, and radical systemic change. We must get this state and its \$142 billion dollar budget to prioritize human need over human greed and people over profits. United we will win. Remember the struggle may be long, but our victory is certain. History is on our side! Forward ever!

EAST NEW YORK RISING

Priority Projects

Libraries in East NY are long overdue for upgrades, increased access, and program support. Your local library has been used to host meetings, assist in access to citizenship, and have been educational hubs for youth during afterschool hours. Even with these facts, libraries have been overlooked for resources they needed. Assemblyman Barron was able to utilize the priority money received for the district to give the three libraries in the district a head start in a long makeover process.



Melinda Perkins, Executive Director of East NY Restoration LDC. Employees of Man UP! Inc.



East New York Restoration and Man Up Inc. Since their inception they have served as a boon in our community by providing job development, small business support, youth programming and community development. The support they provide is also extended through community events using culture to strengthen relationships between schools and community based organizations. Assemblyman Barron utilized another portion of priority money to provide support for the organizations that support job creation, cultural upliftment, and the youth in our community.

Our senior centers remain a priority for the Assemblyman and thus a portion of priority money was allocated for them. The African proverb "the old woman looks after the child to grow its teeth and the young one in turn looks after the old woman when she loses her teeth" says it best. We've got to look after our seniors.

Community Concerns

The health of our community is extremely important to our future. This is why we cannot afford to have any more hospitals closing in our neighborhoods! When we learned that our very own Brookdale Hospital could lose several units that safeguard our health, action was taken. Assemblyman Barron collaborated with a team of elected officials, hospital workers, 1199, and the Brookdale administration to determine how to rectify the issues with these units. After several meetings and discussions, solutions were proposed that assured the pediatric intensive care unit, physical therapy and occupational therapy unit, and the HIV/AIDS units stay open.

Staying on theme, **Assemblyman Barron and other elected officials** were able to advocate early and loudly on the budget to secure 700 million dollars for East Brooklyn hospitals. This acquisition will help provide a much needed upgrade to the campus and medical equipment for our local hospital, transforming Brookdale into a comprehensive state of the art medical institution.

The call for cameras in our housing developments has been a long call that seemed to continuously fall on deaf ears. The safety of our neighborhood was always the underlying message of these cameras being present. These cameras would serve as a deterrent for potential dangerous situations like we experienced last summer in the death of young Prince Joshua Avitto. Assemblyman Barron was able to secure 2 million in funds for cameras in Boulevard, Pink, Cypress, and Breukelen housing developments.

Sponsored Legislation

Prime Sponsor

A7628-A PASSED 6/15/15- Establishes an interagency council for the purpose of coordinated planning on issues related to older adults

The purpose of this bill is to improve interagency planning and ensure coordinated planning across all areas for the support of older adults by creating an interagency council. This council connects Office for Aging, Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office for Persons with Develop-

mental Disabilities, Division of Housing and Community renewal, Department of Labor, Department of Financial Services, Department of Transportation, and the Office of Children and Family Services. One council will now be comprised of these various departments to better serve our seniors.

Co-Sponsor

A5062 PASSED 5/27/15- New York Health Plan

The goal of the bill is to replace the multi-payer system of employer-based insurance, individually purchased coverage and federally sponsored programs with a single system that charges consumers based on their income and ability to pay. This bill would create a universal single payer health plan -New York Health - to provide comprehensive health coverage for all New Yorkers.

Passed Legislation

"Missing Persons Bill" - A7468 PASSED 6/17/15

A7468- This legislation amends the executive law in requiring police agencies to take reports of missing adults whenever the adult is reported to be missing. In short, this piece of legislation creates a permanent record of missing persons so that if the person shows up at a hospital or morgue, the family may be alerted immediately. This legislation will help families to avoid the fate of Dr. Anita Fowler, and her family in their six year search for her son LaMont Dottin, whose unidentified remains were buried in Potter's field.

"Underground Safety Bill" - A7640 PASSED 6/9/15

A7640- This legislation requires that any municipality which contracts for excavation of underground facilities shall require the excavator to have completed the training and education program provided by the state's one-call notification system. This legislation can safeguard communities and workers alike from avoidable disasters potentially fatal outcomes. Excavators now must complete a training that gives them the knowledge of the underground landscape.



Assemblyman Charles Barron speaks on the budget in the Assembly chamber.

ON THE HORIZON

Rezoning East New York

The Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio, has unveiled a 10 year five-borough housing plan called "Housing New York," that will target fifteen different communities of the city. This plan is supposed to build or preserve 200,000 units of so-called affordable housing over the next ten years. Our beloved East New York is the first community being targeted for a process called rezoning, which if used incorrectly can have an adverse effect on the many residents of East NY. Rezoning, in short, is to change the governmental classification and permitted uses of an area or piece of real estate. Rezoning is not a new process for NYC but it can dramatically change the landscape of a neighborhood if the plans of not properly understood or clear to the people already living in an area.

In our neighborhood, right now, we have been able to stave over 100 families from foreclosure, tenant harassment, and have actually added thousands of affordable units to East NY. Community board 5 and the Brooklyn borough board have spoken on behalf of the community and rejected this plan—we must continue to take a stand and preserve our community throughout this rezoning process!

Affordable Housing? For Who?

Our people have been leaving the city in droves because it simply isn't affordable to live here. In order to keep the character of the city, the people must get what they need, and that is an affordable place to live. The people must be prioritized with human need and the response must be to build affordable housing! Affordable housing is not the same in every area of the five-boroughs and that is especially true in East NY. Affordable housing is determined by the area median income or AMI of a given area or the entire city. The AMI of the New York metropolitan area is \$86,300 for a family of four and from this measure affordability is determined. The AMI of East NY is \$34,512 a year, so we must understand the disparity in income when we hear so-called affordable housing is being built. As a community we must remain informed to not be fooled by the affordable name.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

We here at the Assembly Office have a responsibility to safeguard this neighborhood from bad while simultaneously creating a better community for the good of our neighborhood. We want to empower our community by providing the information that has a direct impact on the lives of our residents. Let's be proactive with the shaping of our community!

This is how you become proactive:

- Go to community board meetings
- Contact your Congressman for federal issues
- Contact your City Councilwoman for city issues
- Contact us here at the Assembly Office for New York State issues at (718) 257-5824

The resources are here, seek them and take action now!



Assemblyman Charles Barron pictured with wife Councilmember Inez Barron and staff. Top row: 1. Community Liaison, Melvin Faulkner 2. Session Secretary, Valeria White 3. Office Assistant, Keron Alleyne Bottom Row: 1. Councilmember Inez Barron 2. Assemblymember Charles Barron 3. Chief of Staff Viola Plummer.



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