

Assemblyman  
**CHARLES  
BARRON**



*Reports to the People*

## **THE “BLACK DIAMONDS” OF EAST NEW YORK**



*Assemblymember Charles Barron, and the first African American Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie, pictured with the victorious city and state champions, Thomas Jefferson Basketball Team.*

*Dear People of East NY,*

The young men of Thomas Jefferson Campus basketball team have exemplified all it means to be from our 60th Assembly District in our beloved East NY.

The team also known as the “Orange Wave” has proven themselves on the hardwood and in the classroom throughout the year. They were resilient, poised, and intelligent throughout their many games on the hardwood en route to being crowned city and state champions. These same characteristics were used in the classroom as the 8 graduating seniors are each going to college. The young men were guided by these excellent coaches, Lawrence Pollard, Seldon Jefferson, Frank Thomas, Kenny Jones, and Kenny Tretlow. As a capstone for all of their accomplishments, I had them come to Albany to be honored by my colleagues in the New York State Assembly. Let’s celebrate the excellence of our young people or as I like to call them “Black Diamonds.”

*Charles Barron*

# EAST NEW YORK RISING

## What's in your budget?

Assemblymember Barron will stand up and speak out against anything unjust, immoral, or that's not good for our community. This year was no different as he spoke out at the governor's state of the state address on the New York State budget.

Every year the governor proposes a budget and the legislature, which includes the NYS Senate and the NYS Assembly, approves the budget with their alterations. Assemblymember Charles Barron is our vote and voice in the legislature. This process of passing the budget is referred to as the annual budget dance. The annual budget dance happens for the first 3 months of the year and usually passes April 1st.

*Here is a brief breakdown of the highlights of this year's budget:*



*Assemblymember Barron speaking out during the State of the State address*

*The Assemblymember debates budget items in the chambers.*



## Budget Highlights Continued

The people of this state spoke loud and the Assembly heard you loud and clear. Under the enacted budget, the hourly wage would be increased for workers in New York City employed by large businesses having 11 employees or more, to \$11 at the end of 2016, then by \$2 each year thereafter, to reach \$15 by 2018. For those workers employed by small businesses having fewer than 10 workers within the City of New York, the minimum wage would rise to \$10.50 by the end of 2016, with additional annual increases of \$1.50 each year thereafter, to reach \$15 by 2019. For workers in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, the enacted budget would raise the minimum wage to \$10 by the end of 2016, then by an additional \$1 each year until reaching \$15 an hour by 2021.

The Paid Family Leave proposal in the enacted budget would gradually provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave benefits for workers who have been employed for at least six-months, to care for an infant, a family member with a serious health condition, or to ease the burden placed on families when earners are called into active military service. Benefits will begin in 2018 with 8 weeks of leave payable at 50 percent of an employee's average weekly wage, up to 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage, and by 2021, provide up to 12 weeks of leave payable at 67 percent of the employees average weekly wage, up to 67 percent of the statewide average weekly wage. This program is self-sustaining and will be funded entirely through a small payroll deduction from each employee.

## Committees

The Assemblymember sits on various committees and their primary focus is the well-being of the state with respect to their particular area of focus.

Assemblymember Barron sits on the Aging, Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry, Energy, Social Services, Small Business, and Alcoholism and Drug Abuse committees, and is a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian legislative caucus. As of last year, he was made the Chair of a subcommittee on community integration for seniors. Now this year under the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian caucus, the Assemblymember created the committee on Reparations, Political Prisoners, and the Incarcerated. Assemblymember Charles Barron states, "The purpose of this Committee on Reparations is to support and promote the movement, to monitor, evaluate, and call for the freedom of political prisoners and to provide oversight on the conditions and rights of those incarcerated."

## Akai Gurley Trial

The Akai Gurley trial/case rocked our district when the recklessness of a police officer, Peter Liang, killed Akai in the Pink Houses stairwell.

Over the past couple of months, the trial has been a roller coaster of justice that was completely derailed by the recommendation of the Brooklyn District Attorney, Ken Thompson. D.A. Thompson recommended no jail time just 5 years' probation which includes house arrest and 500 hours of community service for the indicted and convicted Police Officer.

Assemblymember Barron has been active in the case from the very beginning advocating on behalf of the eyewitness Melissa Butler. At rallies, press conferences, and in the courtroom, Assemblymember Barron remained there throughout the process before Judge Danny Chun handed down his ruling.

Judge Chun ruled that Peter Liang serve 5 years' probation and 800 hours of community service. Officer Liang was originally indicted and convicted for manslaughter in the second degree and Judge Chun reduced the charge to criminally negligent homicide throwing out the jury's ruling.

Assemblymember Barron continues to be active with the family and those that continue to advocate on the side of justice for the Gurley family and those affected by the unjust loss of his life.



*Hertencia Petersen, (Aunt of Akai Gurley) Assemblymember Barron, and community leaders speaking out against the injustices committed against the Gurley family by the judicial system.*



*Assemblymember Barron, Melissa Butler (eyewitness to shooting), the Gurley family, and outraged community leaders at a press conference denouncing the District Attorney's recommendation for no jail time for Officer Liang.*

## Education

The Assemblymember continues to fight for the court-ordered 4.4 billion dollars owed to Brown and Black struggling schools for the campaign for fiscal equity debt. This year, 625 million dollars was allocated for high needs schools and community schools where Black and Brown students attend all across the state.

In Higher Education, our CUNY schools are always on the verge of being cut or on the path of unaffordability. Assemblymember Barron recognizes the importance of CUNY as a gateway to opportunity and fairness, and if that path is no longer affordable, then the State hasn't done right for those that use CUNY. Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed a \$300 a year tuition hike for the next 5 years for CUNY students. The Assemblymember and his colleagues put a stop to that immediately to protect CUNY.

Additionally, Early College and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs gained 3 million dollars in grant money. Some of which will be used in the Smart Transfer program which allows Early College high school students to obtain Associate's degrees while in high school at no cost to the student.



*The Assemblyman greeting the seniors at an event in the 60th district.*



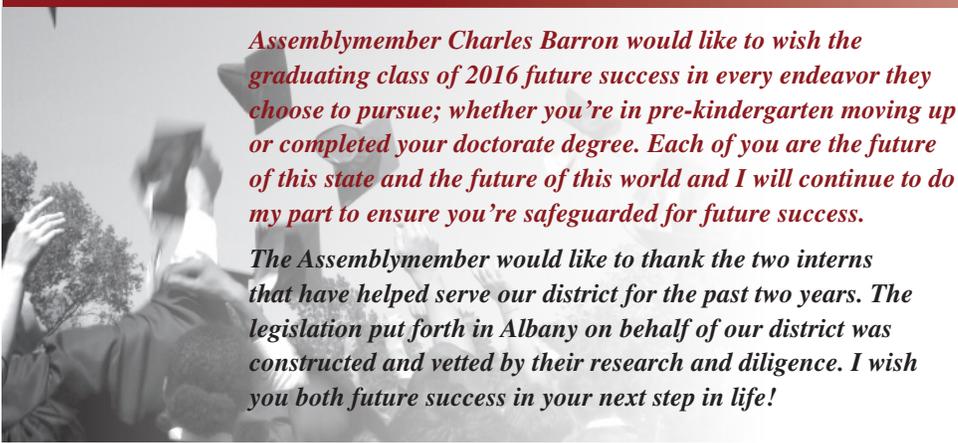
*Assemblymember Barron welcomes CUNY students to Albany.*

## Aging/Seniors

At the start of this year's legislative session our district hosted the world's oldest living person by the name of Susannah Mushatt Jones.

Unfortunately Miss Susie, as she was affectionately called, passed on this past May. Our prayers and hearts go out to the Jones family. This is important because like never before we have a population of people older than the world has ever seen. With that being said, we must make sure the services are available for our senior population to age in place. This is why we've made sure to appropriate funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and extended the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)/ Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE).

# ON THE HORIZON

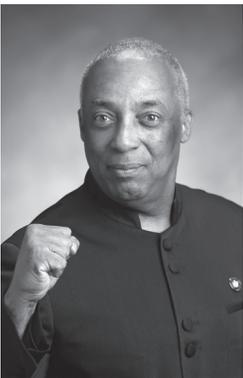


*Assemblymember Charles Barron would like to wish the graduating class of 2016 future success in every endeavor they choose to pursue; whether you're in pre-kindergarten moving up or completed your doctorate degree. Each of you are the future of this state and the future of this world and I will continue to do my part to ensure you're safeguarded for future success.*

*The Assemblymember would like to thank the two interns that have helped serve our district for the past two years. The legislation put forth in Albany on behalf of our district was constructed and vetted by their research and diligence. I wish you both future success in your next step in life!*



*Assemblymember Barron and his two award-winning interns (Left) Donovan Swanson and (Right) Jibreel Jalloh.*



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