



Assemblyman
**Keith L.T.
Wright**
Reports to
the People

WINTER 2009

Dear Harlem Residents:

As your elected official in the New York State Assembly for seventeen years, I can honestly say that this year was one of the most difficult. Rising unemployment in a community already suffering from 50% unemployment among African-American males, an ever growing State deficit with cuts on the horizon, homelessness increasing, and food banks not able to keep up with the demand leaves our neighborhood in distress. As Chairman of the Assembly Social Services Committee, I have a responsibility to ensure that our citizens get the most out of our safety net programs and that our State works towards the goals necessary in order to survive the fallout of our national economic collapse.

While I know that this is not the cheeriest of news to spread during the holiday season, we must not ignore the sad fact that many of our brothers and sisters are struggling to make ends meet during these trying times. To prematurely lessen the suffering, the New York State Social Services Committee took important steps earlier in the year in anticipation of the difficulties to come. We increased the public assistance grant; it is the first time in eighteen years that those needing public assistance saw an increase. We added to anti-homelessness funding in an attempt to keep people in their homes and off of the streets. We extended and quadrupled unemployment insurance availability to millions. Still more steps must be taken.

The New York State Assembly passed a number of my bills aimed at lessening the pain felt by our most at-risk populations. We passed a bill (A.7450) to prevent the inane practice of requiring homeless people to pay for the use of shelters. We passed A.1493, to create a homeless housing task force in every city throughout the State, which will take steps to stop the rising tide of homelessness in our communities. We passed legislation (A.1827) which would allow for students to have their college education counted towards their public assistance work participation requirement, which will enable thousands of individuals to better themselves and lessen their dependence on safety net programs. Additionally, Governor Paterson signed into law a bill of mine (A.7449) which would extend the length of utility repayment agreements, allowing those working hard to pay their bills and keep their utilities on to do so with a lessened monthly cost.

It is now up to the State Senate and the Executive Branch to work towards ensuring that this necessary legislation gets passed and signed into law, which will be both my holiday wish to receive and my New Year's resolution to ensure. As always, those individuals in need of assistance by City, State, and Federal agencies should feel free to contact my office by either stopping in, calling or e-mailing, we are here to help.

Happy Holidays,

Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright



Assemblyman Wright with (l.-r.) District Leader Maria Luna, Congressman Charles Rangel and Ms. Elsia Vasquez at P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem's First Annual Building Our COMMUNITY Event.



Assemblyman Keith Wright with actress Tina Fey.



Assemblyman Keith Wright astride an elephant at the Firehouse Circus, a yearly event hosted by District Leader John Ruiz.

70th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 844, Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4793

DISTRICT OFFICE: Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, Suite 911 • New York, NY 10027 • 212-866-5809

E-MAIL: wrightk@assembly.state.ny.us

Statewide Elected Officials

Governor David Paterson	518-474-8390
Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	800-771-7755
Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli	888-OSC-4555
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer	212-486-4430
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	212-688-6262

Local Elected Officials

Mayor Michael Bloomberg	212-788-3000
Comptroller John Liu	212-669-7318
Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio	212-669-7200
Congressman Charles B. Rangel	212-663-3900
Borough President Scott Stringer	212-531-1609
New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance	212-335-9000
State Senator Bill Perkins	212-222-7315
State Senator Jose Serrano	212-828-5829
State Assemblyman Keith Wright	212-866-5809
Councilwoman Inez Dickens	212-678-4505
Councilman Robert Jackson	212-828-1322
Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito	212-828-9800

Community Boards

Community Board 9- Manhattan	212-864-6200
Community Board 10- Manhattan	212-749-3105
Community Board 11- Manhattan	212-831-8929
Community Board 12- Manhattan	212-568-8500

New York State and City Courts

New York State Court of Appeals	518-455-7700
New York State Supreme Court- Civil	646-386-3600
New York State Supreme Court- Criminal	646-386-3900
New York State Court of Claims	518-432-3411
New York City Civil Court	646-386-5700
New York City Civil Court- Housing	646-386-5750
New York City Criminal Court	646-386-4500
New York City Family Court	646-386-5200

New York State Agencies

NYS Banking Department	877-BANK-NYS
NYS Board of Elections	518-474-6220
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services	800-262-3257
NYS Office of Children and Family Services	212-383-1788
NYS Consumer Protection Board	800-697-1220
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	718-482-4000
NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal	866-ASK-DHCR
NYS Department of Correctional Services	518-457-8126
NYS Division of Probation	518-485-2395
NYS Department of Education	718-722-2796
NYS Housing Finance Agency	212-688-4000
NYS Division of Human Rights	718-741-8400
NYS Department of Insurance	800-342-3736
NYS Department of Transportation	518-457-6195
NYS Department of Taxation and Finance	800-225-5829

NYS Department of State	518-474-4752
NYS Department of Motor Vehicles	212-645-5550
NYS Department of Labor	888-4-NYS-DOL
NYS Department of Health	866-881-2809
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	518-474-0456
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance	518-473-1090
NYS Office of Mental Health	800-597-8481
NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities	518-474-3694
Metropolitan Transportation Authority	212-878-7000

New York City Agencies

NYC Clerk	212-669-2400
NYC Department for the Aging	212-442-1322
NYC Department of Buildings	212-566-5000
NYC Administration for Child Services	877-KIDS-NYC
City University	212-794-5555
NYC Department of Consumer Affairs	311
NYC Department of Corrections	311
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs	212-643-7770
NYC Department of Education	212-374-6000
NYC Department of Environmental Protection	212-643-2201
NYC Department of Finance	311
NYC Fire Department- Emergency	911
NYC Fire Department- Manhattan Borough	718-999-2094
NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation	212-788-3321
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	311
NYC Department of Homeless Services	212-361-8000
NYC Housing Authority	212-306-3000
NYC Human Resources Administration	877-472-8411
NYC Commission on Human Rights	212-306-7500
NYC Department of Juvenile Justice	212-925-7779
New York Public Library	212-930-0800
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation	311
New York Police Department- Emergency	911
New York Police Department- Manhattan North	212-678-1851
New York Police Department- 25 th Precinct	212-860-6511
New York Police Department- 26 th Precinct	212-678-1311
New York Police Department- 28 th Precinct	212-678-1611
New York Police Department- 30 th Precinct	212-690-8811
New York Police Department- 32 nd Precinct	212-690-6311
New York Police Department- 33 rd Precinct	212-927-3200
NYC Department of Probation- Adult	212-232-0413
NYC Department of Probation- Family	212-232-0470
NYC Department of Sanitation	311
NYC Department of Small Business Services	212-513-6300
NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission	311
NYC Department of Transportation	311
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development	212-442-5900