



RAISING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY IN NEW YORK STATE

Greetings friends and neighbors!

I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season spent with your loved ones. As we welcome a new year with open arms and renewed hopes for a better and brighter New York, I would like to bring your attention to one of the most critical social justice issues facing our community. As a legislator in what I believe to be the nation's leading state for meaningful and progressive public policy, I remain deeply concerned that New York is one of only two states where 16 and 17 year-old offenders are prosecuted as adults. While there is a powerful movement already underway to urge the reform of this unfair and destructive stain on our criminal justice system and time is running out. Each year that goes by without reform means that another 45,000 youth will be arrested and processed as adults in New York.

The problem runs deeper than the manner in which 16 and 17 year-olds are questioned, stopped and frisked. From the time of arrest, because they are treated as adults, 16 and 17 year-olds are not afforded the procedural protection of parental notification or consent prior to being questioned by law enforcement. Furthermore, the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice reports that nationwide, African-Americans represent 26% of juvenile arrests, 44% of youth who are detained, 46% of the youth who are judicially waived to criminal court, and 58% of the youth admitted to state correctional facilities. From start to finish, the odds are stacked impossibly high against our young men and women.

Despite the endless research and statistical evidence proving the harmful effects of this policy, the injustice continues. According to data from the Correctional Association of New York State, youth confined in adult facilities are 36 times more likely to commit suicide. These same youth are 100 percent more likely to face physical assault than their adult counterparts. Our criminal justice system is thought to be borne of a belief in rehabilitation but for these individuals, it is simply not the case. After their release, youth who have been incarcerated with adult offenders are shown to be more likely to commit future acts of crime and violence. The recidivism rates alone for this vulnerable population are enough to demonstrate that the system is failing our youth and condemning them to a future wrought with crime, as well as lasting mental and emotional hardship.

We MUST raise the age of criminal responsibility. Community organizations, advocacy groups, probation and parole departments and local governments have openly expressed their support for this reform. I am committed to lending my voice and all of the confidence vested in my office to ensuring that this important issue is brought to the forefront of the agenda as we enter the 2014 legislative session.

For more information on the facts behind raising the age, visit www.raisetheagency.com

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Enlightenment, Strange Mathematics & Rhythmic Equations Afrofuturism and "STEAM" Education

Thursday, January 9, 2014 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

The program will introduce artists and their works in relationship to "STEAM" (science, technology, engineering, art, math) education. The panel discussion and supporting presentations will explore topics such as fractal geometry, quantum physics and symmetry, and how artists are working with scientists and mathematicians to create tools that inform future projects.

The Studio Museum in Harlem
144 West 125th Street New York, NY, 10027

TEAM WRIGHT AT WORK

Constituent Ms. Harris, a disabled senior citizen visited our district office looking for assistance with her ConEdison utility bill. Ms. Harris was months behind on her bill and faced termination of her electricity.

Our office contacted the New York City Human Resource Administration (HRA) to determine Ms. Harris's eligibility for the Utility Assistance Program (UAP), which assists individuals who require financial assistance with their energy bills. We aided Ms. Harris to complete Con Edison's deferred payment agreement due to medical hardship, which will alleviate the financial burden and ensure the continuation of her electric service moving forward.

Another example of Team Wright at work in your community!



Assemblyman Wright brings Governor Cuomo to Harlem to deliver over 400 books, toys and garments at Minisink Townhouse

KID'S CORNER

Studio Museum in Harlem

Free Admission, every Sunday 12-6 PM

Located at 144 West 125th Street
(Between Lenox Ave. and 7th Avenue)

The Studio Museum in Harlem is the nexus for artists of African descent locally, nationally and internationally and for work that has been inspired and influenced by black culture. It is a site for the dynamic exchange of ideas about art and society.

Visit: <http://www.studiomuseum.org/> or call (212) 864-4500 for more information.

Children's Museum of Manhattan
(CMOM)

Free Admission, first Friday of every month 5-8 PM

212 West 83rd St (Between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenues)

CMOM inspires children and families to learn about themselves and our culturally diverse world through a unique environment of interactive exhibitions and programs. CMOM focuses on four priority areas to impact children in ways that will last a lifetime: Early childhood education prepares children for success in school, creativity in the arts and sciences inspires creative and analytical thinking skills for lifelong learning, healthy lifestyles programs provide a blueprint for a family's physical, emotional and environmental well-being, exploration of world cultures gives children awareness, and understanding and context for the diverse society in which we all live.

Visit: <http://www.cmom.org/> or call (212) 721-1234 for more information.

ALBANY UPDATE

New legislation to allow immigrants to practice law in New York State

Immigration reform is one of the most critical matters facing our country and in just last year, I joined my colleagues in the Assembly in voting to pass the DREAM Act so that no student's path to a college education would be obstructed because of their status. It is with this same conviction that I have recently introduced legislation, **A.8317** that would allow a qualified individual to practice law in New York State regardless of their immigration status.

You can track the status of this, and all my other legislation online at www.http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Job Fair NYC
Thursday January 16, 2014
Holiday Inn Midtown Hotel
440 W 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

10AM to 2PM
(Vendor setup begins at 9AM)

Business professional attire & resume are required

Small tips for success
always have multiple copies of your resume on hand!

For more information or if you have any problems we can help solve, please do not hesitate to contact our office directly. We are always here to help.

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