



DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Greetings, friends and neighbors!

These days, it has become almost commonplace for us to hear about senior citizens who are facing so many obstacles in their daily struggle to make ends meet. The overwhelming challenge to meet rising costs of living, especially on a fixed income, can prove to be a losing battle for many New Yorkers. Those who are fortunate to have secure, suitable housing are constantly fighting to hold on to their homes. In most cases, these individuals have been lifelong residents of the communities they call home. As chair of the Housing committee it is among my top priorities to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable residents among us are being addressed. To address this issue, I will be working with newly appointed Commissioner of New York City Housing Preservation and Development, Vicky Been and my colleagues in the Legislature to explore and implement a solution that is contemplative of the needs of all stakeholders, including current and prospective residents.

Over the last few months, there has been a steady increase in the number of residents, particularly seniors, who have been displaced from their homes in what is known as "downsizing". While I understand the importance of ensuring that housing units are appropriately matched to the needs of residents, I strongly believe that it is essential for any decision regarding the relocation of a tenant be the result of a transparent, accountable and fair process. Great consideration must be given to the impact that such displacement will have on the quality of life. Those who reside in communities where they work, receive access to healthcare, counseling or support services. The prospect of moving can be daunting, especially for those who will be taken further away from family or other loved ones. I look forward to this partnership and am confident that if we work together, we will achieve what is right for families across NYC, especially our elders.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who joined me at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture last week, where I co-hosted *Black Law* with Nadine Fontaine, Esq. of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

This conversation about access to justice for African-Americans, with over 200 guests, was a truly enlightening and invigorating conversation!

Our moderator, Mr. Michael Hardy, Executive V.P. and General Counsel of the National Action Network did a phenomenal job leading our discussion. It was truly a privilege to be joined by attorneys Xavier Donaldson, Orzo Thaddeus Wyoming Wells, and jurists Hon. Fern Fisher, Hon. Erika McDaniel Edwards and the Hon. Shelia Abdus-Salaam of the New York State Court of Appeals, who shared their views on some of the most pressing matters of social justice facing our communities today.

TEAM WRIGHT AT WORK

Community Liaison, William Smith, has been working with Ms. Jones, who had previously submitted an application for an apartment. Ms. Jones did not receive notification from the management company that her application had been approved and that she was now eligible for an apartment. As a result of this error and the resulting lapse in communication, Ms. Jones was placed back on the waiting list and assigned a lower place on the priority list. Ms. Jones visited Assemblyman Wright's office for assistance and William promptly contacted the management company and provided them with an overview of the events related to Ms. Jones' application. Through his efforts, the management company granted Ms. Jones a follow-up interview and she is now awaiting news of her move-in date.

*names have been changed to ensure confidentiality



Assemblyman Wright co-hosts *Black Law* with (from left) Hon. Erika McDaniel Edwards, Hon. Fern Fisher and Xavier Donaldson, Esq.

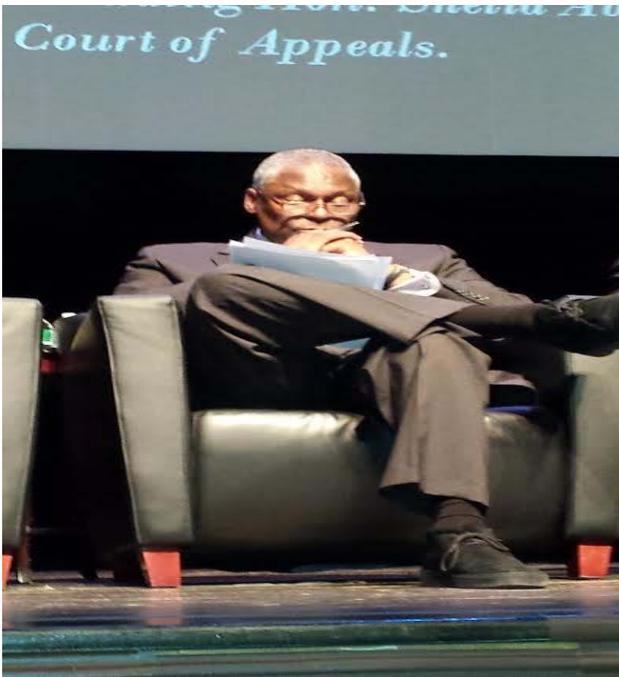
ALBANY UPDATE

In the ongoing discussions concerning the use of Stop and Frisk by the NYPD, I am encouraged by our new mayor's stance as I continue my efforts to advance my bill in the State Assembly.

Assembly bill 2941 would prohibit law enforcement officers from using racial and ethnic profiling, establish a collection of data on traffic stops and create a cause of action based on racial or ethnic profiling.

I hope that the examination of the NYPD's use of Stop and Frisk supports the passage of my bill as I have been fighting relentlessly to end racial profiling in New York State for over a decade.

You can track the status of A.2941 and my other legislation online at www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Keith-L-T-Wright



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

FREE Tax Preparation Day

Federal and NY State tax returns prepared by IRS certified volunteers

Saturday, March 8, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Goddard Riverside Community Center
140 West 140th Street
(between Lenox and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd)**

You MUST bring with you:

- photo I.D., social security/tax ID cards
- all W2 and/or 1099 statements
- last year's income tax return
- If self-employed, bring a self-declaration letter stating your income in 2013 and receipts for any business-related expenses

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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