



The New York State Assembly Office of Assembly Member Keith L.T. Wright, 70th AD

September 2014 Community Update

Protect Lives and Save Money with Police Cameras

Greetings friends and neighbors!

Just a few days ago, Labor Day marked the unofficial end of summer. Students across the City are returning to school and New Yorkers are preparing for the busy days ahead. For many, this summer was a turbulent one, marked by a number of troubling events both here at home and abroad. As always, it is imperative that we remain strong in our resolve and embrace every opportunity to reflect on what makes this City great... its people.

The task of keeping New York safe is no small responsibility. The uniformed men and women who choose to become public servants in the New York City Police Department do so out of a desire to protect that which they love the most. Despite this, our society continues to be plagued by the erosion of civilian trust in law enforcement, a circumstance that is only made worse by what I believe to be a small handful of individuals, whose actions ignite historic tensions which, unfortunately, remain a very real part of our lives. In recent years, New York City has experienced record numbers of civilian complaints filed against NYPD personnel for civil rights violations, false arrests, misconduct and other related charges. These complaints and the lawsuits which often follow have cost the City hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years. In fact, the City Comptroller issued a report earlier this year citing that among all municipal agencies and departments, the NYPD consistently ranked among the highest for payouts and settlements, its payments reaching a 60% increase from 2003 to 2013.

On August 20th, I introduced legislation in the New York State Assembly that would require the use of video recording devices for NYPD personnel. This measure could have a number of meaningful benefits for our City. Material captured on these devices will serve to vindicate the rights of those individuals who are wrongly accused, whether they are civilian or police. It would provide clear and evident proof of what transpires between police and civilians, a tool which would save millions of dollars each year by drastically reducing the number of complaints that are pursued to the settlement table. With an objective and fact-based contemplation of an individual's innocence, I believe this program could go a long way to enhance the Department's efforts to build stronger relationships with communities and residents across the City. The pilot program proposed in my bill, A.10184 (Wright), would include the entire police force and remain in effect for four years, after which time, the State and local legislatures would have an opportunity to examine the findings and determine how this tool can be best utilized going forward.

You can track the status of this and all my other legislation on my Assembly webpage, found here:
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Keith-L-T-Wright/>

Community Happenings

Bring your family and friends out on **Saturday, September 13, from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.** for the **Apollo Theatre's 2nd Annual Harlem Healthy Soul Festival**. This all day fair will feature information sessions, activities for the whole family, live music and expert tips on how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle.

It's almost that time! In just a few short weeks, on **Sunday, September 21, 2014 the 46th Annual African American Day Parade** will make its way up 7th Avenue in Harlem.

To RSVP for my Annual Parade Breakfast event visit our page on eventbrite.com or send an e-mail to thebreakfastcommitteeinc@gmail.com

Team Wright at Work

Ms. Jones visited our office to request assistance with obtaining a reconsideration of her FEPS application for rental assistance that had recently been denied. Ms. Jones was forced to enter the shelter system in November 2013 after being evicted from her apartment. Unfortunately, due to an error in communication with her case worker, her application for assistance was not filed in accordance with FEPS standards and as a result, was denied. Team Wright Community Liaison, William Smith contacted the NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA) to request a reconsideration for Ms. Jones's application. Thanks in part to the efforts of Mr. Smith, the application was approved and Ms. Jones will be moving into her apartment within the next few weeks.



Assemblyman Wright with Rep. Rangel, NYCHA Chair, Shola Olatoye and community members at Jefferson Houses
 Assemblyman Wright joins senior residents and NYS HCR Commissioner Darryl Towns in ribbon cutting ceremony for \$38 million renovation project in Harlem

Business Spotlight

Are you or someone you know an early childhood professional caring for infants, toddlers, pre-school or school-aged children? The New York City Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium is offering professional development opportunities through online training courses.

Learn at your own pace, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The courses include 50 hours of customizable training approved by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and can be taken to meet annual training requirements for those seeking a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, CDA credential renewal or in-service training.

Courses are affordable and financial assistance may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to register for courses, contact the NYC CCR&R website at: <http://www.nycrr.org/>

Albany Update

Save the date for **New York State's 4th Annual MWBE forum, NYS Works for MWBEs**, Wednesday and Thursday, October 1st and 2nd, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany.

Join more than 2,000 professionals for two full days of workshops, seminars, exhibitions, special networking opportunities and more.

Visit <http://nysmbwforum.org/snapshot/> for a detailed schedule of presenters and workshops

**REMEMBER!! PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS
 SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

**Not sure where your nearest poll site is located?
 Contact the Manhattan borough office of the NYC
 Board of Elections at
 (212) 886-2100 or visit
<http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>**

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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