

Dear Neighbor:

As your Assembly Member, my job is not just in Albany. One of my most important jobs is helping solve problems for people in our community.

This newsletter will help you get to know how my Community Office staff and I can serve you.

I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on legislative issues and community problems.

I work for you full-time, year-round, in Albany and in the neighborhood. I am a lawyer, but I do not maintain a private practice. I don't work as a consultant or run a business on the side. My only job is working for you.

My Community Office at 242 West 27th Street, 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@assembly.state.ny.us – is here to serve you.

If you are having a problem with a government agency, your landlord, a utility, etc., or if your block association or other group needs my help or would like me to come to a meeting, or if there is any other way I can help, please call or e-mail.

Sincerely,



Richard N. Gottfried
Assembly Member

Ayuda en Español

Mi oficina de la comunidad esta localizada en 242 West 27th Street, 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@assembly.state.ny.us, y esta aqui para servirle. Varios de mis empleados hablan Espanol. Si usted esta teniendo problemas con su casero, alguna agencia del gobierno, Con Edison, la utilidad, etc., podemos ayudarlo. Llamenow al 212-807-7900. Estamos abioertos de lunes a jueves.



Assembly Member

Richard N. Gottfried

Community Office
242 West 27th Street
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212-807-7900
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Este noticiario está disponible en español.

**How My
Community Office
Can Help You**
Ayuda en Español – Mire Adentro
December, 2013

How My Community Office Can Help You

My Community Office is open year-round, helping thousands of our neighbors.

I have found that many people are not aware of how their State Assembly Member can work for them and the community.

Much of the work done by my staff and me is helping people with problems with their landlord, Con Ed, phone or cable services, or a government agency such as Medicare (especially Part D), Social Security, NYCHA, or the City or State tax agencies.

We help people fill out forms and apply for EPIC, Medicaid, the Earned-Income Tax Credit, food stamps, Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemptions (SCRIE) or Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), and other important benefits.

We also work with block associations and other community groups that need help with Federal, State or

City government, including issues such as zoning, development, traffic, police protection, rowdy bars, sanitation, schools, and landmark preservation.

Typical housing problems include rent overcharges, lack of services or repairs, and co-op or condo conversions. We organize tenant associations. If you need a free or low-cost tenant lawyer, we can help you find one.

My Community Office is at 242 West 27th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Aves., across from FIT in an easily accessible storefront.

It is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, 10 A.M. – 6 P.M. Appointments are requested and we have staff who speak Spanish fluently. Contact info: 212-807-7900, GottfriedR@assembly.state.ny.us



Fighting for Schools – Overcrowding and under-funding are major problems for our schools. I work in the community and in Albany to get more classroom space and more money in the budget so our kids can get a better education!

My Work in Albany

I represent you in the State Assembly, one of the two houses of the State Legislature in Albany. I work for more affordable housing and strong tenant protection and rent laws; protecting reproductive choice; human rights (including LGBT, people with disabilities, and women's rights) and civil liberties; government reform; fair taxes based on ability to pay; and aid for schools and mass transit. Each year I fight for funding for important programs in the state budget.

I chair the Assembly Health Committee. I work on Medicaid reform, long-term care, protecting access to health care and affordable health coverage, services for people with HIV/AIDS, and a host of other health issues. I sponsor a bill to create a state universal single-payer plan called "NY Health," and the bill to allow medical use of marijuana in New York.

I was the original Assembly sponsor of the bill to recognize same-sex marriage, and I sponsor the bill to outlaw discrimination against transgender people.

2014 NYC PARKING CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

Plan ahead so you don't get a ticket. Learn what days parking meters and alternate side parking are suspended. Please call or email my office if you would like a hard copy mailed to you or a PDF sent by email.

Getting Results

Here are a few examples of how my office has won results for people in our area.

- A senior rent-stabilized tenant was told by his landlord that future rent payments would only be accepted through a complicated online system. We informed the landlord that forcing this on tenants is illegal. The tenant was able to continue to pay his rent with a personal check.
- A woman's refrigerator was not working. We called her management company and had her refrigerator replaced with a working one on the same day.
- A disabled senior had been trying to coordinate the delivery of her prescription medication and home care equipment for nearly a month. We called her provider and had it delivered the following day.
- The veterans' group Veterans for Peace needed a permit for a Memorial Day event, and a group of environmental organizations needed a permit for an anti-fracking rally. We spoke with city agencies and helped both groups get the permits.
- A woman's tax refund was lost somewhere between the State tax department and her bank. We got her the money.
- When a building's cable provider tried to increase its monthly fee only for rent-stabilized tenants, we negotiated a lower rate for the tenants.
- A tenant feared that his landlord was kicking him out of his SRO unit to reconstruct the building. We told him he didn't have to leave permanently. The tenant is still living in his SRO unit and now knows his rights.
- A resident of a cooperative had questions about her coop's board of directors elections. We advised her where to find the information and how to get a copy of her building's by-laws and offering plan.
- The son of a disabled senior called because Medicaid was drastically reducing the hours of home health aide service for his father. We investigated, spoke with social workers and the agency and maintained the hours needed.
- We help seniors figure out if they are eligible for the Medicare Savings Plan, which means their Part B premium gets refunded.
- A tenant was being overcharged on his fuel bill in his rent-controlled apartment. My office speeded up the process by working with a state agency and helped him get a \$6,000 refund from his landlord.
- We helped stop street construction in front of a synagogue on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Parents of a disabled child had trouble getting special education aid. We got them in touch with people in the right offices to get help for their child.
- A tenant's apartment needed major repairs. We went to Housing Court with him and the landlord had to do the work – plumbing, fixing broken windows, etc.
- A man wasn't receiving his unemployment benefits. We called the NYS Dept. of Labor and sorted it out so he could receive his checks.

Neighborhood Issues

My staff and I work with a variety of community and civic groups on neighborhood issues.

We don't always win. But when neighborhood groups work closely with their local elected representatives, the community is much more likely to get the results it wants.

Some late-night bars or clubs makes life a nightmare for area residents. We can work with the police and the State Liquor Authority to help make the place clean up its act.

We work for sensible planning to stop developers and city or state agencies who want to develop excessively large buildings.

We advocate for landmark preservation and fight to stop building owners who seek to destroy landmark buildings or undermine "historic district" protections.

We won precedent-setting requirements for affordable housing in recent re-zoning.

We've led the long fight for the Hudson River Waterfront Park. I wrote the State law that created the Park, protects the River, and preserves public access.

We work to protect our parks from "privatizing" or non-park encroachment.

We worked with the city to crack down on illegal hotels. I wrote a State law that will make it easier to prosecute landlords who run illegal hotels.



Historic Preservation in Our Community – I work to protect our architectural and historic community heritage in every neighborhood in our district. We won an important victory when the Landmarks Preservation Commission declared a row of early 1800's buildings on W. 29th St. in a historic district, including one building that was a "station" on the pre-Civil War "underground railroad" for fleeing slaves. At a press conference to protect the buildings I was joined by (l. to r.) Simeon Bankoff of the Historic Districts Council and community leaders Andrew Berman, Ed Kirkland, Fern Luskin and Julie Finch.