



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
LATOYA JOYNER
77TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
 ASSEMBLY.STATE.NY.US/MEM/LATOYA-JOYNER



MARCH 2017 - NEWSLETTER

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Assemblywoman Joyner Honors Community Leaders for Black History Month

CONTACT US:

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Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson and Senator Jose M. Serrano honored local community leaders during their annual Black History Month Celebration. Honorees included Benjamin Warren, President of 1511-1521 Sheridan Avenue Tenant Association and James Robinson, from Bronx Veterans Court Mentors.

LATOYA'S LINE

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's statement in support of Mayor de Blasio administration's plan to turn the tide on homelessness with borough-based approach

Ending the cycle of homelessness in the Bronx is a feat that doesn't come lightly, as we are one of the borough's with the highest rates of homelessness across our City. Homelessness impacts our communities, it impacts our families and it impacts our children and their education. By ending the use of cluster sites and commercial hotels, and reducing shelters sites overall, Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration will be able to impact real change for those that are homeless by providing help that can lead to permanent housing. I applaud Mayor de Blasio for laying the groundwork to improve our communities and assisting those that have nowhere else to turn.

Assemblywoman Joyner Recognized by the Latino Pastoral Action Center



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner was very happy and appreciative to be recognized by Rev. Dr. Ray Rivera this Black History Month at the Latino Pastoral Action Center. Assemblywoman Joyner was joined by her colleague, Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson.

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District Office - Constituent Service Hours

When: Monday - Thursday (10 AM-6 PM), Friday (10 AM-5 PM)
Where: 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (btwn E. 162 & 163 Streets)
Off-site hours: Schedule varies. See page 7 for details.

Assemblywoman Joyner Holds Women's History Month Art Contest for District 9 Students

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
March is Women's History Month

**RECOGNIZING
 WOMEN of DISTINCTION**

*Let's celebrate
 Women's History Month
 by recognizing the
 extraordinary women
 in our lives!*



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is sponsoring a Women's History Month Art Contest (drawings, paintings, and poetry), with awards and certificates going to students from schools in the Claremont, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden, and Morris Heights sections of The Bronx.

Strong women influence government, science, medicine, education, literature, entertainment, business, the arts, and all facets of American life.

Art Contest:
Whom do you most admire?
Draw, paint, or write about her contributions to our country.

All winners will be honored at Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's 3rd Annual Women's History Month Wellness Celebration held at:

P.S. 204 Morris Heights School
 1780 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 Bronx, NY 10453 on
 Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m.

For more information about Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Women's History Month Art Contest (drawings, paintings, and poetry) or any other community issue contact:

**Assemblywoman
 Latoya Joyner**

910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
 Bronx, NY 10451
 718-538-2000 • joynerl@nyassembly.gov



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Where: P.S. 204 Morris Heights School

1780 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

Bronx, N.Y. 10453

When: Saturday, March 25th at 12 PM



**ASSEMBLYWOMAN
LATOYA JOYNER**
Invites you to her *THIRD ANNUAL
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
WELLNESS CELEBRATION*


In Partnership with P.S. 204

When: Saturday, March 25th
Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Location: P.S. 204 Morris Heights School
1780 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Bronx, NY 10453

Activities/ Hours:

- Meditation
- Yoga
- Zumba
- Massage Therapy

Snacks and Refreshments!
Free Massages!
Bring your moves!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FREE EVENT OR ANY COMMUNITY ISSUE, PLEASE CALL ASSEMBLYWOMAN LATOYA JOYNER'S DISTRICT OFFICE AT: 718-538-2000

In honor of **Women's History Month**, **Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner** invites the community to her third Annual Wellness Celebration on **Saturday, March 25** from **12:00 PM-3:00 PM**.

In partnership with **P.S. 204 (1780 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Bronx NY 10453)**, there will be free meditation, yoga, Zumba and massage therapy. Also, awards, snack and refreshments will be available.

For more information about this event or any community issue, please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000.

Statement from Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD) regarding Women's History Month:

"Women's History Month is a time when we can reminisce, recognize and support those strong women who have influenced our lives and our society. Strong women can truly impact us in every facet of our upbringing and development as productive members of our community. I know I am where I am today thanks to those women in my life who have served to blaze a trail towards success and opportunity. We must continue to instill this very idea that anything is possible for our young girls in the Bronx and New York because little girls with dreams become women of vision."

FREE TAX PREP FOR COMMUNITY

Assemblywoman Joyner Offers Free Tax Prep for Community



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner & Bronx Neighborhood Housing Services CDC, INC. presents FREE Tax Preparation Services

WHERE: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451




Please Bring:

- **Identification:** Social Security Card/ ITIN **PICTURE ID**
- **Income Forms:** W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, Interest / Dividend Forms F-1099, Self-employment.
- **Refund:** Bank Routing and Account Numbers, Spouse for Joint Return
- **Expenses:** Total Paid for Daycare Provider Provider's Tax Identification

FREE Expert Tax Preparation - Call for an Appointment
Free service for those with income below \$54,000 (with children) or \$30,000 or less (no children).

For more information or to register, please call Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Bronx Neighborhood Housing Services are pleased to offer **FREE** tax preparation services for the community.

The next day free tax prep services will be offered is Saturday, **March 11 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**.

Please call **Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000** or visit us at **910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK Bronx NY 10451** to set up your appointment.

Also, **NYC Department of Finance** will be onsite to offer information regarding the **New York City's Rent Freeze program**, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) initiative.



Opinion: Why Justice Gets Lost in Translation for Most New Yorkers



By: Latoya Joyner, Assembly Member

First appeared in City & State/NY Slant on February 6

There are few things scarier for New Yorkers than appearing before a judge in Housing Court or Civil Court. Now imagine if you weren't fluent in English and were expected to understand complex orders and stipulations that warrant your signature. This is a huge burden that impacts tens of thousands of New Yorkers.

The melting pot that is New York has its advantages and disadvantages. For a family whose first language is not English, the challenges of daily life can overcome routine activities and responsibilities. **However, when this creeps into a courtroom, it can have a huge impact on the family, their lives and the greater community. There should be more resources available to accommodate our neighbors.**

The New York State Unified Court System notes that it hears more than 3 million cases a year, and provides court-appointed interpreters to over 100 languages through its Office of Language Access. These languages include Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Croatian, Dutch, French, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Urdu and Woloff. This expansive suite of options is wonderful, but for those whose native language is not listed, the court is required to hire an interpreter on a per diem basis – a process that can lengthen the stresses of our legal system on individuals unable to understand what exactly is happening from the start. For instance, when a Notice of Petition or a Petition for Nonpayment hits the mailbox

from an unscrupulous landlord for Housing Court, these documents are only currently available in English.

Bronx County is one of the top 15 New York counties that have seen growth among its adult Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population, or those who do not speak English as their primary language, and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English. The Bronx boasts a 12 percent increase between 2005-2013. Even larger, Albany County has grown its adult LED population by 82 percent, and Nassau County rounds out second at 40 percent in the period according to the Center for an Urban Future. Addressing this ever growing and culturally diverse New York community and ensuring equal treatment for all families is the most appropriate route to take. This direction can secure futures for generations to come.

Expanding language access to not only stipulations, but also notice of petitions, petitions of nonpayment and postcards by filers will make sure that New York families remain in their homes. In the Bronx, approximately 2,000 tenants visit Bronx Housing Court daily and more than 85,000 cases are heard annually, according to research from New Settlement Apartments' CASA and the Urban Justice Center. Coupled with the fact that the Bronx saw a 10 percent increase in rent from 2005 to 2012, more and more households spend half or more of their monthly income in rent. Extremely low-income and very low-income households are the most rent burdened New Yorkers, according to research from the NYU Furman Center.

Thanks to federal laws applying to language access include the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and executive orders that prohibit the discrimination based on national origin, there are local programs that have provisions requiring language services for LEP individuals. But most of these policies do fall short in addressing the major stipulation, notice of petition issue and requires additional tweaking. **Ensuring that all families benefit from having access to their native language in any legal proceeding or enforceable agreement in Housing Court and Civil Court is an unalienable right we must secure for all families – regardless of the language they speak or where they are from.**

Latoya Joyner represents the 77th Assembly District in The Bronx.

STATEMENT: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Joins Her Colleagues in Support of the DREAM Act

“Immigration status should not be the defining factor in one’s future, as we are a borough, a city and a nation of immigrants. For the more than 4.4 million immigrants in New York, the Assembly Majority has yet again afforded additional educational opportunity to all college-bound students – regardless of their immigration status.

As a sponsor of [the DREAM Act](#), I have fought with my colleagues in favor of granting our future leaders access to key benefits such as tuition assistance, scholarships and educational opportunity programs in order to help the very diverse populations of our community in the Bronx and New York to succeed.



New York – and the Bronx in particular – has always boasted a diverse community, where English is not the only language that is spoken at home for so many families. For the thousands of families I represent, [the DREAM Act](#) unequivocally extends the American dream of fair and equal opportunity to all New York college-bound students.”

[Please click here to read more about the Assembly’s passage of legislation to protect and empower New York immigrants.](#)

STATEMENT: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Supports Raising the Age for All New Yorkers

“Addressing the many shortcomings of our current criminal justice system must start with raising the age for our youth who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. By raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years old, we will eliminate the possibility of jail or prison and reduce recidivism in favor of affording our youth the opportunity to grow and better themselves with supportive and educational interventions. Especially in communities of color, raising the age will not hold these individuals to prior mistakes made when they were 16 or 17 and will allow them to be productive members of our society.

I am happy to join my colleagues in raising the age, as we must ensure that youthful transgressions do not lead to the lifelong stigma of a permanent criminal record. All New Yorkers must be given the opportunity for a second chance and the first step is to guarantee that future generations do not end up in the tangled web of our criminal justice system.”

[Please click here to read more about the Assembly’s passage of a comprehensive criminal justice reform package.](#)



Assemblywoman Joyner Offers Free Immigration Screenings for Community



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is pleased to announce **FREE** immigration screenings for Bronx families. Representatives from **Bronx Legal Services** and **Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families** will be available in her Community Office at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK (between E. 162nd and E. 163rd Streets), Bronx, N.Y. 10451 on a monthly basis.



The next day will be Wednesday, March 15 from 4 pm-6 pm

Please call **718-538-2000** to set up your appointment if you require immigration assistance

TENANT SUPPORT SERVICES

Every Thursday, Tenant Support Services are available in Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office

In coordination with New York City's Tenant Support Unit, tenant support specialists are on hand every 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 11 AM-3 PM. This effort will focus on helping tenants with concerns and issues related to harassment, purposeful denial of essential services, overcharges and possible eviction.

Also, legal professionals from the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs are available every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 3 PM-6 PM to assist with your legal housing issues. Please call to set up an appointment.

For more information, see flyers or call the Assemblywoman's Community Office at 718-538-2000



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with New York City's Tenant Support Unit

Tenant Support Specialists every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM



**Where: Assemblywoman Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451**

Tenant Support Specialists will be holding joint office hours to provide support to tenants that may be experiencing housing related issues such as:

- Harassment
- Purposeful denial of essential services
- Overcharges
- Possible eviction

For more information, please call Assemblywoman Joyner's Office at 718-538-2000



Free Housing Legal Services!



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner is proud to announce a partnership with the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs to offer **FREE HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES!**

N.A.I.C.A. legal professionals will be on hand to assist your housing concerns



When: Every second and fourth Thursday from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Where: Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, N.Y. 10451



For more information or to set up an appointment, please call Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner's Community Office at 718-538-2000

TENANT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE:	N.A.I.C.A LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AVAILABLE:
MARCH 2	MARCH 9
MARCH 16	MARCH 23
APRIL 6	APRIL 13
APRIL 20	APRIL 27
MAY 4	MAY 11
MAY 18	MAY 25
JUNE 1	JUNE 8



Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner wants to make her office more accessible to families and constituents in the 77th Assembly District. Her staff will be offering off-site constituent services at local senior centers, community centers and libraries.

- Highbridge Library
78 West 168th Street
Bronx, NY, 10452
Every 3rd Mon. from 10 AM-1 PM
- Davidson Community Center
2038 Davidson Avenue
Bronx, NY 10453
Every 2nd Wed. from 10 AM-1 PM
- New Settlement Community Center
1501 Jerome Ave
Bronx, NY 10452
***Every 3rd Wed. from 4 PM-6 PM**

BRONX AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AVAILABLE BRONX AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

Below listing are Subsidized Rental Opportunities lotteries, as provided by NYC Housing Preservation & Development and New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Each housing opportunity is a lottery with application deadlines.

For more information, please visit [NYC Housing Connect](#) or [HCR Affordable Rental Units](#) and [NYHousingSearch.gov](#).

ADDRESS	APTS AVAILABLE	HOW DO YOU APPLY?	DEADLINE
6469 Broadway Bronx, NY 10471	77	Applications can be downloaded from the marketing agent's website: www.BronxProgroup.com . Applications can also be requested by mail by sending a double-stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Bronx Pro Real Estate Management Inc., 1605 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Bronx, NY 10453, ATTN: VAN CORTLANDT GREEN	No deadline
1825 Boston Road, Bronx, NY 10460	107	To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect . To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Crotona Terrace Building B, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.	March 15, 2017
4275 Park Ave, Bronx, NY 10457	227	To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect . To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Park House, PO Box 3620937, New York, NY 10129. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.	April 17, 2017