

## **Assemblyman Blake's Events**

### **12/16 - One Hundred Black Men, Inc. Event at Eagle Academy with Assemblyman Pichardo**



At the Eagle Academy for Young Men in The Bronx, Assemblyman Pichardo and I encouraged the young men to continue to do positive work in the community. We distributed toys and food in support of 100 Black Men and the work it does with minority youth. Educating and supporting our community's young men represents one of the many steps needed to build a vibrant and prosperous Bronx. As youth feel connected to their communities, they will turn toward a better future for themselves and our communities.

### **12/18 - Presentation of Proclamation Celebrating SoBRO's 42nd Anniversary**



Rebuilding our district and attracting high-paying jobs depends on the hard work of non-profit organizations like SoBRO. In December, I had the honor of presenting a declaration at their annual gala,

and I look forward to our continued collaboration. Together, we can revitalize The Bronx, making it an affordable and safe place to call home.

**12/19 - Presentation of Proclamation to Casa Boricua Senior Center for their Community Work**



A community is only as strong as its senior centers. Casa Boricua helps celebrate our history by caring for our seniors and providing them with a community to call home. I am proud of the work they do on behalf of the 79th District. As we support our seniors, we honor our past and inspire our future generations.

**12/20 - CASA New Settlement Press Conference on Strengthening Rent Regulations in 2015**

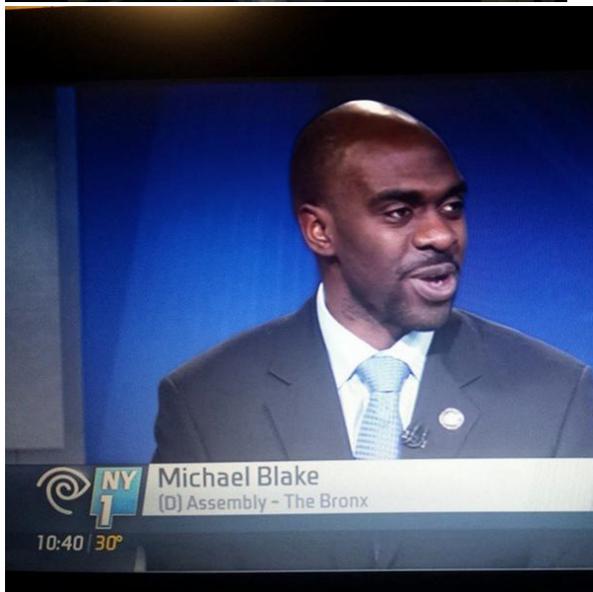


Standing with residents and Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), I joined Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo, Assemblymember Latoya Joyner, Councilmember Vanessa Gibson, and Councilmember Andrew Cohen to advocate for safe and

affordable housing for residents in The Bronx. CASA has shown that through community action, tenant education programs, and legislative advocacy, we can maintain affordable housing. As rent regulations are set to expire in June, I will continue to ensure that residents in the Bronx and across the state receive equal treatment and an affordable place to call home.

#### 1/14 - Inside City Hall Interview

- <http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/inside-city-hall/2015/01/15/freshman-state-legislators-talk-first-weeks-in-office.html>



In January, I was featured on an interview panel for NY1's Inside City Hall where I expressed my goals to support women and minority owned businesses and women's rights during the legislative session. Our communities depend on the hard work and ingenuity of women—with their help we can build strong communities. I will continue to be an outspoken voice on behalf of the 79th District.

**1/15 - SEIU32BJ Airport Workers Rally on Dr. King's Birthday, January 15**



In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the values of non-violent protest, I marched in solidarity with workers from across the city on Dr. King's birthday, January 15. We championed worker's and minority rights, knowing that fair wages and racial equality make our communities strong. We will celebrate Dr. King every day by working to provide minorities with equal treatment before the law and workers with

the right to organize and collectively bargain for improved working conditions. Together we will march towards justice—without it, we will never know peace.

### **1/16-1/19 - Inauguration Events**



**(1/16) Youth Summit**



**(1/16) Youth Summit**

Before my inauguration, I hosted our first annual Youth Summit, featuring Michael Skolnik, Lil Mama, Angela Yee, and Janaye Ingram. We plan to place a great deal of focus on the youth in our communities: They are our future leaders, parents, teachers, and neighbors. It is imperative that we develop educational and extracurricular opportunities for our youth so that they turn away from crime and towards lives as productive community members. Through our annual summits and continued work in Albany, we will work to make this ideal a reality.



(1/17)



(1/17)



(1/17) Jobs and Justice Summit

Our first Jobs and Justice Summit focused on bringing the community together to do something different in the South Bronx. Economic opportunity depends on equal opportunity, especially for our minority and women owned businesses. Bringing jobs through just employment and economic practices will bring dignity to our communities. I was honored to stand with our panelists as we work toward a better Bronx. I thank NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Councilmember Vanessa Gibson, MTA Chief Diversity Officer Michael Garner, NAA CEO Pilar Avila, and the many others that attended.



**(1/18) Inauguration**

**NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer makes encouraging and inspiring remarks during Inauguration**



**(1/18) Inauguration**

**I was honored to have Bronx Supreme Court Justice the Hon. Fernando Tapi swear me in alongside my mother, Hilary Lawrence**



**(1/18) Inauguration Gala**

Thank you to all who supported and were able to attend my inauguration. It was a day of celebration, as well as a day of resolve. We committed to training twenty entrepreneurs through Workshops in Business

Opportunities with Boricua College (WIBO), as well as partnering with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on their local job hiring efforts. I look upon my time in office as a responsibility to the people of the 79th District, whom I represent. I thank you for your support and promise to fight for you needs in Albany.



(1/19) A Day on for King



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In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I hosted “A Day on for King,” alongside Radio 103.9 where we honored Dr. King’s memory and mission of racial equality. As we work towards his dream, we are reminded where we have come from and where we must go. Dr. King preached that in addition to understanding, we must work towards love because justice involves more than just tolerance—it involves true compassion and understanding. Let us reflect on Dr. King’s vision and work to make it a reality.

## 2/4 - NLC Gala



I was given the honor to speak at the New Leaders Council's annual gala in February. NLC trains emerging progressive thinkers and leaders to become transformative members of society. I urged them to spearhead the change in our communities and remember that young people lead transformative movements. Change happens when the people and their leaders unite. Together, we say that today is our time for change—for better schools, safer communities, and decent, affordable housing.

## 2/8 - NYCHA Installation



With over twenty NYCHA developments in my district, advocating for tenants is one of my chief concerns. All residents deserve a safe and affordable place to call home, but with increasing budget cuts and apathetic governing structures, many NYCHA developments have fallen into disrepair. These conditions are unacceptable, and I will work with the legislature to support needed reforms.

## **2/14 - Presentations at Public-Private Partnerships, MWBE Workshop and the People's Budget**



Women and minority owned businesses represent a transformative force in our district. Empowering previously disadvantaged populations has the potential to lift our communities out of poverty and break the school-to-prison pipeline found in too many of our communities. I thank Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte and my other colleagues for helping lead these conferences. Supporting women and minority owned businesses has been my true passion, and I will fight for much-needed legislation in Albany.

## **2/14 - Alpha Phi Alpha Reception**



During Caucus Weekend in February, I had the privilege of attending the Alpha Phi Alpha reception with NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Assemblyman Walter Mosley. Together, we will work to build a better Bronx and be a voice for our communities. I am grateful for their continued support.

## **2/18 - Remarks at the Local 375 Black History Month Event**



At the Local 375 Black History Month event, I shared my experiences as a community leader and mentor and championed the need to empower our communities' youth. As we work to develop stronger schools, extracurricular activities, and career-oriented training programs, we will help prepare our youth for futures as contributing citizens. Together, we can inspire future generations and make The Bronx a thriving metropolis.

## **2/19 - Meet & Greet at Forest-McKinley Houses**



At Forest-McKinley Houses in The Bronx, I presented on the state budget process and listened to constituent concerns. Meetings like these will help me better represent the people of my district and bring their ideas to Albany. I believe in an inclusive governing process where residents have direct access to their elected officials. Only in this way can we truly serve the people we represent.

## **2/27- Bronx Democracy Prep Town Hall with Sen. Rivera**



At Bronx Democracy Prep, I was given the wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with students to discuss different issues that concern them. We gave academic awards to acknowledge the top scholars in the school and observed a wonderful performance by Stephen Durosaiye and Tavan Thomas (above). Spending time with students helps them become more involved, gives them the opportunity to voice their thoughts and feelings, and allows them to see that the work I do is to improve their future.

## **2/28 - 79th District Black History Month Event**



In honor of Black History Month, I joined Senator Gustavo Rivera and Councilmember Vanessa Gibson to honor members of our community for their work and model citizenship at the Claremont Neighborhood Center. As we celebrate our history, we learn from the past and inspire a future generation of leaders. Together, we will fight for Dr. King's dream, knowing that African American history runs deep in our communities.