



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that next week is the last week of the 2021 legislative session. While this certainly has been an interesting and undoubtedly unique time to take on a new role as a Member of the Assembly, I am so proud of how much the legislature has been able to accomplish this session, despite all the obstacles thrown at us due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am also extremely grateful for how much support New York received from the federal American Protection Plan, which bolstered greatly our ability to help New Yorkers hit hardest economically by the pandemic. Last week I discussed the [Emergency Rental Relief Program](#), to aid renters who have and/or continue to suffer financially due to COVID-19 (discussed briefly again below). Today I will be discussing the [Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#) to help small businesses.

Speaking of a productive session, there are a number of laws that take effect in June, which you can check out by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions about these new laws, please don't hesitate to reach out.

[COVID Relief to Help Small Businesses](#)
(and a reminder about Emergency Rental Assistance)

[The Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#) will provide grant funding to small and micro businesses, and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. **The program is expected to begin accepting applications on Thursday, June 10th** (please check my [Facebook](#) page or [Twitter](#) feed for any changes to this date).

The \$800 million program was passed as part of this year's state budget. The grants will be flexible and can be used for a number of different business operating expenses, including **payroll, rent or mortgage payments, taxes, utilities, PPE or other business expenses** incurred between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021. Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000, calculated based on a New York State business' annual gross receipts for 2019.

Eligible businesses must be currently viable, have been operational on or before March 1, 2019, and must continue to be in operation (unless shuttered due to COVID-19 restrictions). Applicants will be required to show loss of gross receipts or other economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols, which resulted in business modifications, interruptions, or closures.

For more information, including additional details on eligibility, please visit: <https://esd.ny.gov/pandemic-small-business-recovery-grant-program>.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Now Accepting Applications

For those of you who missed [last week's newsletter](#), **applications are now being accepted for residential rental assistance through the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#)**. The program provides relief for low and moderate-income households that have suffered economically due to the pandemic, and who risk homelessness or housing instability. For those who are eligible, the program provides rental arrears and temporary rental assistance, as well as utility arrears assistance. Rental assistance can be applied for by either the tenant or landlord.

To learn more about the program, including eligibility and the documents needed to apply, please visit: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/Emergency-Rental-Assistance>.



COVID-19 RELIEF

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), passed as part of this year's state budget, begins accepting applications on **Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 9 a.m.** ERAP benefits are paid directly to the tenant's landlord or property owner or utility.

Eligible households may receive:

- up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rent accrued on or after March 13, 2020
- up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household spends 30% or more of their monthly income on rent
- up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for arrears accrued on or after March 13, 2020

Eligibility Requirements:

- Household gross income is at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 on or after March 13, 2020
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which can be demonstrated by having rental arrears owed on or after March 13, 2020
- For the first 30 days of the program, priority will be given to households with the greatest need

The Small Business Recovery Grant Program for small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations who experienced a COVID-related financial hardship is currently being finalized and will begin accepting applications soon. The \$800 million program was passed as part of this year's state budget.

Grants could be used to cover various business costs incurred between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021, including payroll, rent, mortgage, property and school taxes, insurance, utilities and pandemic-related expenditures that were necessary to protect the health and safety of workers and consumers.



Legislation to Protect Immigrants from Coercion and Extortion

This week, the Assembly and Senate passed [legislation](#) that would make **threatening to report a person's immigration status, or cause deportation/removal proceedings to be instituted against them, a form of extortion or coercion.**

Under current law, the threat to accuse someone of a crime (or cause criminal charges to be instituted against them), in order to compel them to do something from which they have a legal right to abstain, is considered coercion. This legislation ensures that the coercive threat to report one's suspected status or to cause deportation/removal proceedings is treated the same way.

This legislation will help prevent unscrupulous individuals from being able to take advantage of our immigrant community – particularly undocumented immigrants who are especially vulnerable – for personal gain. Similar measures have been enacted in California, Colorado, Maryland and Virginia.

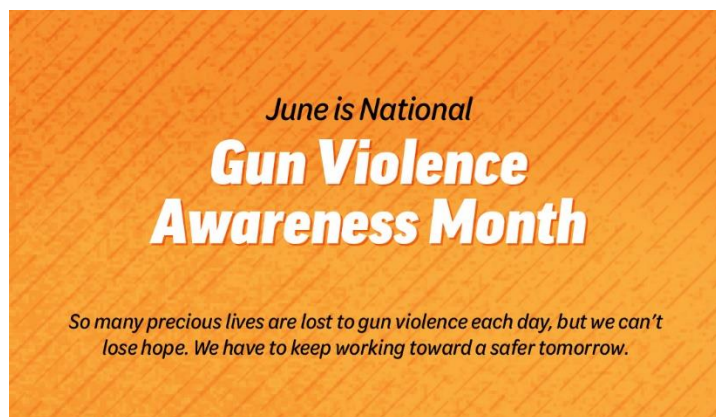
As the legislation has passed the Assembly and Senate, it now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month, and today – June 4th – is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. **The daily scourge of gun violence in this country is tragic.** This past Memorial Day weekend alone, there were reportedly [nine shootings and 15 victims of gun violence](#) across the country. And no matter the definition of a [mass shooting](#), there is a horrendous number by any definition and any measure. Indeed, one is too many, and we are hearing about these horrors on a daily basis.

New York is not immune from this violence. As of June 1st, New York City alone had reported [573 shootings this year, with 652 victims](#). We owe it to the people of New York to do everything we can to help curb this violence.

This past week, the New York State Senate [passed a series of measures](#) to prevent gun violence. I am cautiously optimistic the Assembly will follow suit and take up this critical legislation. I am cosponsoring legislation and pressing hard for its enactment. Let's get this done!



[Celebrating Pride Month](#)

June is also Pride Month, where we honor the 1969 Stonewall Riots and celebrate the truth that love is love... *because we are all in this together.*



(Please [click here](#) to view my recent remarks on a resolution proclaiming June 2021 as Gay Pride Month in New York.)

Want to join in the celebration? There are a number of Pride Month events taking place throughout the district:

Saturday, June 5th

New Castle Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

10:00 am @ New Castle Town Hall, 200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua

Bedford Pride Day

12:00-12:30 pm: Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at Bedford Town Hall

12:30 pm-4:30 pm: Chalk the Walk Rainbow in each hamlet. Support Pride Day by spreading rainbows and rainbow colors in chalk around the Town of Bedford: Katonah-Bedford Village-Bedford Hills

[Click here for more information](#)

Sunday, June 6th

The LOFT LGBT Community Center - Westchester Pride 2021

11:30-12:30 - Westchester Pride 2021 Kickoff! (*Virtual*) - Messages from elected officials, musical performances, an inspiring and hilarious celebrity message that you'll only be able to see at the event. **Followed by a month of events... [click here for the full schedule!](#)**

Tuesday, June 15th

There for Each Other: A Lewisboro Conversation on LGBTQIA+ Allyship

8:00 pm Virtual Event

Want to be a supportive LGBTQIA+ ally, but not sure how to start? Want to be able to speak to your friends or children about LGBTQIA+ topics, but scared of saying the wrong thing? Join Lewisboro and our neighbors in a judgment-free community dialogue led by current and former Lewisboro LGBTQIA+ community members and John Jay alums.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Saturday, June 25th

Pride in the Park (Onatru Farm Park, 99 Elmwood Road, South Salem)

2:00 pm: Drag Queen Story Hour

3:00 pm: Pet Pride Parade

4:00-6:00 pm: Pride Picnic Food Truck Festival

6:00 pm: Queer-Larious, A Comedy Showcase

All events free & family-friendly! [Click here for more details](#)
(Rain Date: January 26th)

If there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,



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