

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we step into spring and feel that warmer weather rolls in, I'm proud to bring you the Spring 2025 Constituent Mailer – a quick look at what we've been getting done for the people of District 31. I hope this information will deepen your understanding of our efforts to represent the very best of Assembly District 31.

Right now, negotiations of the State Budget are still in progress between the Assembly, State Senate, and Governor Hochul. The Budget is three weeks late because of policy disagreements, but I'm in Albany pushing for a fair legal system and a 2025–26 budget that brings real relief to our families and small businesses, keeps our neighborhoods safe, and makes sure folks don't go hungry, even with federal cuts trying to hold us back.

Sincerely,



Khaleel M. Anderson
Assembly Member
31st District

Items I wish to highlight in the Assembly Budget Proposal include:

Increasing access to affordable housing

Housing remains a top priority for District 31. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, I'm proud to support efforts that provide additional funding to help low-income and working-class families with rental and homeownership costs:

- o \$250 million to create a Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP) to support individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- o \$100 million for Mitchell-Lama units and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments to help offset maintenance costs and other extraordinary needs
- o We also provide \$750 million in additional lead, mold, or asbestos remediation funding for NYCHA – which can also be used to rehabilitate vacant units – and \$750 million more for Mitchell-Lama preservation

Easing The Tax Burden On Families In District 31

- o To support homeowners, our proposal would expand eligibility for the STAR property tax relief program by easing age and income requirements
- o The Assembly plan also includes an income tax credit of up to \$750 for eligible renters with incomes under \$200,000 in New York City, providing \$275 million in tax relief for around 1.87 million filers
- o To assist New Yorkers who struggling to make ends meet as costs for everyday goods and essentials keep rising, our proposal would cut income taxes for approximately 8.3 million taxpayers earning less than \$323,200
- o The Assembly plan also includes an income tax credit of up to \$750 for eligible renters with incomes under \$200,000 in New York City, providing \$275 million in tax relief for around 1.87 million filers

Addressing rising costs of childcare

- o The Assembly budget proposal would help low-income and working-class families with rental and homeownership costs with additional funding, including:
 - o Providing an additional \$327 million to expand universal prekindergarten, including \$302 million to increase the minimum per pupil funding formula and \$25 million for the Statewide Universal Full Day Prekindergarten grant
 - o An INSPIRE NY pilot program that would provide a \$400 per month allowance to mothers on public assistance for the last three months of pregnancy through the first year of a child's life

Supporting our students

- o We propose an increase of \$2.7 billion in school aid, \$1.1 billion over the executive proposal; this includes a \$2 billion increase in Foundation Aid, \$569 million over the executive budget
- o I am strong proponent of free school breakfast and lunch for all New York students, providing every kid with meals at school means one less thing for parents and caregivers to think about and pay for, eases the stigma that comes along with only some students getting free meals, and ensures kids don't have to learn on an empty stomach

- o To support CUNY, our proposal provides a total of \$1.2 billion in capital funding, along with \$20 million in additional operating funds for CUNY community colleges
- o The Assembly proposal also restores \$9 million for college opportunity programs and increases funding by \$6.2 million, for a total of \$212 million

Improving community safety and expanding legal services

The Assembly is addressing public safety and these proposals below will support and expand existing services. Together, they aim to make our communities safer and more resilient.

- o The Assembly recognizes that the mental health crisis must be treated as a public health issue, not a crime
- o To that end, the Assembly plan provides \$350 million for Raise the Age – \$100 million more than the executive budget – and makes New York City eligible for Raise the Age funding
- o To combat the epidemic of gun violence affecting our communities, the Assembly proposal allocates \$10 million for SNUG and other crime reduction initiatives focused on safeguarding at-risk youth
- o Our plan also includes robust funding for criminal justice programs, including re-entry programs and civil and criminal legal services, ensuring that everyone has access to a fair and equitable justice process

Keeping District 31 and New Yorkers Fed

As the new chair of Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, I am working to strengthen programs that assist New York's most vulnerable residents and keep our families fed despite federal cutting funding, such as:

- o \$1.25 million more for the New York Farm Viability Institute, for a total of \$2.25 million
- o \$950,000 for Grow NYC
- o Allocating \$75 million for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program, a \$17.2 million increase over the executive proposal
- o Providing \$75 million for Nourish NY, a \$20 million increase over the executive proposal

Lieutenant Governor Anthony Delgado swearin.png photo

Swearing In-

I had the pleasure of being sworn on January 8th by our Lieutenant Governor Anthony Delgado for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session. With my hand on this Bible, I have sworn an oath to use my office to serve Assembly District 31! We take nothing for granted.



Legislative Events

State of the District

On February 27, I hosted my 4th annual State of the District address, celebrating our successes and acknowledging the challenges ahead. Our theme remains co-governance, as we must unite to build and sustain the community we deserve.

I'm grateful for the unwavering support of our community on this special occasion. It doesn't go unnoticed. Together, we can build a district that will stand for generations to come.





Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy

I was appointed Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy. This bipartisan Task Force with over a dozen of my colleagues are exploring solutions to food apartheid, rising grocery costs for average New Yorkers, and other priorities for this legislative session. Let's Feed New York!



Francesco's Law

Earlier in March, I hosted a legislative breakfast for one of my priority bills this session, A1962A/S3385, a lifesaving bill that makes secure firearm storage, the cornerstone of firearm safety. We heard firsthand from mothers who lost their children who have turned the unimaginable tragedies into activism. It was a painful but needed reminder of the work we must do. Francesco's Law would establish



violations for failing to store firearms in the presence of minors safely and prohibited persons. Francesco was a 17-year-old who lost his life due to an unsecured firearm after experiencing cyberbullying.



Upper Room International Ministries (URIM) Day

I had the privilege of celebrating the 25th anniversary of Upper Room International Ministries (URIM) with a privileged resolution, honoring their years of service and dedication. I introduced URIM's members on the House floor, led them on a tour of the Capitol, and presented a resolution in recognition of their impactful work. Their steadfast commitment to service is a true inspiration for me and the community.





Foster Youth Shadow Day

I had the opportunity to mentor an ambitious young man from Southeast Queens, a CUNY student. This year, he played a key role in helping me introduce a bill to establish bonds for foster youth, giving them the chance to save and invest in New York's economy as they age out of the system.





Nonprofits Advocacy Day

Everyone has ideas – we're all entrepreneurs in our own right. Too often, nonprofits lack the tools, resources, and capacity to grow. That's why I, alongside the Black Legislative Task Force, hosted Advocacy Day to spotlight the vital work of nonprofits driving change. By advocating for continued funding, we underscored the power of support and collective impact. The strong turnout reflected the strength and unity of our shared mission.



School District 29 Civics Day

I had the pleasure of joining Assembly Members Alicia Hyndman and Clyde Vanel for Civics Day, welcoming students from School District 29 to Albany. In a town hall-style Q&A, I spoke about the legislative process, the state budget, civic engagement, and shared my personal journey to inspire them to stay informed and involved in their communities.



Parents Day in Albany

Earlier in March, I had the pleasure of hosting my parents in Albany for the second annual “Bring Your Parents to Work Day”. They explored the capitol, learning about its history and the history of New York. I also gave a formal introduction on the floor. Having my parents share a part of my daily life meant the world to me and I am blessed to have them join me.



Riverfund Legislative Breakfast

As the new Chair of the Food, Farm, and Nutrition Taskforce, I was proud to host a legislative breakfast for Riverfund, a Queens based nonprofit that does tremendous work for food insecurity. Each month they deliver 1 million pounds of food. They support communities by helping them apply for snap and other benefits. My hope is to continue to work together to break down these barriers for those facing food insecurity.



Caucus Weekend

During Association Weekend, I hosted a workshop focused on expanding access to higher education. We addressed barriers students face in pursuing college and explored solutions to improve outreach, financial support, and pathways for diverse students to succeed. It was a valuable opportunity to collaborate with community members and stakeholders committed to increasing college access for underserved populations.



Around District 31

Women's HerStory Month

I hosted my annual Women's History Celebration to honor the incredible women making a powerful impact in our community. It's essential that we recognize and uplift the voices of women shaping our lives and our government.

Congratulations to all of this year's amazing honorees!



Teens for Food Justice

I toured the hydroponic farm at the Far Rockaway High Educational Campus, where they're making incredible strides in urban agriculture. By providing fresh produce, they're helping to combat food insecurity across the peninsula. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and commitment to teaching sustainability through innovative hydroponic farming.



MTA Van on the Rockaways

My office partnered with the MTA to host a MetroCard Van event, giving neighbors the opportunity to address OMNY concerns, explore reduced-fare options, and replace lost or damaged cards. I'm grateful we could bring this much-needed resource to the community – it was a successful (but freezing!) day. As the MTA transitions from MetroCards to the OMNY system, I look forward to hosting this van again to ensure everyone stays informed and supported



Interview with Monica Morales (PIX 11)

I had the pleasure of joining *Monica Makes It Happen!* with Monica Morales on PIX11 to discuss my new appointment as Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm & Nutrition Policy. We talked about my legislative priorities, including tackling SNAP skimming and addressing the injustices facing families who rely on these critical benefits. It was a great conversation, and I look forward to returning to discuss more impactful policy initiatives.

