



Assemblyman **JEFFRION L. AUBRY** Reports to the People

35TH A.D., QUEENS COUNTY • SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE • WINTER 2019



Dear Constituents:

During the 2019 session we laid out a blueprint for a more progressive and just criminal justice system: Speedy Trial, Discovery Reform, and Bail Reform just to name some of the new laws we enacted. Those who oppose these reforms are demanding more resources to enact the laws without accounting for the cost reductions these new reforms will help create. Less people will be incarcerated and speedy trials lead to faster justice. Very few take into account the wasted resources of the old system and the bloated infrastructure of the prison industrial complex. Change is never easy but it is now inevitable.

Thanks for your support,

Assemblyman
Jeffrion L. Aubry
Speaker Pro Tempore

Criminal Justice Reforms Take Effect January 1, 2020

Cash Bail

Cash bail will be eliminated for most misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses, and substituting release on recognizance or on non-monetary conditions when appropriate. It also requires that police officers issue an appearance ticket in lieu of arrest, to most people charged with a misdemeanor or class E felony. The bail system continues for higher-level cases, but this law requires judges to consider the financial resources of each defendant, as well as alternate forms of bail, such as secured or unsecured bond.



Speedy Trial

Reforms to the speedy trial provisions in New York's Criminal Procedure Law will require courts to determine at each court appearance, where possible, whether the speedy trial clock will continue to run during the time between court appearances. The law will also allow the court to inquire as to whether the prosecution is, in fact, ready for trial when the prosecution claims readiness. It will also require that the government certify it has met disclosure obligations before a statement of readiness is accepted.

Discovery

The revised "discovery" law requires early scheduled disclosure, while it maintains strong oversight by the judge. It broadens the circumstances in which the court may issue a protective order condition, denying or limiting disclosure where appropriate. Under the new law, the prosecution will be required to provide discovery to the defense within 15 days after arraignment, and will have to make certain disclosures before most negotiated guilty pleas. Reciprocal discovery from the defense to the prosecution is expedited as well.

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Raise the Age

Effective October 1, 2019, 17-year-old youth who have committed criminal acts will now be barred from automatically proceeding as adults in the criminal justice system. Those youth will instead be treated in age – and developmentally-appropriate ways and will receive needed services and treatment to avoid re-offending. The first phase of Raise the Age, implemented one year ago, similarly removed 16-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system.

As the primary sponsor of Raise the Age in the Assembly, I am pleased to see that the law is now in full implementation. Raise the Age provides opportunities for diversion and community-based services for 16- and 17-year-old youth who can safely remain in their communities.

Flushing Meadows, Corona Park Pre-K Center, Fall 2021



Construction has begun for the state-of-the-art Pre-K Center and it is scheduled to open in Fall 2021. The 306 seat state-of-the-art center will offer students a robust STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) education in partnership with the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI). Through this partnership, students and families will have direct access to resources available at the world-renowned New York Hall of Science, including specialized professional learning and coaching for teachers, and continuous opportunities for family and community engagement. The Pre-K Center will be the first of its kind in New York City – pioneering a focus on early childhood STEAM education, and a leading partnership with a central cultural institution.

Equal Pay

The Equal Pay law went into effect October 8, 2019. It expands the definition of “equal pay for equal work” and will help to ensure pay for women is commensurate with their job responsibilities, not solely based on title.

Additionally, starting in January 2020, a complementary law will go into effect that will forbid all employers – public and private – who do business in New York State from asking prospective employees about their salary history and compensation. The measures build on two executive orders signed by the Governor last year to eliminate the wage gap by prohibiting state entities from evaluating candidates based on wage history and requiring state contractors to disclose data on the gender, race and ethnicity of employees – leveraging taxpayer dollars to drive transparency and advance pay equity statewide.



Thriving Community



The Jackson Heights area is one of New York City's most diverse communities with one of the highest concentrations of immigrants, many running their own businesses and making major contributions to the booming local economy, according to a recent report released by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

Since the end of the recession, there has been a significant increase in the number of businesses in the Jackson Heights area. In 2018, there were 3,300 businesses, 660 more than in 2009. Many are small retail shops and restaurants that reflect the neighborhood's diversity. Nearly three-quarters had fewer than five employees, and 88 percent had fewer than 10 employees.

Hurricane Disaster Relief



My office recently hosted a relief drive to assist in Hurricane Dorian relief efforts. I would like to thank the many local businesses and residents who generously donated items toward this cause.

The powerful storm devastated the Bahamas, regions in the Caribbean and along the Eastern Coast of the United States. The Assembly Majority is committed to work closely with the Consulate General of the Bahamas and the Bahamian American Association to address strategies needed to assist the impacted communities.

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