



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

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*Mid-Year Review 2021*

### Welcome Back!

*It has been a rough year for us all here in New York, the nation, and the world. We fought to survive through the coronavirus pandemic; now, let's work to return our city back to some form of normalcy. With the summer months upon us, let's enjoy this time, embrace our communities and the businesses within it. I look forward to the time when I can connect once again with you.*

## Legislation

### Budget Highlights

Below are highlights of the NYS 2021-22 Legislative Budget enacted following the close of the fiscal year in March 2021.

- **K-12 Fiscal Equity:** State aid to school districts increased by **\$29.5 billion**. Foundation Aid increased to \$1.4 billion plus commitment to fully fund the state's foundation aid. Full-day prekindergarten expanded by \$105 million.
- **Higher Education: 3-year tuition freeze** for SUNY and CUNY. Tuition Assistance Program maximum award increased by **\$500**, plus commitment to eliminate TAP gap in 4-years. Restore **\$35 million** in Bundy Aid. Restore SUNY and CUNY operating aid cuts to \$72 million.
- **Excluded Worker Fund: \$2.1 billion** to provide one-time unemployment benefits to undocumented immigrants losing work during COVID-19.
- **Housing: \$2.4 billion** in Emergency Rental Assistance Program to aid those impacted by COVID-19.
- **Homeowner Support:** Mortgage Forbearance extension to **December 31, 2021**, for homeowners experiencing hardships due to COVID-19.
- **Legalization of Marijuana:** Decriminalized the adult use of cannabis; provides licensing for marijuana producers, distributors, and retailers; created an economic equity program for those disproportionately impacted by cannabis enforcement.

## Bills Passed By The Legislature

### Correctional Reform

- **A2277** HALT Solitary Confinement Act: Ends the use of long-term solitary confinement limiting to 15 days. Restricts it for individuals under 21, pregnant women and disabled. CHAPTERED INTO LAW; CHAPTERED INTO LAW; CHAP.93
- **A4448A** Restoring the right to vote for individuals convicted of a felony that are on parole. CHAPTERED INTO LAW; CHAP.103
- **A8022** Provides additional support to formerly incarcerated individuals to help with a successful reentry into the community.
- **A5576A** Less is More: support formerly incarcerated individuals in completing their community supervision and avoid the return to the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for minor technicalities.

### Gun Safety

- **A7957** Seize a weapon of a person who is subject to an order of protection
- **A6522** Bans the manufacture of guns that look like toy guns
- **A2666A** Prohibit possession of unfinished firearm frames and receivers
- **A0613** Require licensed gunsmith to add serial numbers and register 'ghost guns'

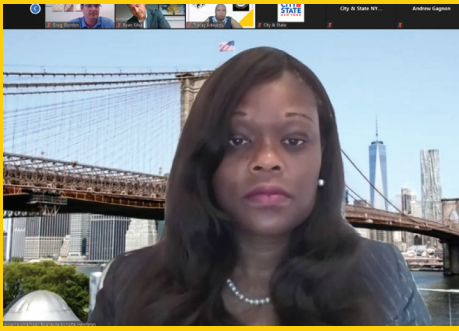
### Election Reform

- **A6046** Permits voters to electronically request an absentee application. SPONSORED BY RODNEYSE BICHOTTE HERMELYN.
- **A6047A** Eliminates the need for a voter to request an absentee ballot application via a signed absentee ballot application. Also, allow an absentee ballot that is post-marked by the date of election, to be rendered a timely ballot. SPONSORED BY RODNEYSE BICHOTTE HERMELYN.
- **A5424A** Required boards of elections to designate early voting sites based on the number of registered voters. Also increased the voting hours on weekends and legal holidays.
- **A7931** Allows absentee, affidavit, military, and special ballots to be reviewed sooner to expedite results quicker.

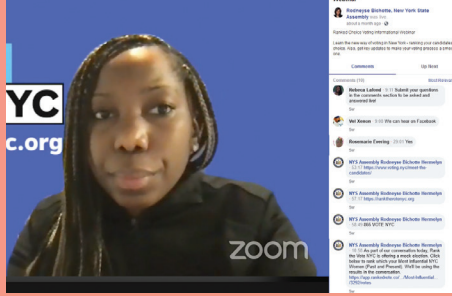
### Other

- **A6593B** The 'Housing Our Neighbors With Dignity Act' allows New York's DHCR to expand the affordable housing stock by financing the acquisition and conversion of distressed hotels and commercial properties into low- and middle-income properties.
- **A6935B** Requires funds from opioid settlements to be used for the development of new services and support.

## Virtual Corner



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn in a City & State panel titled "Economic Inclusion Initiative."



Debbie Esther Louis is the presenter at a Rank Choice Voting event, hosted by the Office of Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn to educate the community on the June 22 election.



Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn provides remarks for her Tax Webinar Event.

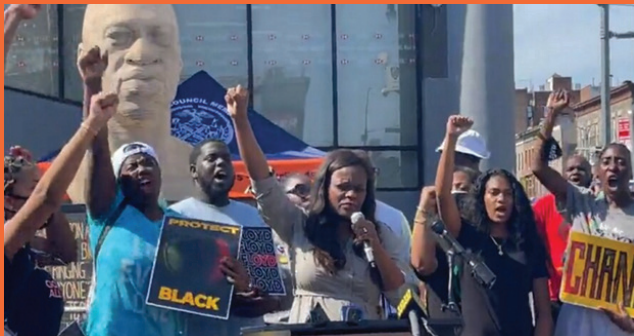


Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn at the Mayor's press briefing to discuss NYC/MWBE Opportunities Act and Community Hiring



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn as the special guest at Haitian American Nurses Association of Greater New York

## Activism and Community Initiatives



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn; Council Member Farah N. Louis, National Action Network, George Floyd Foundation, and other community organizers at a press conference at Flatbush Junction addressing the defacing of George Floyd's statue.



Left to right: NYC Small Business Commissioner Jonnel Dorris, Ericka Keller of Brisa Builders; Evangelical Crusade Christian Church's First Lady Faride Nicolas, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Reverend Samuel Nicolas, Council Member Farah N. Louis and Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn at the ribbon cutting of the new Bishop Philius and Helene Nicolas Senior Residence.



Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn join Family members of 12-year-old Romy Vilsaint, who died in Kings County Hospital after being sick in the school nurse's office at P.S. 361



Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn provides remarks at the 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration at Grand Army Plaza.



(left to right) Ruth Bader Ginsburg's granddaughter; Professor Jane Ginsburg, the daughter of Justice Ginsburg, and Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn participates in the unveiling of the Brooklyn Municipal Building RBG Renaming



Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn speaks at Dr. Roy A. Hastick Sr. Way Street Co-Naming & Unveiling Ceremony.



Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn speaks at the Cadman Park Conservancy for the Juneteenth Celebration.

## In the Community



*Elected officials join Michael Miller from the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC) for a Virtual Hamantaschen Tasting.*



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn presents citations to Pakistani American Youth Organization (PAYO) and ICNA Relief for their one year anniversary of the community food pantry.*



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn hosts her Summer Subway Office Hours at Newkirk Plaza B/Q train in which she meets with the community and provides resources*



*(Left to right) Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn; Judge Dweynie Paul; District Leader Josue Pierre; and Chair of COPO, Mohammad Razvi at the official recognition of Little Pakistan.*



*Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn collects items for St. Vincent. Soleil Griffin, Director of Operations for Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, with a constituent donor.*



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn speaks at the HALEFO's Haitian Flag Day celebration, flanked by Deputy Inspector Gaby Celiba and Lt. Claude Celestin in Little Haiti, Brooklyn on Jean Jacques Dessalines Boulevard.*



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn and Council member-elect Rita Joseph attends Superintendent Dr. Clarence Ellis farewell from the New York City Department of Education in order to assume the position of Superintendent of Schools for the East Ramapo Central School District.*



*Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn hosts mask distribution in Midwood. Sabrina Rezy, Director of Communication and Legislation, with community leader Boris Noble and son, and constituent.*

## Health Care



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn brings, Morris Heights Health Center, a newly revamped ambulatory care facility to Flatbush Brooklyn; slated to open in 2021.*



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn and Council Member Farah N. Louis delivered greetings to Morris Heights Health Center and Flatbush YMCA's staff during their pop-up COVID-19 vaccine site.*

# Recognition



*Carib News 8th Annual Power 100 honors Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn during their Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebration.*



*The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.(CACCI) honored Borough President Eric Adams (Pastor Gilford Monrose accepting on his behalf), Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, and Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn for their leadership in the community.*



*Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn celebrates the retirement of Detective Kim Walker of the 70th Precinct after 20 years with the NYPD.*

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## George Floyd Statue Unveiling



*Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn with Terrence Floyd, brother of George Floyd and CB 17 Chair Joan Alexander-Bakiriddin and community residents at the unveiling of a statue of his brother at Flatbush Junction in Brooklyn.*

## Justice Ruth Baders Ginsburg Statue Unveiling



*Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn and candidate for mayor Eric Adams unveil the Ruth Baders Ginsburg Statue at City Point Brooklyn.*



*Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn provided remarks during the preview of the statue of the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at City Point in Brooklyn.*