

Assembly Member **CHARLES BARRON**

Reports to the people

60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • EAST NEW YORK • BROOKLYN • CANARSIE



**Wear
A Mask!**



**Wash Your
Hands!**



**Keep Your
Distance!**



**Our Health Is
Our Wealth!**

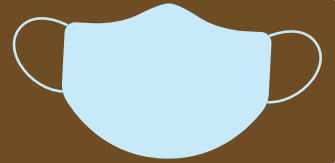
Assembly Member Charles Barron, Council Member Inez Barron and Community Activists Celebrate the Passing of Reparations Bill A2619A



On Thursday June 10th Assembly Member Barron, Council Member Inez Barron, Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement, Omawale Clay of the December 12th Movement, Lawrence Hamm Chairman of People's Organization for Progress, Reverend Dr. Herbert Daughtry of The House of the Lord Church, Bishop Dr. Ayana Vason, as well as other community activists gathered at the African Burial ground in Manhattan for a press conference to celebrate the historic passing in the New York State Assembly of reparations bill A2619A. The bill calls for an acknowledgment of the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in New York State. The bill also establishes a community led commission to recommend reparations remedies. The bill is sponsored in the New York State Senate by Senator Jabari Brisport as bill S7215. Assembly Member Barron and Senator Brisport call on the Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Governor Cuomo to support this historic bill.



Wear a Mask!



Rental Assistance for Struggling New Yorkers

The New York State Rental Assistance Program has re-opened! Read on to learn more about the program.

Details About the Program

- Applications opened Tuesday June 1, 2021
- No immigration status requirements
- Up to 12 months of rental arrears and utility arrears if accrued after March 12, 2020
- Up to 3 months of additional assistance if paying more than 30% of gross income on rent

The NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) continues to accept applications. ERAP will provide significant economic relief to help low- and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability due to unpaid rent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tenants who have been approved for the program will be notified of owed amounts to be paid to the landlord/property owner on the tenant's behalf. To learn more about the program and for answers to frequently asked questions, visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>

Applications are available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To begin the application, visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/#apply>. If you have questions about the program or need assistance filling out the form, call our district office at **718-771-3105** to make an appointment or contact the ERAP team:

Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Phone: 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)

For the hearing impaired, TTY phone number: 1-833-843-8829.

Business Assistance Programs

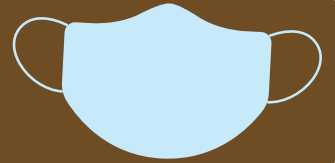
Small businesses are the backbone of New York's economy, and the COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program is the first step in ensuring that struggling businesses receive the support they need to recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rent relief and small business relief programs totaling \$3.8 billion to help New Yorkers recover from the COVID-19 pandemic are available to you right now. Along with the COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program there are other programs that can apply to your business as well. To find out which program is best for you visit <https://esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative>.



Continued on page 3



Wear a Mask!



Continued from page 2

- **COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program:** The small business recovery grant program makes up to \$800 million in funding available for small businesses to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Applications for the program are open for small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.
- **Restaurant Resiliency Program:** \$25 million in grant funding to support restaurants that provide meals to distressed and under-represented communities.
- **Restaurant Return-To-Work Tax Credit:** \$35 million for small, independently owned restaurants within New York City or any area in New York State designated by the NYS Department of Health as either an Orange or a Red zone for at least 30 consecutive days.
- **New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit:** For for-profit productions that will take place on a qualified stage with seating of at least 500 seats. \$100 million in tax credits to jump start the entertainment industry and support tourism activity in New York City.
- **New York State Biodefense Commercialization Fund:** \$40 million dedicated for a life science-specific initiative to capitalize on New York's research and development assets and expertise in life sciences, biotechnology, and biodefense.
- **New York Forward Loan Fund:** A \$100 million economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits.

COVID-19 Restrictions

On June 15th Governor Cuomo announced that COVID-19 restrictions were lifted because 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination series. The State's health guidance and New York Forward industry specific guidelines, including social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, health screening, and contact information for tracing, are now optional for retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and personal care services, among other commercial settings.

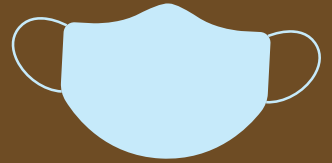
Unvaccinated people should continue to be responsible for wearing masks, in accordance with federal CDC guidelines. Along with the State's implementation of the recent CDC guidance, masks are still required for unvaccinated people. The State's health guidelines continue to be in effect for large-scale indoor event venues, pre-K to grade 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and health care settings per CDC guidelines. The 2021-2022 school year begins September 13th and the Department of Education, so far, will continue to offer blended learning to parents and students. To stay updated on the COVID-19 guidelines for schools visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-update>.

New York State's COVID restrictions remain in effect for large-scale indoor event venues, now defined as indoor venues that hold more than 5,000 attendees. Along with the State's implementation of the CDC guidelines, proof of vaccination can be used to eliminate social distancing and remove masks for fully vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated or unknown vaccination status individuals who are over the age of four must continue to present proof of a recent negative diagnostic COVID-19 test result and wear masks within the venue. However, social distancing can be reduced or eliminated between tested attendees, allowing venues to reach 100 percent capacity in all sections.

Continued on page 4



Wear a Mask!



Continued from page 3

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over!

Although many COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted there has been an uptick in cases of the Delta variant and we strongly encourage our constituents to remain cautious because the fight against COVID-19 is not over. Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands as often as possible, social distance, and refrain from touching your face. These precautions greatly reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. To stay updated on the CDC guidelines for COVID-19 visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. For those who are interested in taking a COVID-19 vaccine visit <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>.

Please consult your physician before taking the vaccine.

Charles Barron • 669 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207



Wear A Mask!

Assembly Member

CHARLES BARRON

Reports to the People

SUMMER 2021

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



Assembly Member CHARLES BARRON

60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • EAST NEW YORK • BROWNSVILLE • CANARSIE

DISTRICT OFFICE: 669 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, New York 11207 • 718-257-5824 • Fax: 718-257-2590

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 532 Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5912 • Fax: 518-455-3891

Email: barronc@nyassembly.gov • (Although both offices are physically closed, we are still servicing constituents by phone and email)