



## Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

April 29, 2021

### Ramadan Celebration

The Muslim Celebration of Ramadan continues. As the first Muslim elected official on Staten Island, it is an honor to help share this holiday with our community to raise awareness of my faith. This is a month of giving and sacrifice to honor our relationship with God. It is a time for learning and humbling ourselves and it is one of my favorite times of the year.

[Click here to watch my full remarks on Ramadan](#)



## Upcoming Events

Join us [Friday, April 30th](#) at 1:00 PM at Masjid Rahmatillah at 36 Hardy Street as we deliver food to the community in celebration of Ramadan.



I am hosting a Virtual Community Iftar on [May 4th](#) at 6:15pm as we continue to celebrate Ramadan and hope to see you there. [Please click here to register.](#)



Please join us in an effort to beautify our oldest park dedicated to our Veterans, Veterans Park May 7th at 3pm. Thank you to the NYPD, the 121 Precinct Community Council, Port Richmond Strong, District Attorney Michael E. McMahon, Councilmember Rose, Parks, and DSNY for your partnership on this.

**Community Clean Day**

**121st Precinct**  
*"Veterans Park"*

**Clean-Up Event**  
**May 7th 2021 3pm**

*located on Pt Richmond Ave between Park Avenue, Heberton Avenue, Bennett Street and Vreeland Street.*

**Volunteers Needed & Donations Welcome**

*"Veterans Park" is Staten Island's oldest park that is dedicated to our American Veterans and is located in the heart of Port Richmond. We are reaching out to the community and local leaders for assistance to help in this event to Revitalize one of Staten Island's greatest parks. Our goal is to brighten up and revitalize the park for a clean safe environment to enjoy and to hold future fun events for the community. Anyone who would like to donate supplies or funds can notify the 121st Precinct Community Council (501e-3) at [Communitycouncil121pet@gmail.com](mailto:Communitycouncil121pet@gmail.com) or contact the 121st Precinct Community Affairs Div (718)697-8777 970 Richmond Ave Staten Island, Ny 10314 Donation Checks can be made out to the 121st Precinct Community Council, Please write Veterans Park Project in the memo section.*

Logos for: Port Richmond Strong, Port Richmond Public Library, and various community members.

**District 61 News**

**Faber Park Opening**

Faber Park is now open to all. This project has revamped the park in Mariners Harbor and we the families of Staten Island to come out and enjoy it. A special thank you Commissioner Silver for delivering such a fantastic job in such a short amount of time.



## Masjid Noor al Islam Society Food Giveaway

As the Muslim Celebration of Ramadan continues, we want to make sure we share our good fortune and give back to our communities. [Last Friday](#), my office teamed up with Project Hospitality and COJO to distribute food at Masjid Noor al Islam Society. Thanks to Project Hospitality for continuing to sponsor our food drives and giveaways. I am grateful to continue these partnerships and for all the volunteers who participated.



## Senator Schumer Providing Relief for Restaurants

I am grateful for Senator Schumer's tireless advocacy for the business owners of New York and for ensuring that the [American Rescue Plan](#) provides over \$28 billion to support the recovery of our restaurants.





## **Farewell to Aileen Fuchsm, CEO of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden**

Under Aileen's leadership Snug Harbor flourished tremendously. I am so thankful for everything she has done for Staten Island. She will be sorely missed, but I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors as she takes her talents to Washington DC.



## **Gun Buyback at Calvary Chapel**

Over 50 handguns and shotguns were removed from our streets on the North Shore on [Saturday](#). Thank you to Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and the NYPD for your partnership for this event and thank you Pastor Watson for hosting this event.



## **Highlights for the 2021-2022 NYS Budget**

Our State Legislature passed a historic \$212 billion budget to jump start New York's economic recovery due to the COVID-19 Pandemic just a few weeks ago. We made sure that this budget reflected the needs and priorities for everyday New Yorkers. In the video below I highlight some of the key points of the budget.

[Click here to watch full video of highlights.](#)



---

## **Updates From Albany**

**In celebration of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Assemblyman Charles D. Fall invites and introduces Imam Tahir during the New York State Assembly virtual invocation.**

Once again, I was honored to introduce Imam Tahir after he conducted the invocation for the opening of the Assembly session. In our continued efforts to collaboratively bring communities of all faiths together, I once again want to thank Imam Tahir for conducting the invocation this week.



**Assemblyman Fall introduces new legislation that would amend the education law, to require that the Muslim holidays of Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha be school holidays in the city school district of the city of New York.**

- No current state law provides for recognition of these important religious holidays.
- Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha are two of the most important holidays in the Muslim calendar.
  - Eid Ul-Fitr marks the end of the month long fast of Ramadan. It is celebrated with communal prayers and other social activities.
  - The prayers mark the beginning of the Eid Ul-Fitr along with social visits seeking to strengthen the bonds of the community. The holiday extends for three days, the most important of which is the first day.
  - Eid Ul-Adha marks the culmination of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.
  - It serves to remind Muslims of the continuity of their faith throughout history and connects them with the Great Prophet Abraham.
  - The holiday lasts four days, the most important being, the first day
- Currently, Muslims constitute approximately 10 percent of the student body in the New York City School District. No provision is made for any of their high holy days.

**This week the Assembly passed resolutions to repeal certain portions of a series of executive orders issued by the Governor over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- The executive orders were originally issued in order to respond to the constantly evolving health crisis.
- Starting with the rule that required bars and restaurants to serve food with alcoholic beverages.
- I along with my colleagues also helped rescind certain compliance rules and fines for vaccine suppliers that are no longer needed and could hinder vaccination efforts.
- The executive order that exempted certain volunteers in significant government roles from following certain state ethics requirements was also rescinded.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) modified its mask guidelines to clarify that fully vaccinated people don't need to wear a mask while dining outdoors or attending small outdoor gatherings.
- New York State is also lifting its curfew for restaurants and bars beginning [May 17](#) for outdoor spaces, and on [May 31](#) for indoor spaces.
- **Bars in New York City can also begin allowing seating on [May 3](#).**

Now, as New Yorkers continue to get vaccinated, and our infection rate continues to go down, there are executive orders that are no longer applicable or necessary. You can be assured that I will continue working to ensure the executive and the legislature are working together to protect public health, help businesses and our economy rebound and restore the balance of power in state government.



---

### **Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community**

1. Starting [April 29](#), all New Yorkers age 16+ can get a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment at any state-run mass vaccination site. Click [here](#) to find a site near you.
2. Seating allowed at bars in New York City and catered events can resume at residences beginning May 3.
3. The curfew will be removed for outdoor dining areas beginning May 17 and indoor areas beginning May 31. The curfew for catered events where attendees have proof of vaccination status or negative COVID test result will be lifted beginning May 17 and curfew for all catered events lifted May 31.
4. Tax Day for individuals extended to May 17: Treasury, IRS extend filing and payment deadline. The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. The IRS will be providing formal guidance in the coming days



5. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
  - a. The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
  - b. The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here
  - c. SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769
  - d. Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you and to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
  - e. Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.
6. **Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call [1-877-877-9267](tel:1-877-877-9267). If you are not yet eligible call [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) to enroll.**

**Attention NYC Veterans**

VA New York Harbor Healthcare System is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel.


At this time, VA New York Harbor is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to **Veterans 65 years of age and older currently enrolled in VA Healthcare.**

The vaccine is being administered at the following locations by appointment only:

- *Manhattan VA Medical Center*
- *Brooklyn VA Medical Center*
- *St. Albans Community Living Center*
- *Staten Island Community VA Clinic*

Eligible Veterans must schedule an appointment by calling  
**[1-877-877-9267](tel:1-877-877-9267)**

Veterans who are not yet enrolled in VA Healthcare may visit [www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/) or call [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) for more information on how to apply.

**VA** |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

7. **Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.**

- View the Test-and-Trace corps **COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard** for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
  - **Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.**
  - **Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.**
  - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM - 9 PM.
  - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. **Click here to learn more** or call (844) 692-4692. **Please click here if you have any further questions.**

---

**Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs**

1. SCORE Staten Island is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE. As a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors, who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
  - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
  - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone or by video
  - Free business tools, templates and tips online
  - Inexpensive or free business workshop(locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
  - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited here. Or you call them at [718-727-1221](tel:718-727-1221); email at [info@scoresi.org](mailto:info@scoresi.org) and visit on Facebook and LinkedIn.

2. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you.** If you need **free legal help** during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice and more. **call them at 718-233-6480.**



**DO YOU NEED  
FREE LEGAL HELP  
DURING THE  
COVID-19 CRISIS?**

Staten Island Legal Services is here to help you and your family get through this together.

- Unemployment Benefits & Employment Issues
- Food Stamps (SNAP), Public Assistance, Medicaid
- Eviction/Illegal Lockouts
- Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Prevention
- Small Business Advice
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Help
- Student Loan and Debt Collection
- Domestic Violence, Orders of Protection, & Child Support
- Education
- LGBTQ/HIV+

**CALL STATEN ISLAND LEGAL SERVICES**


Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
We speak your language and serve all 5 boroughs of NYC.

**718-233-6480**

STATEN ISLAND  
Legal Services NYC  
REMAND JUSTICE

legalservicesnyc.org

**FORECLOSURE PREVENTION NETWORK**



Legal Services NYC

REMAND JUSTICE

Since 2007, Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network has assisted nearly 17,000 New York City homeowners facing foreclosure. With community-based foreclosure prevention projects in our Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island offices, our dedicated team of nearly 40 attorneys and advocates provide critical legal services to homeowners navigating the judicial foreclosure process and fight to help them save their homes.

LSNYC Foreclosure Prevention Network partners include non-profit organizations, housing counselors, social service agencies and local government. Our advocates conduct trainings, outreach and education activities in conjunction with community and government partners.

**WHAT WE DO**

Legal Services NYC's Foreclosure Prevention Network attorneys represent homeowners in foreclosure as well as in state and federal court litigation challenging predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, scams targeting vulnerable homeowners, and fair housing and lending violations. We are the largest group of free civil legal services attorneys that help NYC homeowners by:

- Representing homeowners in court-mandated settlement conferences
- Providing legal advice and pro se assistance to homeowners through court-based clinics
- Helping clients negotiate home-saving solutions
- Advocating for fairer lending rules, and for better enforcement of laws protecting consumers from predatory practices

**CLIENT SUCCESS STORY**

**Ms. M, a 68-year-old Black homeowner, fell one month behind on her mortgage when she had to pay for her sister's funeral expenses.** For one year, her mortgage company continued to accept her payments, but then her servicing was transferred to a new company. The new mortgage company refused to accept Ms. M's payments unless she could catch up on the one missed payment. For three years, Ms. M tried to negotiate with her lender, but it refused to work with her even though she had sufficient income and was caring for her husband, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After being sued in foreclosure, Ms. M was able to connect with Brooklyn Legal Services, who helped her negotiate a modification with a lower interest rate and more affordable monthly payment, saving her \$300 per month on her housing expenses and allowing her family to remain in their home.

**CONTACT US**

Homeowners can talk to an LSNYC foreclosure advocate by contacting our citywide access line at 917-661-4500. For more information about our services, you can reach our leadership team, listed below.

**Citywide: Jacob Inwald**  
Citywide Director of Foreclosure Prevention  
jinwald@lsnyc.org

**Bronx: Alexis Lorenzo**  
Director, Bronx Foreclosure Prevention/Community Economic Development Unit  
alorenzo@lsnyc.org

**Brooklyn: Shabnam Faruki**  
Interns Director, Brooklyn Foreclosure Prevention Project  
shfaruki@lsnyc.org

**Queens: Christopher Newton**  
Acting Director, Queens Homeowner and Consumer Rights Project  
cnewton@lsnyc.org

**Staten Island: Sara Manough**  
Director, Staten Island Homeowner Defense Project  
smanough@lsnyc.org

CONTACT US FOR FREE LEGAL HELP AT 917-661-4500

### 3. Small Business Resources:

- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus crisis.** The PPP application for all lenders is now open. There are limited funds, so applicants are advised to apply early! **Click here for more information and to find the right application for your business.**
  - In preparation for your application, gather your documentation. For a complete list of required documents and additional PPP information, **click here.**
  - **List of participating lenders:**
    - Lower East Side People's Credit Union- North Shore Branch, for PPP inquiries, email [lending@lespcfu.org](mailto:lending@lespcfu.org) or apply directly online on their **website.**
    - TruFund, **click here for an application** or email Mark Brazier (English) at [MBrazier@trufund.org](mailto:MBrazier@trufund.org) or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at [mreyes@trufund.org](mailto:mreyes@trufund.org).

---

## Useful Events and Opportunities

1. **The 15th Annual Harambee celebration - honoring community leaders who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community.** The virtual celebration will take place at 7:00pm on **Thursday, April 29th.** Ticket costs start at \$25 and can be purchased [here.](#)
2. **A Pre-Mother's Day Vendor "Pop Up"- A Celebration of Mothers "Shopping for a Healthier You"**





3. District Attorney Michael E. McMahon is hosting a secure shred event on **May 15th** from 12pm-3pm at 30 Manor Road



District Attorney  
Michael E. McMahon  
Invites you to a

## SECURE SHRED EVENT!

**LIMIT 3 BOXES OR BAGS PER PERSON:**

Remember the **ONLY** way to keep your identity and personal information safe from thieves is to **SHRED** those documents, including but not limited to:

- BANKING AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS
- OLD ID CARDS
- MEDICAL RECORDS AND BILLING STATEMENTS
- OLD TAX RETURNS (7 YEARS OR OLDER)

**DATE & TIME:**  
MAY 15, 2021  
12PM - 3PM


**LOCATION:**  
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH  
30 MANOR ROAD  
ENTER THE PARKING LOT LOCATED  
ON GREENLEAF AVENUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL MARCI BISHOP (718)876-5716  
OR EMAIL  
MARCI.BISHOP@RCDA.NYC.GOV

**STAY CONNECTED**  
@StatenIslandDA

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

4. The Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society presents The 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on **Saturday, June 19th, 2021, 7-11 PM** at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10310.



THE HARRIET TUBMAN PURPLE HAT SOCIETY, INC.  
P. O. BOX 20473  
Staten Island, New York 10302

President Nancy Ashon-Poku Founder- Ms. Thomasina Williams

**Presents**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday,  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7-11PM**

**at The Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, NY 10303**

**Honorees: Sarah Blas/Edna Greenwich/ Laura Owens**

Dinner, Entertainment and Dancing  
Thomasina Williams Scholarship Awards  
\$100.00 Donation/ no tickets sold at door

Limited capacity due to strict CDC/NYS Mandatory Catered Events Covid-19

**Guidelines. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.**

Everyone must always wear a mask, except while seated.

All guests must present a negative covid test within 72 hrs. of the event or a full vaccination card completed 14 days prior to the event date to be admitted to this event.

Tables will be 6 feet apart- Maximum 8 per table.  
All guests must sign in with contact information.

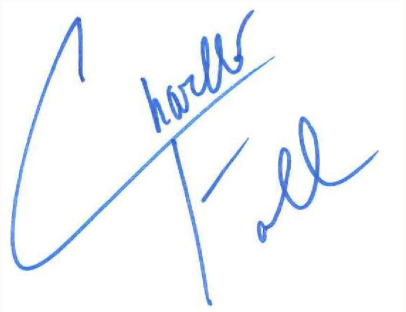
This event will be registered with the NYC Department of Health

For Tickets Contact: Co- Chairs: Sherry Powell 917-327-9889/Janet G. Robinson 347-855-2759

African-Centric dress optional

5. **Citizens Committee for New York City is offering** grants of up to \$10,000 to grassroots organizations responding to the immediate needs of struggling New Yorkers to open food pantries, distribute surgical masks, arrange elderly check-ins, or design other projects to meet their neighborhoods' urgent needs amid the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are open and there is a rolling deadline. **[Click here to learn more.](#)**
6. **During these difficult times, the Northfield Bank Foundation is offering a grant opportunity for COVID-19 emergency related requests for health and wellness and feeding the hungry initiatives.** The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates - Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. **[Click here to learn more about the grant process.](#)**
7. **Richmond County Savings Foundation - Nonprofit organizations may request funding for program or project support, journal ad or event sponsorship.** Grant requests are reviewed throughout the year for amounts up to \$5,000. **[See here for more information.](#)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall

Member of Assembly

**ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248.  
518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946**

**DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932,  
FAX 718-442-9942**