



LEGISLATIVE SESSION NEWSLETTER

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

DANIEL O'DONNELL

Upper West Side • Morningside Heights • Manhattan Valley

SUMMER 2018



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

I wanted to give you an update regarding the 2018 legislative session, which has now come to a close. Over this year's legislative session, I represented our district's needs on a number of issues. My most prominent sponsored legislation addressed the opioid crisis, domestic violence, guns, housing, small businesses, and equal rights. Inside are bills that were enacted, bills that passed my house but were not passed in the State Senate, and bills I have introduced. Additionally, I have included select victories from this year's state budget and information regarding this year's elections. As always, please reach out to my office with any questions, comments, or concerns, and have a wonderful summer!

Very truly yours,

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



ENACTED

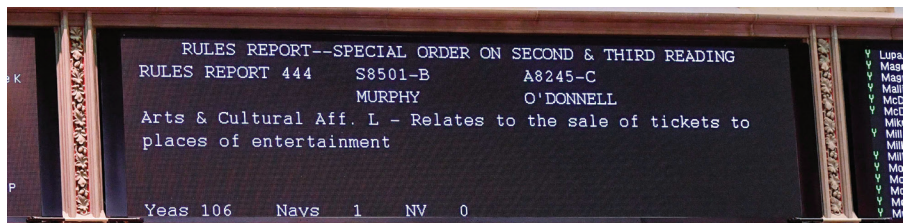
A.10272: Domestic Violence Escalation Prevention Act

My proudest achievement this year was the enactment of the Domestic Violence Escalation Prevention Act (A.10272), which closed a loophole in our state's gun laws by making those convicted of domestic violence ineligible to purchase firearms — including handguns and shotguns. The statistics are shocking: when a gun is in the house, an abused woman is 6 times more likely to be killed. This bill codifies domestic violence as a "serious offense" in Penal Law and prohibits domestic abusers from obtaining a license to carry, possess, repair, and dispose of firearms, as well as orders the immediate surrender of any firearms that the person owns or possesses.

A.8245-C: Consumer Ticket Resale Act

After years of deliberation, the New York State Assembly and Senate have passed bipartisan legislation to reform New York's ticket resale law in an effort to increase transparency and fairness for consumers. The legislation (A.8245-C) addresses the ongoing tactic of selling "speculative tickets" — tickets brokers do not yet have but anticipate they will be able to get and resell to fans. This legislation will force ticket resellers to disclose to their customers if they do not have the ticket at the time of purchase. It also requires the

Continued on next page



ticket reseller to refund the customer's money if the ticket reseller cannot sell the ticket at the agreed upon price.

PASSED ASSEMBLY

A.9016: Medical Marijuana for Opioid Addiction

The Assembly passed my bill A.9016, which would allow doctors registered with the Department of Health to prescribe medical marijuana for the treatment of opioid addiction. Studies show that medical marijuana can reduce opioid related deaths by 25%. This would give doctors another tool in the toolbox to tackle an exponentially growing crisis.

A.8886: Mandatory Capital Improvement Reform

The Assembly passed my bill A.8886 to reform Mandatory Capital Improvements for rent regulated apartments. MCI's are supposed to be used so that a landlord can recoup the costs of improvements to a building. The way they are applied, however, effectively turns them into a permanent rent increase. A.8886 would not allow landlords to use MCI's for things required by law, would clarify that MCI's are surcharges (not rent increases), and would require MCI's to expire after 7 years or after the cost is recouped.

INTRODUCED

The legislative process can be long and arduous, but while some of the bills I introduced have yet to be voted on, I am confident that these common-sense measures will become state law and I intend to keep fighting until they do.

A.5155: Small Business Survival Act

Our small businesses are suffering, with crippling commercial rent that clearly is not reflective of the market. As storefronts become empty all around us, it is the responsibility of government to step in. That's why I have introduced the Small Business Survival Act, which would create a program for fair negotiations in the commercial lease renewal process.

A.6500: Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Last year I introduced A.6500, which designates all single occupancy bathrooms in the state as gender neutral. This bill is an extension of legislation already in place in New York City that promotes privacy, safety, and dignity for all, regardless of gender identity. Bill A.6500 is a direct response to backlash being waged against the LGBTQ community across the country in the form of "bathroom bills." The bill has the support of the New York City Public Advocate, Planned Parenthood, American Veterans for Equal Rights; New York chapter, Heritage of Pride, Equality NY, and the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund.

A.9668 & A.9669: Expand Access to Lifesaving Naloxone

In addition to New York State Assembly Bill A.9016, I have introduced two other pieces of legislation related to the opioid crisis. New York State Assembly Bill A.9669 requires Naloxone to be on-premises in schools where a nurse is present. Similarly, New York State Assembly Bill A.9668 requires Naloxone to be on-premises in college dormitories and requires training for Resident Assistants on how to administer Naloxone. Naloxone is an opioid receptor blocker credited with reversing overdoses and giving first responders time to treat patients. The training to administer Naloxone takes minutes and the drug has no effect unless opioids are present in the patient's system.

BUDGET VICTORIES



Assembly Member Carrie Woerner, Arts and Tourism Principal Analyst Yolanda Bostic, and Assembly Member O'Donnell.

This year's state budget included many victories for residents of the 69th district, both in what was included — and what was kept out.

- The Senate budget included a proposal to remove the current Floor Area Ratio cap of 12 in the state of New York. This was presented under the guise of allowing more affordable housing to be built, although it included no guarantee of affordable housing. Currently, New York City's zoning laws self-impose a FAR limit of 10. Removing the cap would allow the city to permit the development of buildings higher than the surrounding residential structures in a neighborhood, without community input. This would primarily impact the Upper West Side and Upper East Side as the rest of the city is zoned to FAR's that are considerably lower than 10. I was able to organize 24 of my colleagues to sign onto a letter to the Speaker of the Assembly communicating that we are against this proposal, eliminating it from the budget.
- As Chair of the Arts & Tourism Committee, I was also able to secure additional and more equitable funding for the Arts across New York State. Last year, I obtained increased funding for New York State Council on the Arts grants for arts organizations throughout the state. However, NYSCA required matching funds and minimum grant amounts that created obstacles for smaller organizations. This year, I fought for increased funding that also created grants that do not require matching funds and lowered the minimum grant amounts. This will ensure availability to the small organizations across the state that need funds the most.

ADVOCATED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE FOLLOWING INVESTMENTS:

- ✔ \$5,000,000 Aid to Public Libraries
- ✔ \$2,500,000 to Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums
- ✔ \$2,000,000 to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities
- ✔ \$250,000 to Goddard Riverside SRO Law Project
- ✔ \$175,000 New York County Defender Services
- ✔ \$75,000 Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Investment in local organizations that serve my constituents is a huge priority for my office. I was happy to be able to disburse capital and programmatic funds to the following important organizations in our district.

CAPITAL FUNDS



The Wild Bird Fund

The Wild Bird Fund, NYC's only bird rehabilitation center, helps over 3,000 sick, injured or orphaned wildlife and releases them back to the wilds of New York City. I was happy to assist the organization with \$150,000 in capital funding in order to expand their medical wing.



WSCAH

The Westside Campaign Against Hunger is invaluable at tackling food insecurity in the city. With supermarket-style food pantries, cooking classes, and clothing donations, WSCAH empowers the people it serves. I was happy to allocate \$100,000 in capital funds to upgrade the food pantry, install a new phone system, and purchase a new mobile food truck to reach more New Yorkers in need.



Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Assembly Member O'Donnell, and Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver.

Great Hill Comfort Station

Disability access has always been important to me, and with my role as Chair of the State Parks Committee, I'm focused on making our park system more accessible so that they can be enjoyed by all. That's why I allocated \$500,000 to completely renovate the Great Hill Comfort Station in Central Park and make it fully ADA accessible.

DISTRICT PROGRAMMING FUNDS



Bloomingdale School of Music

BSM has been providing access to high quality music education on the Upper West Side for more than 50 years. Unfortunately, musical education has been underfunded and eliminated from school curriculums. I wanted to ensure that it remained present within my district so I secured \$75,000 in programmatic funds to BSM for after school programs.

Trinity Place Shelter

Trinity Church provides essential services to homeless LGBTQ youth from across the city. They not only provide a safe home, but also much needed counseling services so that these young adults may become independent members of society. For this reason, I secured \$25,000 in programmatic funds for Trinity Church to continue serving our LGBTQ youth.

YOUR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

STATEWIDE PRIMARIES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Due to religious conflicts and respect for September 11th, this year the legislature voted to change the date of the primaries from Tuesday September 11th to Thursday September 13th.

STATEWIDE AND GENERAL ELECTIONS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

For help finding your poll site, which may be subject to change at the discretion of the New York City Board of Elections, please visit nyc.pollsitelocator.com. Polls will be open from 6am to 9pm.



245 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
**DANIEL
O'DONNELL'S**
Legislative Session
Newsletter

Daniel O'Donnell, Assembly Member, 69th District
Upper West Side • Morningside Heights • Manhattan Valley

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Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell:
245 W. 104th Street, New York, NY 10025 • 212-866-3970 • Fax: 212-864-1095
712 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5603 • Fax: 518-455-3812
Email: odonnelld@nyassembly.gov
Open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.