



Assembly Member

Rebecca A. Seawright

Community Bulletin

SPRING 2015

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Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to report that I have had a productive, if eventful, first couple of months in Albany! Following through on my promise to work with the community to prevent Asphalt Green from being torn in two by a dump, I have introduced legislation to stop construction. I am also sponsoring legislation that will require employers to provide written notice to current and prospective employees that contraceptive coverage is not included in their employer-provided health coverage.

Over the past month I have been working alongside Roosevelt Islanders to draft legislation that will propose a fair solution to the Island's self-governance concerns. With every meeting I learn more about Roosevelt Island's rich history and I am looking forward to introducing a new bill in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to call, e-mail or stop by our office if there is anything my staff can help you with.

My Best,

Rebecca A. Seawright
Member of Assembly, 76th AD

Assembly Member Seawright Fights for Transparency in Albany

Rebecca is a member of the Reform Caucus – a group of Assembly Members dedicated to increasing transparency in the hiring and appointment processes in Albany. In this vein, Assembly Member Seawright is co-sponsoring Assembly Bill 377-A, which calls for state or local officers who have been “convicted of a felony involving breach of public trust [to] be subject to forfeiture of pension rights or retirement benefits.”



Rebecca's first day in Albany, with her daughter Haley and son Brad beside her.

Stop the Dump!

There has been an outpouring of resistance to the East 91st Street Marine Transfer Station, and rightfully so. We have serious concerns for the safety of our families based upon poor air quality and the possibility of flooding similar to what we experienced during Superstorm Sandy. A dump should never be built in a residential neighborhood nor should garbage trucks be allowed to travel next to our children's playgrounds, endangering them as they play.

As her first act in office, Rebecca has introduced Assembly Bill 5264 to immediately stop construction of the dump, pending the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and multiple public hearings to address the community's concerns. Specifically, Rebecca's bill amends conservation law by requiring that, upon the petition of residents, a SEIS will be necessary before New York City can renew certain expired permits. This means that if the bill passes, Rebecca will need your help. To stop the dump, she will need to submit a petition signed by 2,500 residents.

Your signature will demonstrate your commitment to defending our neighborhood.



Rebecca meeting with Tenants' Rights Advocate, Fred Newton, in her Albany office.



Rebecca discusses Roosevelt Island's self-governance with local residents at her inauguration ceremony.

Holding Employers Accountable for Denying Care to Women

In response to the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision, Rebecca is the lead sponsor of a bill fighting for reproductive rights. The Hobby Lobby decision allows employers to refuse to pay for insurance coverage for contraceptives if they claim a religious objection.

The bill that Rebecca has introduced will require that employees and prospective employees be notified by the company if its employer-provided health insurance does not cover contraceptives. This bill ensures that such employers, who value their personal beliefs over the values and choices of their employees, will be held accountable.

Jobseekers must know that their potential boss is denying access to affordable contraceptives. Rebecca's legislation requires that an employer notify jobseekers and employees if they refuse to cover contraceptives. This simple disclosure requirement will

allow employees to make informed decisions about becoming employed by or continuing employment with a company that places restrictions on reproductive health. It will reward companies with owners who choose to support reproductive health.

Both a woman's right to choose and to access affordable contraceptives are under constant attack on the federal level. More than ever, we need state laws to protect these basic rights for New Yorkers. This session, Rebecca will also fight to codify in NYS law the full constitutional right to choose as set forth in the landmark *Roe v. Wade* case argued by her mentor, Hon. Sarah Weddington. Introducing a bill to require notification of contraceptive coverage was only Rebecca's first step in her legislative campaign for women's equality.

Seawright Stands Up for Our Children

Sticking to her promise to improve the state of our education system, Rebecca has signed on to co-sponsor a bill requiring that public schools diagnose students with dyslexia and provide dyslexic students with specially trained teachers. The bill seeks to remedy the problems resulting from the current law, which broadly categorizes dyslexic students as “learning disabled” without honing in on the particular issues inherent to dyslexia. By creating teams that are knowledgeable in identifying and instructing children with dyslexia, dyslexic students will be identified earlier and will receive instruction in a manner that is designed to address the specific challenges associated with dyslexia.



Women from the Manhattan Developmental Disabilities Council meeting with Rebecca at the community office. From left to right: Jackie Ceonzo, Isabel Orlansky, Merri Krasner, Susan Merrill, Sunghee Park, Julia Rogge.

Important Contact Information

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Follow me on Twitter at

@SeawrightForNY



311, City Services

Hotlines (24/7):

Poison Control: 800.222.1222

Hunger: 866.888.8777

Domestic Violence: 800.942.6906

Crime & Sexual Assault: 866.689.HELP

Suicide Prevention: 212.673.3000

Mental Health: 800.LIFENET

Child in danger: 800.342.3720

Youth Programs & Crisis: 800.246.4646

NYPD:

19th Precinct (59th-96th Streets):

212.452.0600

Roosevelt Island:

RIOC: 212.832.4540

Public Safety: 212.832.4545

114th Precinct: 718.626.9311

Tramway: 212.832.4555

Bus: 212.832.4583

In case of emergency, please dial 911

NYC Parking Calendar

April 2 Holy Thursday

April 3 Good Friday

April 4 & 5 Saturday, Sunday
Passover

April 9 Holy Thursday (Orthodox)

April 10 Good Friday (Orthodox)

April 10 Friday Passover
7th Day

April 11 Saturday Passover
8th Day

May 14 Thursday
Solemnity of Ascension

May 24 Sunday Shavuot
1st Day

May 25 Monday Shavuot
2nd Day

May 25 Monday Memorial Day*

July 3 & 4 Friday & Saturday
Independence Day*

July 17 Friday Eid al-Fitr

July 18 Saturday Eid al-Fitr

July 19 Sunday Eid al-Fitr

Aug. 15 Saturday
Feast of the Assumption

Sept. 7 Monday Labor Day*

Sept. 14 Monday

Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 15 Tuesday

Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 23 Wednesday Eid al-Adha
and Yom Kippur

Sept. 24 Thursday Eid al-Adha

Sept. 25 Friday Eid al-Adha

Sept. 28 Monday Succoth

Sept. 29 Tuesday Succoth

Oct. 5 Monday Shemini Atzereth

Oct. 6 Tuesday Simchas Torah

Oct. 12 Monday Columbus Day

Nov. 1 Sunday All Saints Day

Nov. 3 Tuesday Election Day

Nov. 11 Wednesday Diwali

Nov. 11 Wednesday
Veterans Day

Nov. 26 Thursday Thanksgiving*

Dec. 8 Tuesday

Immaculate Conception

Dec. 25 Friday Christmas Day*

Alternate Side Parking

Regulations Suspended

*Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect



Rebecca and East 79 Street Neighborhood Association President Betty Wallerstein discuss neighborhood improvements and safety issues.



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Rebecca being sworn in at her inauguration ceremony where she announced legislation designed to stop the E. 91st St. Marine Transfer Station.

Here, she stands beside Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of New York Court of Appeals, her husband Jay and two children, Brad and Haley (not pictured).

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