

Dear Neighbor,

In Albany, we passed the Child Victims Act and significant legislation to prevent acts of gun violence in New York State. I am hopeful that sweeping reforms will improve the safety of our neighborhoods.

February is National African American History Month. In recognition of change-makers and champions of equality, our office is accepting submissions for an essay contest. Contact the community office for more information by calling 212.288.4607 or emailing <u>SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov</u>.

The next shred-a-thon will be on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00am-2:00pm at the 82nd Street Greenmarket. Please also join us at one of the following events that I am pleased to sponsor:





• Tuesday Knitting Social- Every other Tuesday, beginning February 12, from 2pm-4pm- Community Office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). <u>RSVP here.</u>

• Department of Buildings Community Meeting Wednesday, February 13 @ 6:00pm – Webster Library, 1465 York Ave., 3rd Floor (77/78 Streets). <u>RSVP here.</u>

• Tuesday Housing Legal Clinic Tuesday, February 19 @ 4:00pm - Community Office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). <u>RSVP</u> <u>here.</u>

• **Property Tax Clinic** – Thursday, February 21, from 11:00am-1:00pm – Community Office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). <u>RSVP here.</u>

• Women's History Month Celebration Reception & Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony– Thursday, March 7 @ 6:00pm – Memorial Sloan Kettering Auditorium, 430 East 67th



Please keep in touch to hear updates on our progress in Albany. If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,

ebecca



In Albany

Seawright's Cosponsored Gun Violence Prevention Legislation Passes Both Houses



Seawright, Member of the New York Legislators Against Gun Violence and Cosponsor of Gun Reform Bills Urges Passage of Bills on Historic Day of Action for Gun Reforms

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced that she cosponsored and helped to pass legislation to prevent and reduce gun violence in New York.

"As a Member of New York Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention, I am hopeful for a new day in New York State with strengthened protections keeping guns out of the wrong hands. We are being proactive and setting the tone for the nation by promoting measures for the safety of all New Yorkers," said Seawright.

On an historic day of action and push for passage of legislation to prevent gun violence and unintended consequences of gun ownership, the Assembly passed the following legislation to prevent gun related injuries and death:

- The Domestic Violence Escalation Prevention Act law, prohibiting an individual who has been convicted of a domestic violence crime from purchasing or possessing a firearm (Ch. 60 of 2018) was signed into law.
- Legislation allowing a court to issue an order, known as an extreme risk protection order (ERPO), prohibiting a person who is determined to be a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm for up to one year (A.2689).
- Prohibiting a school administrator from arming teachers or other school employees in K-12 schools in New York State (A.1715-A).
- Prohibiting the possession, manufacture, transport, shipment and sale of devices that accelerate the firing rate of firearms so they operate in a similar manner as machine guns, including bump stocks, trigger cranks and other rapid-fire modification devices (A.2684).
- Establishing a waiting period of up to 30 days instead of the current three days before a gun can be sold to an individual who has not cleared a background check (A.2690).
- Requiring out-of-state citizens who also have homes in New York to waive the confidentiality of their home state mental health records when applying for a New York State firearm license (A.1213); and
- Creating the "Municipal Gun Buyback Program," which would be administered by the State Police and allowing individuals to turn in firearms. Those participating would be immune from certain criminal possession charges and would be able to collect a monetary reward (A.2685).

"Again and again, senseless gun violence takes innocent lives, leaving agony, heartbreak and indescribable grief in its wake," said Seawright. "But as the brave survivors of national shooting tragedies have made clear, there can be



Seawright speaking to Assembly Member Rosenthal about her sponsored Assembly Bill <u>1213</u>, which would ban the possession of 3D printed firearms in New York State

Seawright Introduces Legislation to Establish LGBT Awareness Curriculum in Schools

Seawright introduced a bill to instruct the State Education Commissioner to develop instructional or curriculum materials on the historical treatment of LGBT individuals. LGBT people have faced enormous odds and deep societal marginalization in recent decades, which has manifested itself in pervasive secrecy, shame, violence, and ultimately, activism. Despite our country's enormous progress toward reaching full LGBT equality today, institutional barriers and individual attitudes against LGBT rights persist.

"LGBT people come from all races, creeds, and backgrounds. LGBT history is part of the fabric of American history. Teachers need the tools to cover this important piece of our contemporary history. We must recognize those who came before us and acknowledge the defining moments and turning points for each generation," said Seawright.

Child-Parent Security Act (S2071/A1071)

Seawright has cosponsored legislation to modernize New York law to support individuals who rely on assistive reproductive technology to build their families.

The bill would bring New York in line with nearly every other state across the nation to legalize gestational surrogacy provided that the arrangement follows "best practices" in the field that protect the interests of the surrogate, intended parents, and child. It would also eliminate demeaning and expensive requirements for establishing parenthood for lesbian couples, single people, and others.

"Over the years, many New Yorkers have been forced to go out of state simply to be able to form their families, or else live with frightening uncertainty that their parental rights could be challenged in court. Despite major developments in medical technology around family formation, New York law remains stuck in the past. It's time to bring the state's family formation statutes in line with the 21st century," said Seawright.

The Child-Parent Security Act (S2071/A1071) is crucial to modernize New York law to support individuals relying on assisted reproductive technology to build families.



State Legislature Passes Child Victims Act

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced that she helped pass the Child Victims Act allowing more victims of childhood sexual abuse to face their abusers in a court of law (A.2683). The bill extends the civil and criminal statutes of limitations, as well as instituting a one-year "look-back window" during which past victims will be able to seek justice in court. The Assembly has fought hard for this measure, and with new leadership in the Senate, the legislation is finally set to become law.

RULES REPORTSPECIAL ORDER ON SECOND & THIRD RULES REPORT 20 A2683 ROSENTHAL L Crim. Proc. L - Provides for the timeliness of co criminal and civil action for sexual offenses com against children Monday January 28, 2019 ASSEMBLY CAL. 5	Minencing Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Ministed Minister Mi
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"Childhood sexual abuse is an indescribably traumatizing experience that can take a lifetime to come to terms with," said Seawright. "In many cases, it can take many years for a survivor to be ready to confront their abuser. While we cannot erase what happened, we can give power to victims and help them move forward with their lives without letting the perpetrators of these unthinkable crimes off the hook."



Seawright Supports Bus Lane Cameras in 2020 Budget



Today, the average speed of MTA buses is now lower than 7 mph citywide. This is the slowest average bus speed in the country. The consequence of faltering bus service is clear: between 2002 and 2017, bus ridership declined 21%, even as the city's population has increased by nearly half a million people.

Assembly Member Seawright signed onto a letter with her Assembly colleagues to Speaker Heastie to support funding for bus lane cameras in this year's budget. Busonly lanes are one of the most effective ways to improve bus service. Select Bus Service routes, which include bus lanes as a central feature, have seen travel time improvements as high as 23%. However, they make little difference to passengers' commutes if those dedicated lanes are blocked by private vehicles parking and traveling illegally in bus lanes. Unfortunately, this is a major problem for our city's 100 miles of unenforced bus-only lanes. Our transit system doesn't have a fighting chance to be

efficient when buses continue to be stuck in crippling traffic congestion.

In an effort to expand enforcement and keep buses and riders moving forward, quickly an efficiently through the 76th District and across New York City, Seawright is supporting measures to protect bus-only lanes.

Higher Education Budget Hearing



Seawright greets SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson at the Budget Hearing on Higher Education



Interim CUNY Chancellor Vita C. Rabinowitz provides testimony on the impact of expanding the Excelsior Scholarship Program for college students



In Our Community

Free Tax Prep Sites

76TH DISTRICT LOCATIONS:

LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE- 331 E 70TH ST

WE: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

STANLEY ISAACS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER- 415 E 93RD ST

FR: 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

58TH STREET BRANCH, NY PUBLIC LIBRARY- 127 E 58TH ST

WE: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM SA: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ROOSEVELT ISLAND SENIOR CENTER- 546 MAIN ST

TU: 09:00 AM - 01:00 PM

HUNTER COLLEGE - C.U.N.Y.- 695 PARK AVENUE

HUNTER WEST LOBBY

TU: 3:30PM- 6:30PM

WED: 3:30PM- 6:30PM FRI: 3:30PM- 6:30PM SAT: 1:00PM- 4:00PM

SUN 1:00PM- 4:00PM

New York City Council Speaker Bus Survey: Please Fill Out Comments to Improve East Side Service!



BUS RIDER? CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY!

Public Advocate Special Election Updates

Get Out and Vote on Tuesday, Febrary 26!

Former Public Advocate Letitia James became our State Attorney General in November. The contest is nonpartisan, so there are no party primaries and candidates must run under their own party lines.

View your sample ballot here

Find your poll site here

Watch the Debates on NY1

2/6 @ 7pm and 2/20 @7pm



New York City Transit Discussion About the Next Accessible Subway Stations! - Wednesday, February 6 from 6:00pm-8:30pm @ Ronan Board Room, 20th Floor



Tax Season Safety Seminar-Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30pm @ NYPD 19th Precinct, 153 East 67th Street (3rd floor)





Resource Fair 2019– Wednesday, February 13 from 6:30pm-8:30pm @ John Jay College of Criminal Justice, First Floor Commons, 524 West 59th Street (10th/11th Ave)

RSVP <u>SpeakerJohnson@Council.NYC.gov</u>

or call 212.564.7757