

May 17, 2019

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

We are taking steps to improve the safety of our streets with legislation I am sponsoring to label e-bikes. The bill passed the Assembly this week and aims to reduce the number of e-bikes by informing the consumer that riding an e-bike is unlawful for some localities including New York City.

We passed legislation to protect and empower victims of domestic violence and to hold abusers accountable. Victims of domestic violence go through unspeakable trauma at the hands of someone close to them and the unfortunate reality is that domestic violence incidents are severely under-reported, which is why we have to do everything we can to make New York a place for victims to feel safe enough to come forward. They need to be supported every step of the way so they can break away from their abusers, regain their lives and begin healing. Help and support are always available. New York's toll-free hotline is open 24 hours a day at 1-800-942-6906.

If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,

Rebecca



[Click to Visit Our Website](#)

**Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Accepts
"Fearless Girl Award" in Memory of the Late
Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro**



Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright received the “Fearless Girl” Award presented in memory of the late Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Ferraro's daughter, Donna Zaccaro, presented Seawright with the award.

“It is a special honor to be recognized with an award associated with one of the most fearless leaders of American history and the first female candidate for vice president representing a major political party in a national election. Congresswoman Ferraro often said, ‘There are no doors we cannot unlock. We place no limits on achievements.’ Those words remain embedded in our hearts and minds as we strive to elect more women to offices at every conceivable level.”

Other distinguished honorees included author and actor Heidi Schreck, Holocaust Survivor and education speaker Judy Altmann, and mountaineer and explorer Vanessa O’Brien.

Seawright's E-Bike Legislation Passes Assembly

Bill Aims to Put the Brakes on E-bikes at Point of Purchase

On May 15, 2019, Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright’s e-bike labeling bill A4990 passed the Assembly. This legislation requires manufacturers of electric assisted bicycles to conspicuously label e-bikes with a warning stating that the use of the e-bikes may be unlawful to operate on public roads, streets and highways and to check local laws.

E-bikes, which can generally go over 20 miles an hour, are illegal on the streets of New York City but it is legal to purchase and own an e-bike in New York City. E-bikes pose a danger to pedestrians, motorists and cyclists alike. With the potential for higher speeds, resulting crashes could mean greater injury and fatalities.

“By labeling the e-bike at the point of purchase, warning consumers of variability of local laws, we will eliminate the potential purchase of e-bikes by uninformed New York City consumers and businesses. Furthermore, we can penalize manufacturers who are non –compliant and increase the safety on our streets,” said Seawright.

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence

Assembly legislation helps victims of domestic violence take back their lives

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced that the Assembly passed legislation she cosponsors to help protect and empower victims of domestic violence by ensuring they have the resources necessary to put their health and safety first and hold their abusers accountable.

In the United States, more than 10 million women and men are physically abused by an intimate partner each year, and more than 20,000 calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide every day. These are just the cases that are reported. In fact, a United Nations report found that the most dangerous place for a woman is her home. Victims are in the most danger if they attempt to leave or after they have escaped. This is why the Assembly's legislation is crucial – to provide victims with safe ways to leave an abusive situation.

Helping victims distance themselves from abusers

Victims of domestic violence are often asked why they did not get away from the situation. Many times, barriers stand in the way. The abuser controls the victim's finances or has cut them off from resources, family, friends and a support network that would help them. Unfortunately, children are all too often involved. This can make it even more difficult to break away. An estimated 4.5 million to 15 million children are exposed to physical violence in their home each year.

The Assembly's legislation includes a measure streamlining the procedure for early lease termination by victims of domestic violence, allowing them to exercise this provision when necessary to ensure their physical safety and long-term financial security (A.4267). The bill also prohibits landlords from disclosing the termination of tenancy to future landlords and imposes penalties for violations.

Additionally, the legislative package helps victims achieve financial independence by prohibiting employers from discriminating against victims of domestic violence (A.5618). The bill requires employers to provide reasonable workplace accommodations for employees to attend court appearances and seek critical services such as counseling or medical treatment related to their abuse. A victim's experience shouldn't play a factor in the workplace, nor should employers stand in the way of them achieving success and beginning to heal.

To further help victims distance themselves from their abusers, the legislative package:

- Allows victims of domestic violence to cancel telephone or cable contracts without incurring cancellation fees (A.5318)
- Allows victims to vote by special ballot by mail (A.219-A);
- Requires hospitals to establish policies and procedures regarding identifying and notifying domestic violence victims of available services (A.2850-A)
- Requires health insurers to provide victims of domestic violence with the option to have claim information and benefits sent to an alternative mailing address (A.2832)

Allowing more survivors to seek justice

- Allows victims of domestic violence to receive damages for economic and non-economic losses from all defendants found liable in civil court (A.5614)
- Increases the statute of limitations for a civil action to recover damages for injuries arising from domestic violence from one to two years (A.1945)
- Ensures victims of domestic violence understand their legal rights and access to services during criminal and family court proceedings by simplifying the language in the notification of rights disseminated by law enforcement and district attorneys (A.7395)
- Expands the definition in the Social Services Law of "victim of domestic violence" to include victims of identity theft, grand larceny and coercion, and assures that they are eligible for certain victim services (A.5608)

Standing up for domestic violence victims

Earlier this year, the Assembly took the crucial step of once again passing the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, giving judges greater discretion when sentencing defendants who are victims of domestic violence when their abuse was a significant contributing factor in their offense (Ch. 31 of 2019). These measures also build on the

Assembly's successful efforts last year to make 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).

The Assembly also expects to take up a bill in the coming weeks to require that direct care employees in domestic violence shelters and programs and safe dwellings receive training in adverse childhood experiences so they are better prepared to provide support in these cases (A.4268).

Help and support are always available. New York's toll-free hotline is open 24 hours a day at 1-800-942-6906. For additional information, visit the New York State Office of Victim Services website at ovs.ny.gov or the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence website at opdv.ny.gov.

Roosevelt Island's Cornell Tech Responds to Seawright's Request to Change Campus Policy

New Policy Implemented to Accommodate Community Leaders in Need of Meeting Space



Seawright with Mr. and Mrs. Milstein at the Cornell Tech Milstein Program in Technology and Humanity ribbon cutting ceremony

In a letter to Cornell Tech, Assembly Member Seawright said, "RI community leaders are asking for more responsiveness to requests for meeting space on the campus. Space is only available once a week on Thursday nights from 6 to 9 pm without costs. Difficult to schedule access."

Cornell Tech responded, "As a result of your inquiry, we have revisited this policy. While the campus will continue to make space available once a week in the evenings from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Roosevelt Island organizations will have the opportunity to reserve meeting space Monday through Thursday - not just Thursdays, based of course, on availability. This change will hopefully give organizations the flexibility they need."

Seawright Supports Rent Stabilized Tenants

Advocates for Lowest Increases in Preliminary Rent Guidelines Board Vote

The Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) has upcoming public hearings which will help inform them on their final vote to determine rent increases for New York City's rent stabilized apartments at the end of June, 2019. The RGB has already voted in a preliminary vote

on 2 ranges – A 0.05 percent to 2.75 percent increase on one-year leases and a 1.75 to 3.75 percent increase on two-year leases.

Landlords are enjoying an increase in Net Operating Income and are spending less per dollar to operate their buildings while a majority of rent-stabilized tenants are rent-burdened. Assembly Member Seawright was proud to sign onto a letter with her Assembly colleagues to request a rent freeze for rent-stabilized tenants or at the very least, the lowest possible increase for 1 and 2 year leases.

Second Avenue Street Fair





Shredding Success!

6,320 Pounds Shredded and Recycled
268 Shredders- More Than 1 Per Minute!



Upcoming Events

SATURDAYS 1-4 PM

APRIL 27, 2019 (RAIN DATE APR 28)

MAY 18, 2019 (RAIN DATE MAY 19)

JUNE 1, 2019 (RAIN DATE JUNE 2)

JUNE 8, 2019

60th Street &
The East River
Waterfront
Esplanade

🌐 EsplanadeFriends.org

✉️ EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com

f /EsplanadeFriends

📷 @EsplanadeFriend

CELEBRATE SPRING AT THE ALICE AYCOCK PAVILION

FREE! MUSIC, KIDS ACTIVITIES, ICE CREAM, AND MORE!



SPONSORED BY

**FRIENDS OF THE EAST RIVER
ESPLANADE 60TH - 120TH ST.**

Events will be canceled for inclement weather.
Rain dates will be the following Sunday's (4/28,
5/19, 6/2),
there will be no rain date for the June 8th Event.
Be sure to check EsplanadeFriends.org and
📍 [@esplanadefriends](https://www.instagram.com/esplanadefriends) for updates!

KNOW MORE, BE SAFE

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL DISCUSSION WITH PSD ON THE SAFETY AND PREPARATIONS FOR FIGMENT NYC

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd at 6 PM

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

543 Main Street
ADA accessible

Invited Guests:

NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM), NYPD, Figment NYC,
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Council Member Ben Kallos

What: Figment NYC is a free participatory arts event that celebrates creativity by challenging artists and participants to find new ways to create, share, and dream.

When: Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd

Where: Various Island locations, including Lighthouse Park, along the West Promenade, the Motorgate Atrium, and the lawn south of Rivercross.

More event info at newyork.figmentproject.org



**Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation**



SPRING ADVOCACY HAPPY HOUR!

Meet your neighbors and learn
how you can advocate for local
small businesses.

**Thursday, May 30th
6:30pm-8:30pm
Mile 17, 1446 First Ave**

ROOSEVELT ISLAND DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

Good Shepherd Plaza (543 Main St.)

9:00am-12:00pm
*Island-Wide Planting
and Beautification
(Volunteers will
receive a free
reusable R.I. Day bag)*

12:00-3:00pm
*Rides, Amusements,
Petting Zoo & more!*

6:00-8:00pm
*Live Concert
on the Plaza*



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation

212-832-4540 | rioc.ny.gov



Ascend with Pride: An Afternoon with Friends & Family at ...

Get your cameras ready: a 12' x 100' Pride flag is coming to FDR Four Freedoms State Park from Friday, June 14 to Sunday, June 30!

[Read more](#)

www.fdrfourfreedomspark.org