



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC AND ASIAN
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
TASK FORCE ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS
TASK FORCE ON PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC
AMERICANS
TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**

NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Exploring solutions to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities.

PURPOSE: To seek recommendations on how to approach and mitigate the disproportionate adverse impacts of COVID-19 on minority communities, which may include disparate impacts to industries, services and local governments and institutions including the surrounding health care system, through enhanced federal funding and appropriate policy initiatives.

Monday, May 18, 2020
10 a.m.

Web Link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Current data shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on minority communities in New York and nationally, based on rates of infection, hospitalization, and fatalities from the disease. During the initial impact of COVID-19, a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that of those Americans hospitalized, when race was reported, Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos accounted for a higher percentage than Whites. Recent data shows that minority populations in New York have not fared any better; according to the Department of Health, as of April 29, 2020, fatality rates amongst Black and Hispanic/Latino New Yorkers accounted for a combined total of 62% of the total fatalities in New York City, significantly higher than experienced by any other ethnic community. Outside of New York City, statistics for Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos and Asians are also showing greater disparities than Whites. The disproportionate impact on minority communities is likely to put additional strains on local government finances and overwhelm an already strained health care system that predominantly serves Medicaid and uninsured populations.

While New York remains a melting pot of cultures from around the world, it is important to recognize on the local level that many minority populations cluster in areas around the state; because of this local governments and institutions such as hospitals, community based organizations, and food banks serving these communities experience a higher level of strain during a pandemic.

The purpose of this hearing is for the Committees to seek recommendations on how to approach and mitigate systematic inequalities through enhanced federal funding and appropriate policy initiatives.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Legislature, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Robert Jackson, Chair
Committee on Cities**

**Edward Braunstein, Chair
Committee on Cities**

**Gustavo Rivera, Chair
Committee on Health**

**Richard Gottfried, Chair
Committee on Health**

**Jessica Ramos, Chair
Committee on Labor**

**Marcos Crespo, Chair
Committee on Labor**

**James Gaughran, Chair
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**Fred Thiele, Jr., Chair
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**Julia Salazar, Chair
Committee on Women's Issues**

**Tremaine Wright, Chair
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian
Legislative Caucus**

**Ron Kim, Chair
Task Force on Asian – Pacific Americans**

**Maritza Davila, Chair
Task Force on Puerto Rican/Hispanic
Americans**

**Aravella Simotas, Chair
Task Force on Women's Issues**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Testimony will be taken only upon approval by the Committee Chairs. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and draft testimony submissions must be e-mailed to :

Matthew Shore, Analyst
Assembly Committee on Cities
Email: shorem@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4363

Chris Alexander, Associate Counsel
Senate Majority Counsel's Office
Email: calexand@nysenate.gov
Phone: (518) 455-2710

- I have been invited to the public hearing exploring solutions to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities, and plan to present testimony. My statement will be limited to five minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committees mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committees mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____