

# A Message From ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER HARVEY EPSTEIN COMMUNITY BOARD 6 REPORT, DECEMBER 2022**

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Happy new year! I hope you were able to spend it safely with loved ones. As we begin 2022, I'm concerned about the surge in Covid cases but I'm hopeful we will get through this difficult period as we have in the past.

Last week, the Governor appeared in the Assembly chambers to deliver her State of the State, which lays out her policy priorities for the session ahead. I was pleased to see several of my bills reflected in her platform—I'll discuss that more below.

For the safety of staff and constituents, our team is operating remotely and the district office is closed until further notice. If you need assistance, please call 212-979-9696 and leave a message or email [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com). However, we have opened up our office for a COVID testing site, which is running through this week and next on weekdays from 9 AM to 2 PM (more information below)

See you around the district,

Harvey

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*Free COVID-19 Testing at My Office! - 1/13 - 1/14 @ 9AM-2PM & 1/24 - 1/28 @ 9AM- 2PM*



# COVID-19 TESTING

**FREE COVID-19 testing for all ages!**



Assembly Member  
Harvey Epstein

**PCR testing ONLY!**

**Starting Mon 1/10 through Fri 1/14 9a-2p  
& Mon 1/24 through Fri 1/28 9a-2p**

Thank you to our partner!



**PLEASE BRING PICTURE ID  
INSURANCE CARD (IF YOU  
HAVE IT)**

Questions? 212-979-9696



**Location:  
Office of Assembly Member  
Harvey Epstein  
107 Avenue B (east 7th street)**

**Co-Sponsors:  
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney | Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez  
Senator Brian Kavanagh | Senator Brad Hoylman  
Council Member Carlina Rivera | Council Member Keith Powers**

I will be partnering with SOMOS to bring a COVID19 testing site to my district office. As you know, my office is currently working remotely. If you need assistance please call the office at 212-979-9696 and leave a message. A staff member will get back to you. Because of this, we will provide free COVID testing the below dates and times listed on the flyer. No appointment needed but please bring any proof of photo ID and your insurance card. If you do not have insurance you will still be able to get tested.

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## Thoughts on the State of the State

Last week, the Governor appeared in the Assembly chambers to outline her policy priorities for the upcoming session. You can read the briefing book [here](#). It was great to see her draw on several of the bills we have introduced, including:

1. Legalizing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (A4854A/S4547A with Senator Pete Harckham) to provide safe and affordable housing statewide by converting basements, garages, and other spaces to livable homes. We estimate hundreds of thousands of new homes could be created.
2. Electrifying the state fleet (A8298/S7520 with Senator Rachel May). Replacing gas powered vehicles with zero emissions vehicles is part of the strategy to reduce greenhouse gasses. I believe we must make this transition as quickly as possible, which is why we set a 2023 deadline in our legislation. I urge the Governor to consider shortening the timeline in her proposal.

3. Ending transcript withholding (A6938A/S5924A with Senator Kevin Thomas). Transcript withholding as a debt collection tactic disadvantages low-income students. This senseless policy has been eliminated by CUNY and it's time we do so at SUNY as well as private institutions.

I was also pleased to see that she is exploring how to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, which has long been a priority for us. I will be working with disability advocates and my colleagues to ensure we enhance opportunities for people with disabilities.

Finally, I believe the Governor has made some promising strides in addressing the unacceptable salaries home health aides are currently paid. We must raise wages for these workers—overwhelmingly women of color—who do the compassionate and complex work of caring for seniors and people with disabilities. However, it is critical that we also pass our bill (A3145) with Senator Roxanne Persaud to end the practice of providers paying for just 13 out of 24 hours of work. Under current regulations, this is permitted and amounts to state sanctioned wage theft. We must end it in 2022.

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### **Apply for the 74th Assembly District Youth Council - Applications Open Now!**

We are seeking local middle and high school students to join our district youth council. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 14, 2022. [Fill out an application by clicking here.](#)

HELP ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY! Join the AD74 Youth Council! As a member of the youth council, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Help determine legislative priorities in our community
- Organize community events
- Increase civic engagement across the district
- Develop valuable leadership skills...and more!

For more information contact John Blasco at [john.district74@gmail.com](mailto:john.district74@gmail.com).

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### **New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program Funds Still Available - Apply Now**

Visit <https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/> for more information

The New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program was created to provide flexible grant assistance to currently viable small businesses, micro-businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in the State of New York who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant awards will be calculated based on a business's annual gross receipts for 2019 (see below for more information). Grant amounts and calculations are subject to change by Empire State Development.

Annual gross receipts: \$25,000 – \$49,999.99: Award is \$5,000 / business

Annual gross receipts: \$50,000 – \$99,999.99: Award is \$10,000 / business

Annual gross receipts: \$100,000 – \$2,500,000 [UPDATED 08.25.21]: Award is 10% of gross receipts (maximum grant is \$50,000)

Visit <https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/> for more information

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## **HCR Homeowner Assistance Fund - Application Open NOW**

### **[flyer]**

All updated information for the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) may be found at <https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org/> and the HAF Information Call Center may be reached at 1-844-776-9423.

Designed and administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), NYS HAF will target low- to moderate-income homeowners impacted by COVID who are behind on mortgage payments, property taxes, water or sewer bills, as well as shareholders in cooperative or condominium unit owners behind on maintenance fees, and manufactured homeowners behind on chattel loans or retail installment contracts.

Eligible applicants may receive financial assistance to catch up on missed housing payments, to reduce mortgage debt to make monthly mortgage payments more affordable, and for homeowners who are unemployed, assistance with up to six months of future housing payments.

Eligible applicants must have household incomes at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and must be at least 30 days delinquent on monthly housing payments for their primary residence. Awards will be capped at \$50,000 per household. Assistance will be structured as a five-year, non-interest, non-amortizing forgivable loan. If the homeowner remains in the home for a period of five years, the loan will be fully forgiven.

In addition, the NYS HAF program is working in partnership with the Office of the New York State Attorney General to advocate with mortgage lenders and mortgage servicers to ensure homeowners are receiving all available relief under federal and state rules. This includes extended mortgage terms, deferment of missed payments or forbearance amounts, and lower interest rates to reduce monthly payments.

The NYS HAF program will be managed by Sustainable Neighborhoods LLC, a non-profit community development financial institution selected through a competitive Request for Proposals. Sustainable Neighborhoods has extensive experience administering foreclosure prevention and loss mitigation programs across the state.

*Feel free to contact Assembly Member Harvey Epstein's office with any questions or concerns.*

*Our office is located at  
107 Avenue B (store front)*

*You can email us at [help.district74@gmail.com](mailto:help.district74@gmail.com) or call us at 212-979-9696*