

## DISTRICT UPDATE

### **Dan Calls for Creation of Federal Agency to Address Gun Violence**

Dan joined Representative Maxwell Frost (FL-10) to call for the creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention would permanently make ending the epidemic of gun violence a national priority by creating a federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Justice to coordinate federal efforts to protect Americans from the public health crisis of gun violence. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act would bring together those most impacted by gun violence and leaders from agencies across the federal government to advance policy recommendations, accurate data and research, State and local outreach and education, cross-sector coordination, and maximize and coordinate programs and services related to preventing gun violence. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be directed to identify gaps in data needed for gun violence prevention research, convene an advisory council composed of gun violence survivors, make policy recommendations, and maximize the Administration of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention Act serves as the first step to a coordinated, effective response to the gun violence epidemic in the United States. Dan is a Vice Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

### **Congressman Dan Goldman Fights for a Green New Deal**

Dan joined Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) in cosponsoring the Green New Deal to advance a bold agenda to fight the existential threat of climate change. The Green New Deal would address climate injustice, economic inequality, greenhouse gas emissions, and create millions of good-paying union jobs. The Green New Deal builds off the success of the Inflation Reduction Act to address the twin crises of climate disaster and economic inequality. Dan understands that climate change presents some of the most pressing dangers to our future and is committed to doing everything in his power to create a clean energy future for our families. Communities across NY-10 were devastated by Hurricane Sandy a decade ago and still remain vulnerable, not only to the hazards of increasingly frequent and more dangerous coastal storms, but also inland flooding from heavy rains. The dangers of these risks are multiplied further by more than 150 years of industrial pollution that has only recently begun to be addressed.

### **Dan Requests Federal Funding for MTA Zero-Emission Electric Bus Program**

Dan joined his fellow members of the New York delegation in supporting the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) grant application for the FY 2023 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program. Running the largest public bus system in North America, the MTA has requested increased funding to transition 255 buses to zero-emission electric vehicles as a part of Phase 3 of its transition plan. Electrifying MTA's bus fleet will help meet state and federal carbon reduction targets while also improving air quality, particularly in low-income and minority communities that have unfairly suffered for decades from the negative health consequences of dirty fossil fuel infrastructure. Federal support for a zero-emission bus procurement of this unprecedented size also represents a significant opportunity to demonstrate to the domestic bus manufacturing industry the need for new participants and create clear incentives for the bus manufacturing supply chain network to expand its domestic presence.

### **Rental Assistance in FY 24 Budget**

Dan joined Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43) and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) in leading a group of 90 members of Congress to call for funding that would provide crucial rental assistance to help ensure affordable housing for low-income households. With the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, renters continue to face barriers to housing stability in the face of rising rental costs, inflation, and the end of COVID federal and local eviction protections. Goldman, Waters, and Pressley led their colleagues in requesting full funding for Public Housing, Section 8, Section 202, and Section 811 rental assistance programs, including housing choice vouchers and the Public Housing Operating Fund. The members have also requested an additional \$1 billion in funding to create and support new affordable housing units.

## USPS Mail Issue

Dan sent a letter to United States Postal Service Postmaster General Louis DeJoy urging him to address the rise in mail theft from USPS mailboxes in New York City. Our office received numerous complaints over the past weeks from concerned New Yorkers who have had their vital documents stolen from USPS mailboxes. Having checks, medical documentation, passports, or other identifying information stolen puts New Yorkers at serious risk. It is imperative that the United States Postal Service do everything in its power to ensure that mail, property, and information transported through the USPS is secure. Residents experiencing mail theft should report the incidents by going to their local NYPD precinct or dialing 911. New Yorkers can also file a report with the Postal Inspection Service by calling the hotline at 1-877-876-2455 or by going to [usps.gov/report](https://usps.gov/report) so that federal crimes can be investigated and addressed.

## Passport Backlog

The U.S. Passport Agency is facing a huge surge in passport applications as many Americans resume international travel and work to replace passports that expired over the last few years. This flood of applications has created a backlog, and processing times are increasing. This has also increased the demand for in person appointments at passport agencies, making it very difficult to secure one. If you have travel scheduled in Fall or Winter 2023, please apply for your passport renewal now. Current processing times are 7-9 weeks for expedited processing and 10-13 weeks for routine service. This means you should count on being without a passport for 3-4 months, as you will have to mail in your old passport with your renewal application. Passport applications already increase during the summer months so it is likely processing times will continue to increase. You can find the current processing times and everything you need to know about submitting a passport application or renewal at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

## Travel tips

- Before you book international travel find your passport, make sure it is undamaged, not expired and remains valid long enough to be eligible for your trip.
- Check that your passport remains valid long enough to be eligible for where you would like to travel. Many countries require that your passport be valid for 3 or 6 months from your departure date. This is called passport validity. Check online to see what the required passport validity is for the country you would like to travel too.
- Child passports are only valid for 5 years so don't forget to check their passports as well.
- Consider paying for expedited shipping and processing if you do need to apply for a new passport. This will help get your passport to the agency more quickly and once it is approved it will be shipped back within 1-2 days.
- If you are 2 weeks out from your trip and you have not received your passport, reach out to our office. If you wait until the last day or two to reach out there is a lot less we can do than if you give us the full two weeks.
- Be advised that passport agencies do not take walk in appointments. You must have a scheduled appointment. If you go to the Hudson Street location, our office will not be able to get you in the door.