



Assemblymember
**Stefani L.
Zinerman**



56th Assembly District – Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights

NYCHA Newsletter, Winter 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we close out 2023, I want to let you know why I remain committed to serving as your representative in Albany. This year, my colleagues in the New York State Legislature passed a \$229 billion budget and we secured \$329 million for NYCHA residents who owed back rent. We also invested more money in education and healthcare, and provided a “clean slate” for returning citizens.

In November, three of my bills became law and I am very proud of A.7677 – The Community Hiring Bill, which requires businesses that receive New York City contracts to hire people from zip codes with high unemployment.

We had some wins but there is more to do!

Unemployment, crime, and the lack of repairs affect our quality of life. That is why I want to continue working with you to promote safety, address the critical repairs, and provide access to good jobs and/or business opportunities.

Growing up in Gowanus Houses gave me the passion and foundation for public service. I learned to stand up for myself, handle conflict, and volunteer to improve my community. With everyone from the youth to the elders, new residents, and old-timers doing their part, we can make NYCHA a better place to live, learn, play, work, and be social.

As we look to 2024, let there be peace on earth, and let that peace begin with us.

Wishing you a Joyous Holidays and a Vibrant New Year!

Stefani L. Zinerman
#TheVibrant56

A Salute to NYCHA Leaders!



Resident Leaders are the heartbeat of the NYCHA community. They ensure that resident voices are heard and work to connect their neighbors to important resources. The holiday season is a perfect time to recognize individuals who make a difference in our community. Please join me in saying, “thank you” to each Resident Leader across the 13 developments in the 56th Assembly District. We also want to give a special shout-out to Adorn Dubose from Sumner Houses. She has been a real community partner for nearly ten years, and we appreciate her for her hard work and dedication.

Resources and Opportunities

Help with Heat

Are you having an issue with heat or hot water?

Residents experiencing issues with heat or hot water should call the Customer Contact Center at 718-707-7771 or report the issue via the MyNYCHA mobile app or web version.

Free COVID Test – Order Today!

Great news! The federal government relaunched its free COVID-19 at-home tests program. Households can receive four free rapid tests delivered directly to their home. For more information and to place an order, visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

NYCHA Training and Job Opportunities

Are you interested in gaining new skills and making more money? Join the REES program and get access to the following NYCHA partners in Bedford Stuyvesant & Crown Heights who offer services in the areas of Workforce Development, Adult Education and Training, Financial Empowerment, and Resident Business Development:

- Bridge Street Development Corporation
- Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union
- Jobs Plus operated by Restoration Plaza
- New York City Business Solution Center
- Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
- Riseboro
- St. Nicks Alliance
- SUNY Brooklyn Education Opportunity Center



NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli with Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman at the 2023 West Indian American Day Carnival Parade on Eastern Parkway.

Are you owed money?

The New York state comptroller's office has billions of dollars of New Yorkers' unclaimed funds.

Check to see if any lost funds have your name on it!

A graphic featuring a laptop with hands typing on the keyboard. Overlaid on the image are text boxes and a circular seal. The seal contains the name Stefani L. Zinerman, Assembly Member, State of New York, 56th District Brooklyn.

Food Security and Sovereignty

Did you know that students and residents in Bed Stuy and Crown Heights grow food in schools, community farms, and NYCHA? Well, meet the urban farmers who care deeply about healthy eating and food security! Our goal is food sovereignty! We are creating a food system where we grow, distribute, and consume our food but also control how our food is processed and distributed! Join the movement!

Interested in learning more and getting involved in NYCHA farms and gardening work in 2024? Contact gardens@nycha.nyc.gov for more information.

Our Children are Our Future

What a child can learn and the opportunities they are exposed to will determine their trajectory in life. This is the reason I help spend a significant amount of our tax dollars on supporting schools and community-based programs.

This year, the New York State Legislature gave New York City \$12 billion for education. I helped secure an additional \$225K to arts and sports programming and over \$1 million in capital funds. See the investments made to give our young people the opportunity to grow, get connected, and be successful in life!

Program Funds

- \$45,000 – Asase Yaa School of the Arts
- \$10,000 – Brooklyn Scholar Athletes, Inc.
- \$25,000 – BRO Experience Young Men’s Mentoring Program
- \$25,000 – Cultural Museum of African Arts
- \$25,000 – I WILL GRADUATE and Bloodline Dance Theater
- \$10,000 – Inner City Basketball Association
- \$30,000 – Inspiring Minds – IMConnected NYC
- \$25,000 – MYBASE Youth Opportunity Center
- \$20,000 – Quest New Stars in the Galaxy Music
- \$10,000 – YMCA Bedford Stuyvesant Teen Programming

Capital Funds

- \$125,000 – Brooklyn Children’s Museum
- \$500,000 – Flight Simulators for Aviation Programs at PS 5 and Madiba Prep
- \$125,000 – Mobile Van for the BRO Experience
- \$375,000 – Cultural Museum of African Arts – The Eric Edwards Collection

Do you have a child with special needs?

Children with special needs and their families now have a unique resource in the district. Uniquely Me Creative Arts (UMCA) helps improve sensory processing disorder through creative arts play while their parents get connected to resources during curated chats. Founded by educator Deon Jones, UMCA meets every second Saturday of the month at Bethany Baptist Church, 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd. from 10am-12pm. For more information, email: umcanyc@gmail.com.



Celebrating the Holidays at Marcy Houses



Pictured above (l to r) FDNY Firefighter Randy Cameron, Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, Marcy Houses Cornerstone Community Center Program Director Daphne Scott, Marcy Scholarship and Mentoring Chairperson Valerie L. Johnson, staff, teens from the MAP program, and the fantastic program kids.

Good Vibes and NYCHA Pride Poll

What is your favorite memory about living in NYCHA? Is it a place, an event, or something unique about the development as a whole? Take this short quiz and we will highlight the results in our January 2024 newsletter.

<https://bit.ly/nychapride>



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WINTER 2023

An aerial night photograph of a city neighborhood, showing illuminated buildings and streets. The image is used as a background for the contact information section.

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