



# This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,  
the sharing of benefits and burdens  
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,  
sharing one another’s blessing  
recognizing that at the heart of the matter  
we are bound to each other.”**

**-Mario M. Cuomo-**

## *In the News – State*

### **Governor Signs Key Pieces of Legislature’s Police Reform Package**

***Executive Order Requires Police Departments & Localities to Develop Policing Plan  
to Receive State Funding***



Flanked by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Rev. Al Sharpton, civil rights activist Hazel Dukes, Gwen Carr (mother of Eric Garner), and Valerie Bell (mother of Sean Bell), Governor Andrew Cuomo signed four pieces of legislation from the Legislature’s 10-bill Police Reform Package passed earlier this week. In addition, the Governor announced he will sign an

Executive Order requiring police departments and local governments to develop a plan outlining policing strategies and programs. A locality must enact the plan by local law by April 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for state funding.

Specifically, the Governor signed:

- ***A1531B/S8492 Sponsored by M of A Richardson/Senator Parker*** -- Establishes a private right of action for a member of a protected class when another person summons a police or peace officer on them without reason to suspect a crime or an imminent threat to person or property existed.
- ***A6144B/S6670B Sponsored by M of A Mosley/Senator Benjamin*** -- Establishes the crime of aggravated strangulation.

- ***S2574B/A10609 Sponsored by Senator Bailey/M of A Perry*** -- Creates an Office of Special Investigation within the Department of Law, under the Attorney General, which will investigate, and, if warranted, prosecute any incident of a person whose death was caused by a police officer or peace officer.
- ***S8496/A10611 Sponsored by Senator Bailey/Rules (at the request of M of A O'Donnell)*** -- Repeals section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law that provides additional protections to the personnel records of police officers, firefighters, and correction officers. Afford law enforcement officers personal disclosure protections in the Public Officers Law.

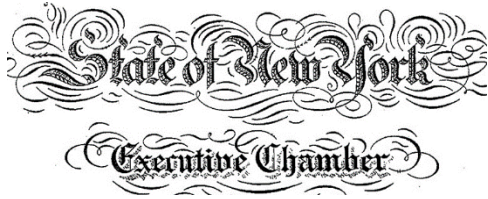
According to Governor Cuomo, the Executive Order will require local governments and the State's approximately 500 police agencies to develop a plan that "reinvents and modernizes" police strategies and programs in their communities. The police departments and local governments must formulate a plan addressing use of force by police officers, crowd management, community policing, implicit bias awareness training, de-escalation training and practices, restorative justice practices, community-based outreach, a transparent citizen complaint disposition procedure, and other issues raised by that community. There must be community participation and a locality must enact the plan by local law by April 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for state funding.

"..we say to every police agency in this state, 'Sit down at the table with the local community, address these issues, get to the root of these issues...if you don't, you are not going to get any additional state funding,'" Governor Cuomo explained. "We're not going to fund police agencies in this state that do not look at what has been happening, come to terms with it, and reform themselves. We're not going to be, as a state government, subsidizing improper police tactics."

The State Legislature returned to session this week to pass a 10-bill Police Reform Package. Other initiatives included in this package are:

- ***A10608/S2575 Sponsored by Rules (at the request of M of A Perry)/Senator Bailey*** -- Requires a law enforcement officer or peace officer who discharges his or her weapon under circumstances where a person could be struck by a bullet to immediately report the incident.
- ***A10609/S1830-C Sponsored by Rules (at the request of M of A Lentol)/Senator Hoylman*** -- Establishes the Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act which will require courts to compile and publish racial and other demographic data of all low-level offenses, including misdemeanors and violations.
- ***S3253A/A1360A Sponsored by Senator Parker/M of A Parker*** -- Clarifies that a person not under arrest or in custody has the right to record police activity and to maintain custody and control of that recording, and of any property or instruments used to record police activities.
- ***S.3595B/A10002-B Sponsored by Senator Parker/M of A Taylor*** -- Establishes the Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office within the Department of Law to review, study, audit and make recommendations regarding operations, policies, programs and practices of local law enforcement agencies.

- **S6601A/A8226B** *Sponsored by Senator Bailey/M of A Fernandez* --Amends the Civil Rights Law by adding a new section that affirms New Yorkers' right to medical and mental health attention while in custody.
- **S8493/A8674-A** *Sponsored by Senator Parker/M of A Walker* -- Directs the Division of State Police to provide all State police officers with body-worn cameras that are to be used any time an officer conducts a patrol and prescribes mandated situations when the camera is to be turned on and recording.



## State COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force Reports

Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa this week issued a report to Governor Andrew Cuomo outlining the COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force's initial recommendations to “reimagine” New York's approach to services for domestic violence survivors.

Governor Cuomo has accepted these recommendations in full and is directing the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), along with the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Office of Victim Services, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of Health, to use these recommendations to update domestic violence services in New York State. The Task Force's full report is available [here](#).

### ***Recommendation One: Using New Technologies to Reach More Survivors***

OPDV should partner with national technical assistance providers to increase use of technology to reach more survivors. State agencies should support programs in purchasing mobile devices and supporting technological infrastructure. OPDV should permanently incorporate a chat and text component into the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline.

### ***Recommendation Two: Providing Flexible Funding to Meet the Diverse Needs of Survivors***

State agencies should provide funding for local programs that can be used to support survivors' safety, housing stability, transportation or other needs, including community-based mobile advocacy, and leverage support with the philanthropic and advocacy community.

### ***Recommendation Three: Providing More Housing Navigation Services***

State agencies should connect providers to housing-related funding streams to support a housing navigator system. Domestic violence programs should designate a portion of one staff member's salary to be used for housing navigation services.

***Recommendation Four: Removing the Requirement that Domestic Violence Victims File a Police Report in Order to Access Victims of Crime Act Funding***

The Governor should issue an executive order to remove the requirement that domestic violence victims file a police report in order to access the Victims of Crime Act funding.

***Recommendation Five: Addressing the Needs of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Survivors of Gender-Based Violence***

The Council on Women and Girls should establish a standing committee to develop culturally competent service delivery designed to address the needs of BIPOC survivors of gender-based violence.

***Recommendation Six: Normalizing Domestic Violence Screening During Tele-Health Visits***

OPDV and the Department of Health should develop provider guidelines for identifying and responding to partner violence via tele-health. DOH and the Department of Financial Services should explore “rapid deployment of Medicaid (and commercial) payment mechanisms” for intimate partner violence screening and response through telehealth.

***Recommendation Seven: Coordinating a Program to Promote the Need for Representation of Immigrant Victims***

OPDV should coordinate with the New York State Bar Association and other bar associations and legal services providers to facilitate training and promote the need for representation of immigrant victims by large law firms through their pro bono programs.

***Recommendation Eight: Launching a Public Awareness Campaign to Highlight Financial Abuse***

OPDV should expand its existing text and chat line to address the various forms of financial abuse experienced by domestic violence survivors, including conducting a pilot project with local domestic service providers to identify victims whose credit has been ruined as a result of their abuse and work to repair and rebuild their financial standing.

***Recommendation Nine: Launching a New Prevention Initiative Specifically Directed at Educating Men About Domestic Violence***

OPDV should launch a new prevention initiative specifically directed at men, emphasizing the connection between domestic violence and harm to children.

***Recommendation Ten: Setting the Stage for Future Progress***

Long-term strategies to be further explored are policies around court innovation, ways to address the connection between child abuse and domestic violence, prevention programs, and more comprehensive data collection practices.



## Executive Orders

### **New York State Executive Order 202.40 (June 9<sup>th</sup>)**

All nursing homes and all adult care facilities, which are located in regions that have reached Phase 2 of reopening, must test or make arrangements for the testing of all personnel, including all employees, contract staff, medical staff, operators and administrators, for COVID-19, once per week.

### **New York State Executive Order 202.39 (June 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Allows any absentee ballot for an election held on June 9, 2020 and received by mail in the office of the clerk of the school district or designee of the trustees or school board not later than June 16, 2020 to be canvassed for such election.

### **New York State Executive Order 202.38 (June 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Commercial building owners and retail store owners have the discretion to deny admittance to individuals who refuse to undergo temperature checks or who have a temperature. Permits any non-essential gatherings for houses of worship at no greater than 25% of the indoor capacity of such location, provided it is in a geographic area in phase 2 of re-opening.

### **New York State Executive Order 202.37 (June 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Allows for in-person special education services and instruction required under Federal, state or local laws, rules, or regulations for the summer term by school districts through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Any districts offering such services follow must follow State and Federal guidance.

## *In the News – City*



### **City Announces New Support Programs for Communities Hardest-Hit by COVID-19**

Mayor Bill de Blasio, in conjunction with the City's Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity, this week announced new community programs in neighborhoods that have suffered disproportionately during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City will provide free meals, economic support for restaurants and workers, and new youth programming to support young people and their families in communities of color.

"COVID-19 has impacted communities of color especially hard, and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity is stepping up to address these disparities," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "From providing local restaurants with new resources to engaging our youth, we're ensuring our city can re-open fairly and equitably."

### **Restaurant Revitalization Program**

The Restaurant Revitalization (RR) Program will support unemployed and underemployed restaurant workers affected by the impact of COVID-19 and their employers, with a focus on NYC communities hardest-hit by COVID-19. This program aims to partner with restaurants committed to paying a full minimum wage with tips on top, increasing race and gender equity, and making their meals accessible to vulnerable community members (including those who are food insecure, essential workers, or others who are facing challenges in a time of need).

The program will provide restaurants with short term payroll support, funding subsidized wages to employ displaced restaurant workers who will prepare meals (including some free) for their communities. Under the RR Program, participating restaurants will be eligible for funding up to \$30,000 each, to be used to pay wages of \$20/hour to subsidized employees for at least six weeks.

In addition, the City is collaborating with One Fair Wage (OFW) which will launch its High Road Kitchens program in New York City, making \$1 million available to support local restaurants with funding of up to \$35,000 per restaurant. Both RR and the OFW programs are open to restaurants which commit to moving toward a full \$15 minimum wage with tips on top and to increasing race and gender equity among employees within three-five years.

Collectively, the City and OFW will direct \$3 Million into hardest-hit communities to support approximately 100 restaurants and 1,000 displaced restaurant workers, as well as provide hardest-hit communities with approximately 53,000 meals over 6-12 weeks.

The Restaurant Revitalization Program will be implemented by NYC Opportunity and the Human Resources Administration. To apply visit [nyc.gov/opportunity](https://nyc.gov/opportunity) or click [here](#).

### **Learn, Create, Prepare: Supporting Youth in NYC's Hardest-Hit Communities with New Summer Opportunities:**

The New York City Young Men's Initiative (YMI) in partnership with the New York City Department of Probation's (DOP) Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) will leverage existing funding to offer new summer opportunities throughout the hardest-hit neighborhoods:

- ***The Community Crisis Response Initiative*** will provide \$10,000 in funding to 22 local youth-focused community organizations to support and expand existing community relief efforts with a focus on supporting at least 500 young people.
- ***NeON (Neighborhood Opportunity Network) Summer*** will offer a remote learning summer immersion program for teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, East New York, Harlem, Jamaica, North Staten Island and the South Bronx. The program will connect 2,700 New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with paid learning opportunities designed to build skills to succeed in the workplace.
- ***Each One Teach One***. Under the guidance of mentors and media experts, youth will be paid stipends for the next four weeks to design media campaigns to encourage social distancing among their peers. Approximately 120 young people have been selected from areas that overlap with NeON Summer neighborhoods.

# Briefs

## **Five New York Regions Enter Phase 3 Of Economic Reopening Today**

Five regions of upstate New York are entering the third phase of the NYForward plan on Friday, June 12 with indoor dining and personal care services reopening. [Phase 3 Guidelines](#) were released earlier this week by the State in preparation for the opening.

Phase 3 begins today in Central New York, the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley, and the North Country regions. Buffalo and the Capital Region are scheduled to begin Phase 3 next week, followed by the Long Island and the Mid Hudson Valley the following week.

New York City entered Phase 1 on Monday.

## **NYS Comptroller: May Sales Tax Revenue Down by One-Third**

Sales tax revenue for local governments fell by about one-third in May compared with 2019, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Sales tax collections totaled \$918 million in May, \$437 million less than last year.

The decline varied statewide from a 19.5 percent drop in Westchester County to a 41.5 percent decrease in Tioga County, for a 32.3 percent average. New York City's decline was 31.9 percent, or about \$196 million in lost revenues. In April the State saw a 24.4 decrease from 2019 figures.

## **New York Unveils New Arrivals and Departures Hall at Terminal B as Part of the \$8 Billion Transformation of LaGuardia Airport**

LaGuardia Airport will open its Terminal B Arrivals and Departures Hall this weekend, part of its \$8 billion transformation project. The project includes the demolition and replacement of every terminal and concourse except for the historically landmarked Marine Air Terminal.

The 850,000-square-foot, four-story Terminal B will open to the public on Saturday, June 13th and serve American Airlines, United Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Air Canada.

## **Attorney General James Announces Special Advisors in Investigation into Interactions Between NYPD and General Public**

*Former United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Founding Director of NYU Policing Project Barry Friedman to help guide AG's ongoing investigation*

Attorney General Letitia James this week announced the appointment of two special advisors to help guide and support her investigation into the recent interactions between the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the general public.

Loretta Lynch is a former United States Attorney General. Barry Friedman is the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law at New York University (NYU) School of Law and the Founder and Faculty Director of the Policing Project at NYU Law.

## **Mayor de Blasio Announces Donation From Signature Bank to Small Business Emergency Grant Program**

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced this week that Signature Bank will donate \$750,000 to the [Small Business Emergency Grant Program](#) to further support small business owners who recently experienced damage to their storefronts during recent protests.

This donation will allow the program to provide individual grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses across the city. The grant will help impacted minority and women-owned businesses as well as those with annual revenues of less than \$1.5 million, with their recovery efforts, including repairs, security systems, locks, and inventory.

The City has already begun processing grant applications for small businesses in the Bronx, and with this donation, will also extend support to additional small businesses throughout other boroughs.

## **What to Know About Absentee Voting for the June 23 Primary**

(Source: [City and State](#), April 28, 2020, excerpted)

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes in the upcoming June 23<sup>rd</sup> primary. Regularly scheduled state and federal primaries will still take place across New York, but Governor Andrew Cuomo has canceled nearly all special elections that were set for June 23. Polling places in districts with races on the ballot will be open, but Governor Cuomo also expanded absentee voting in order to minimize the number of people at polling sites for the safety of both voters and poll workers.

### **Do I need to apply for an absentee ballot?**

In order to vote by mail, voters must still fill out and submit an application to receive an absentee ballot. This application will be sent to all registered voters by mail in accordance with an [April 24 executive order](#) which mandated that every registered voter in the state receive an absentee ballot application, with postage, to ensure that everyone who may wish to vote remotely has the opportunity. Voters would fill out the form, and mail it back to their local board of elections. Individuals may also print an application online or apply digitally by emailing the completed form to the local board of elections.

### **Aren't there specific criteria you have to meet in order to qualify for an absentee ballot?**

Yes, and technically this is still true. However, Governor Cuomo through an [April 9 executive order](#) expanded the definition of a “temporary illness,” one of the reasons for which someone could request an absentee ballot, to include “the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus.” This effectively makes everyone in the state eligible for an absentee ballot. This executive order only applies to elections held on or before June 23, so a new order would be needed if the coronavirus pandemic is still an issue in November.

### **Will polling places still be open?**

Yes, all polling sites in districts with elections will still open. Early voting begins tomorrow, June 13<sup>th</sup>.



# Coming Up

## New York State

### **The Federal Response to the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small Businesses in NY**

Assembly Committee on Small Business, Ways and Means, Agriculture, Banks; Office of State-Federal Relations; & Task Force on Food, Farm & Nutrition Policy  
Regional Hearings, Remote:

- **June 15<sup>th</sup>:** Upstate East and North/Hudson Valley East, 10 a.m.
- **June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Long Island, 10 a.m.
- **June 18:** New York City, 10 a.m.

### **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Police/Public Interactions During Recent Protests**

New York State Attorney General Letitia James  
Public Hearing via Video Conference, 11 a.m.

## New York City

### **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management**, Remote Hearing, 1 p.m.

*Int 1942-2020* - In relation to organic waste drop off sites.

*Int 1943-2020* - In relation to community recycling centers.

### **Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Committees on Hospitals & Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction**, Remote Hearing, 10 a.m.

*Oversight - New York City Hospitals' Response to the Mental Health Needs of Frontline Health Care Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

**Committee on Governmental Operations**, Remote, 1 p.m.

*Establishing a city restart officer and policies and protocols relating to the safe reopening and operation of city agencies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

### **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Committee on Oversight and Investigations**, Remote Hearing, 1 p.m.

*Oversight - The Administration's Response to the Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on Communities of Color.*

### **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

City Council Stated Meeting, Remote Hearing, 1:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations**, Remote Hearing, 10 a.m.  
*Oversight - DCLA, COVID-19 and Cultural Organizations in New York City.*

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