



In the News – State

# This Week in New York

**Covering New York State and City Government**

*A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC*

*August 14, 2020 Edition*



**“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”**

**-George Orwell, 1984-**

## *In the News – State*



### **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Prohibiting Housing Providers from Discriminating Against Persons with a Disability Who Have Support Animals**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation (S6172/A7331) prohibiting housing providers from discriminating against a person who relies on an animal for assistance alleviating symptoms or the effects of a disability. Housing providers must now provide a reasonable accommodation by permitting a support animal to live in a home that otherwise would have prohibited pets.

"New Yorkers have zero tolerance for discrimination of any type and this measure will protect some of the most vulnerable among us who require a support animal to help function in their daily lives," Governor Cuomo said. "With this legislation, we take one more step towards a stronger, fairer and more compassionate New York for all."

The Division of Human Rights has found in appropriate circumstances where it is reasonable to permit such an accommodation to a housing provider's "no pets" policy, where medical evidence or other professional evidence shows that the animal aids the person with the disability by alleviating the symptoms or effects of a disability.

Senator Monica R. Martinez said, "I like to thank Governor Cuomo for signing this important piece of legislation which will protect the rights of individuals who depend on an animal to provide emotional support and/or comfort on a daily basis. Discrimination on the basis of any disability is against humanity and no one should be subjected to such treatment especially within the confines of their own

home. People who utilize these animals do so for the overall well-being of their physical, emotional and mental health. I hope this legislation brings individuals a sense of ease knowing they are now protected.

Assemblymember Erik M. Dilan said, "I would like to thank Governor Cuomo and the NYS Division of Human Rights for this important legislation for the disabled New Yorkers. This new law would clarify the rights off the disabled if their animal is medically proven to alleviate the symptoms of the disability. Thankfully this will no longer be subject to unclear situations for the Judicial Branch to solve."The failure of the NRA to comply with multiple fiduciary responsibilities and state and federal laws resulted in the NRA seeing substantial losses on its balance sheet: going from a surplus of \$27,802,714 in 2015 to a net deficit of \$36,276,779 in 2018 — contributing to a total loss of more than \$64 million in just three years.



## NYS Covid-19 Actions

### Governor Cuomo’s Updates

"New York State continues to stay vigilant in the face of an ongoing crisis across the country as we pursue a phased reopening," Governor Cuomo said. " In the meantime, New Yorkers shouldn't get complacent—wear masks, stay socially distanced and wash your hands—and local governments must continue to enforce our guidance throughout the state so we don't go back to the hell we experienced just a couple months ago." Of the 87,900 test results reported to New York State yesterday, 737 or 0.84 percent, were positive bringing the statewide total to 423,440.

### NYS Budget

In comparison to the Executive Budget Financial Plan (“February Plan”), DOB has reduced the FY 2021 estimate for General Fund receipts by \$14.5 billion. All Funds tax receipts alone are down by \$13.5 billion -- a 15.3 percent reduction since the February Plan. The dramatic decline in General Fund receipts is not a one-year problem. DOB expects the reduced receipts to carry through each subsequent year of the Financial Plan, creating a total loss of over \$62 billion through FY 2024 compared to February Plan, as summarized in the table below.

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS REVISIONS TO THE FEBRUARY PLAN (millions of dollars)					
	FY 2021 Updated <sup>1</sup>	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected	Total
<b>ENACTED BUDGET REVISIONS</b>	<b>(13,257)</b>	<b>(15,899)</b>	<b>(15,795)</b>	<b>(15,589)</b>	<b>(60,540)</b>
Receipts (includes Lottery Aid)	(13,089)	(15,858)	(15,756)	(15,547)	(60,250)
Dedicated Tax Receipts (DHBTF)	(168)	(41)	(39)	(42)	(290)
<b>Q1 UPDATE REVISIONS</b>	<b>(1,259)</b>	<b>(308)</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>(1,553)</b>
Receipts (includes Lottery/Gaming Aid)	(1,219)	(293)	(9)	42	(1,479)
Dedicated Tax Receipts (DHBTF)	(40)	(15)	(10)	(9)	(74)
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVISIONS</b>	<b>(14,516)</b>	<b>(16,207)</b>	<b>(15,814)</b>	<b>(15,556)</b>	<b>(62,093)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes receipts of Extraordinary Monetary Settlements.

## Chapters of the Laws of 2020

**Chapter 135 Sponsored by Senator Gianaris /M of A Weprin--** Relates to licensing of establishments where animals or fowls are slaughtered; extender

**Chapter 136 Sponsored by M of A Mosley /Senator Carlucci --** Relates to providing that no person sixteen years of age or over shall be a passenger in the back seat of a motor vehicle, unless such person is restrained by a safety belt.

**Chapter 137 Sponsored by Senator Martinez/ M of A Dilan --** Relates to clarifying that reasonable accommodation to enable a person with a disability to use and enjoy a dwelling includes the use of an animal to alleviate the symptoms or effects of a disability.

## *In the News – City*



### **MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY HIRING ECONOMIC JUSTICE PLAN**

Using the City’s purchasing power, Community Hiring will address economic disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 by connecting low-income New Yorkers and those in economically disadvantaged communities to good jobs and apprenticeship opportunities. The plan includes new Project Labor Agreements with the building trades unions and a push for legislation in Albany to drive economic recovery in economically disadvantaged communities by utilizing the City’s purchasing power to connect New Yorkers to good jobs. This plan would provide an estimated 1,300 construction jobs for every \$1 billion in construction for low-income communities leading to an estimated \$1 billion in wages and benefits for target communities during the first full year of the program.

“During the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we’re taking action to connect low-income New Yorkers to good jobs and even better futures,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio. “We’ll use the City’s purchasing power to address hiring disparities, expand opportunities and invest in our communities of color. Working together, we can build a fair and equitable future for all New Yorkers.”

As part of the agreement:

- Unions will prioritize the referral of workers from zip codes where at least 15% of the population lives below the federal poverty level and/or are NYCHA residents, aiming to reach an overall goal that at least 30 percent of all hours worked under PLA projects are logged by workers from these zip codes.
- Unions will provide contractors with apprentices on City construction projects up to the maximum number allowed by the New York State Department of Labor when contractors

request apprentices. An apprenticeship Memorandum of Understanding establishes, for the first time, specific annual goals for the number of slots provided for both apprentices and pre-apprentices for residents of disadvantaged communities and NYCHA housing.

- This PLA increases opportunities and adds flexibility for MWBEs, allowing their workforce to gain valuable experience on city projects and build their companies, while continuing to source from within communities.

The Legislation proposed to the State Legislature by the City would:

- Establish the Office of Community Hiring and Workforce Development: The office will establish a community hiring program to provide employment opportunities for low-income New Yorkers and New Yorkers who live in economically disadvantaged regions.
- Expand access for economically disadvantaged communities: Expands access to middle-class construction and building service jobs by prioritizing people from these communities and NYCHA residents.
- Authorize the City to require a minimum ratio of apprentices: Allows the City to require that entities use a minimum ratio of apprentices when performing work on procurement contracts and expands entry-level jobs as a result.
- Enable the City to connect contractors with workforce development programs that will help them meet their hiring goals by referring qualified talent: Such workforce development programs could potentially include ones that typically serve NYCHA residents, veterans, people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, cash assistance recipients, immigrants, and NYCDOE and CUNY graduates.
- Authorize emergency rulemaking: Will enable low-income communities to see an immediate impact from the dollars the City is spending in FY21 for COVID response and recovery.
- Authorize other city-affiliated entities, including Health + Hospitals, NYCDOE, NYC SCA, NYC EDC, Build NYC, and NYC IDA, to exercise such authorities, as well.



## **Comptroller Stringer: How NYC is Spending Its Coronavirus Relief Funds**

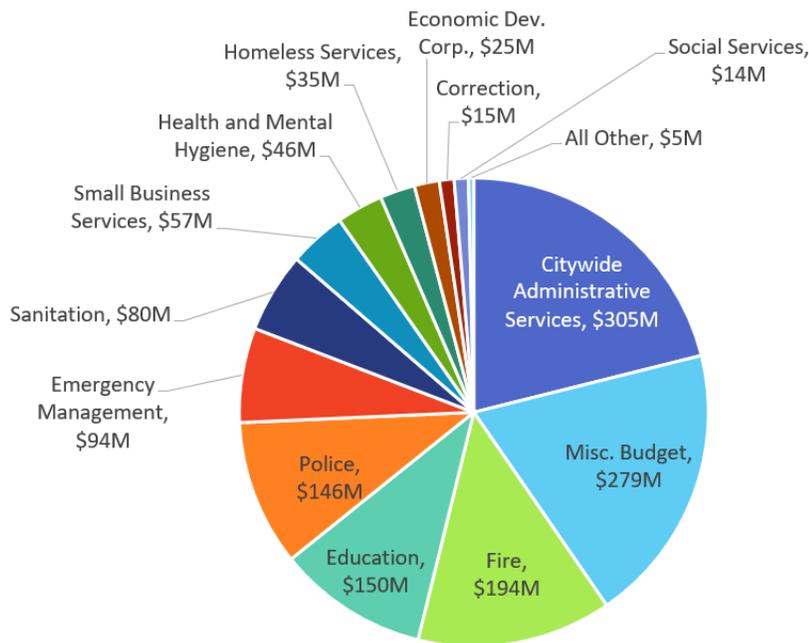
In late March, Congress appropriated \$150 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds to states and local governments. On April 20, New York City received its share – \$1.455 billion to be used or committed by the end of calendar year 2020. Under federal law, funds may only be used for previously unbudgeted costs that are necessary expenditures related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funds may not be used to fill revenue shortfalls.

However, federal guidance clarified that a wide range of activities may qualify, including actions taken to address medical or public health needs or provide economic support to impacted residents and businesses. Allowable expenses include testing; purchasing medical and protective supplies; payroll for public safety, public health, and human services employees who are substantially

dedicated to responding to the public health emergency; food delivery; facilitating distance learning; caring for homeless persons; and providing small business grants, among other eligible categories.

New York City used \$1.446 billion in FY 2020 (ending June 30th) and anticipates using \$3.4 million in FY 2021. The City's allocation of the funds reflects the broad range of eligible uses and the broad impact that the pandemic has had on city services. Allocation plans in FY 2020 included \$305 million for citywide administrative services, \$194 million for the fire department (including emergency medical services), \$150 million for the education department (including \$136 million for regional enrichment centers), and \$146 million for the police department. Other funds were allocated for new expenses in city jails, grants for small businesses, public health expenses, and homeless services.

While current reporting from the City allows for a broad analysis of relief funds by agency, the public would benefit from a more detailed accounting and tracking system of these limited federal resources.



## Briefs

### Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announces a new social media campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Starting this month, the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking will begin sharing a series of graphics aimed at correcting these misconceptions along with information about how to report trafficking cases. The campaign comes at a time when human trafficking referrals have been steadily

rising. The state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the Division of Criminal Justice Services - the two agencies that oversee the New York State Trafficking Victim Referral Process - received 177 referrals between January and June, a 70-percent increase over the same period in 2019. These agencies received more referrals during March and June of 2020 than during the same four-month period in any previous year.

## **Attorney General James Sues One of the Nation's Largest Egg Producers for Price Gouging**

The lawsuit alleges that Hillandale, a company based in Ohio and Pennsylvania, began raising prices during March 2020 as the pandemic grew to emergency levels. In January 2020, Hillandale charged Western Beef supermarkets prices ranging from \$0.59 to \$1.10 for a dozen large white eggs. On March 15, Hillandale raised that price to \$1.49. As the pandemic progressed, Hillandale raised the prices it charged Western Beef repeatedly, eventually reaching \$2.93 per dozen — a price almost five times the price Hillandale charged in January.

Hillandale allegedly gouged prices similarly on eggs sold to the commissary store at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In April 2020, Hillandale charged West Point \$3.15 per carton of large eggs, almost quadruple the \$0.84 price it charged West Point in January. The suit alleges that Hillandale raised its prices similarly on eggs sold to Stop & Shop, BJ's Wholesale Club, Associated Supermarkets, and the commissary stores at the U.S. military bases at Fort Hamilton and Fort Drum.

The lawsuit alleges that Hillandale has raised its prices not because of increased costs, but simply to take advantage of higher consumer demand during the pandemic. Hillandale — like numerous egg producers nationwide — has done so by following “indexed” prices published by a market research company called Urner Barry. According to the suit, Urner Barry’s “indexed” prices work like a feedback loop: Egg producers such as Hillandale tell Urner Barry their “assessments” of prices in the egg marketplace; Urner Barry then repeats back to egg producers their collective assessments, distilled into “indexed” prices; and egg producers such as Hillandale then use Urner Barry’s indexed prices as justification to set their own prices for the sale of eggs.

## **Mayor De Blasio Guarantees a Nurse in Every School Building**

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza today announced a guarantee of nursing coverage in every public school building and all early childhood programs across the city. Through a partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals, every student and staff member will have a qualified medical professional available every day as we reopen schools and continue to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Nursing coverage for schools serving Kindergarten through 12th grade is being provided through a NYC Health + Hospitals nursing contract for 400 full-time, onsite nurses. Nurses will be hired and in-place by the first day of school.

The over 2,000 early childhood care programs and new Learning Bridges childcare programs require two layers of nursing coverage. 100 contract nurses will be hired to provide geographic coverage, prioritizing the zip codes hardest hit by COVID-19, for early childhood and Learning Bridges childcare programs. Additionally, the Department of Education will contract with a tele-health nursing provider to make available a hotline accessible to all programs Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Program leaders, Family Child Care Network staff and home-based providers could call and consult with a nurse who would be specially trained to advise program leaders on COVID-19 and other medical questions and concerns.

## *Coming Up*

### *New York State*

August 18 **Senate Standing Committee on The Judiciary**

Chair: Senator Brad Hoylman

Public Meeting: A discussion about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on recent law school graduates, the New York bar exam, and alternate pathways to attorney admission.

Place: Online: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Burton Phillips (518) 455-2452

Media Contact: Zach Duffy (212) 633-8052

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

### *New York City*

August 18, 2020 **The New York City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings**

Chair: Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

1:30 PM REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

T2020-6447 A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the definition of site safety training full compliance date

Preconsidered

**“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-**

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