

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Breaking Down the Rent Laws

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Hearing Room A

Sponsor: Assemblymember Mosley

As New York City comes to grips with an affordable housing crisis not seen since WWII, it is imperative that legislators in the state Legislature act. Please join Assemblyman Mosley and housing rights advocates as they discuss what the rent stabilization laws mean to thousands of working class families in New York City.

Innovative Strategies to Address Gun Violence in Communities of Color

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Hearing Room B

Sponsors: Senator Parker and Assemblymember Mosley

The Attorney General's office, Senator Parker, Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley and panelists, will highlight new strategies agencies and organizations are creating and implementing to combat the proliferation of illegal guns and gun violence in urban centers across the state. Panelists will explore the use of technology, on the ground proactive and responsive measures, as well as targeted policy that aims to keep New Yorkers safe.

How Will MWBEs and Small Businesses Fare Under a Trump Administration?

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Hearing Room C

Sponsors: Assemblymember Bichotte, Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes & Senator Sanders

The panelists will discuss, from their different vantage points of government, how they believe MWBEs and small business programs will fare under the incoming administration.

Basic Income Guarantee

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Meeting Room 1

Sponsor: Assemblymember Sepulveda

This workshop will analyze poverty in New York State and proposed solution of The Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). BIG is a government ensured guarantee that no one's income will fall below the level necessary to meet their most basic needs for any reason. As Bertrand Russell put it in 1918, "A certain small income, sufficient for necessities, should be secured for all, whether they work or not, and that a larger income should be given to those who are willing to engage in some work which the community recognizes as useful. On this basis we may build further." Thus, with BIG no one is destitute but everyone has the positive incentive to work. BIG is an efficient, effective, and equitable solution to poverty that promotes individual freedom and leaves the beneficial aspects of a market economy in place.

Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Meeting Room 2

Sponsor: Assemblymember Rodriguez

Gouverneur Parents Association for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities brings to light deficiencies and cuts made affecting those in our communities that need it most. Hear testimony and garner support for those without voice.

Technology Entrepreneurship Panel

9:15 AM — 10:30 AM, Meeting Room 3

Sponsor: Senator Comrie

This workshop will be moderated by a leading diversity technology founder from NYC, Chike Ukaegbu. The goal of this panel is to inform minority constituents and bridge the gaps to access and information for NY State communities in the following ways: equipping leaders with the resources to create opportunities that interest them, diversifying learning and development for current/new leaders, enabling NY constituents to develop a greater understanding of entrepreneurship's impact politically, and helping entrepreneurial policies evolve to accommodate NY State Political Initiatives.

Moving Beyond Trump and Creating Safe Havens for All Students

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Meeting Room 4

Sponsors: Assemblymember Moya and Assemblymember Walker

The Presidential Election elevated hateful rhetoric targeting young people in immigrant communities, young people from communities of color, young people with disabilities and young women. How can NYS public education institutions, secondary and post-secondary, move toward creating learning environments free from oppression and biases of young people? Hear from a panel of youth experts, advocates, and educators to understand the potential impacts of a new administration and how to move New York schools forward as a beacon of inclusion and compassion.

Effective Legislative Advocacy- Black Women Vote- Where Our Power Lies

9:15 AM –10:30 AM, Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Assemblymember Hyndman

Although women gained the right to vote in 1919, women of color had to wait nearly 55 years until the passage of the voting rights act of 1965, to fully participate in American politics. In 2008 and 2012, Black women voted at the highest rate of any group. This workshop will discuss the historic role of women of color as the go-between for government in the community and how to build on that foundation for the future through development and mobilization.

DIAGNOSIS: STREET ADDICTION The Effects of Trauma, Grief & Loss, and PTSD within Urban Communities

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM, Meeting Room 6

Sponsors: Assemblymember Hunter and Assemblymember Walker

Street Addiction Institute Inc.(SAII) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization created for the sole purpose of performing research in the areas of trauma, grief, loss, addiction, education, and violence prevention in addition to culture and spirituality as it relates to re-shaping behaviors of those who participate in the gang/street culture in communities across the United States and the world abroad. SAII examines the key constructs of cognition and behaviors relevant to understanding the cycle of gang involvement, crime, and violence under the rubric of behavioral addictions and formulate solutions to re-humanize a traditionally traumatized urban demographic.

There are rehabilitation centers for addictions and destructive behaviors such as: gambling, alcohol abuse, sex, drugs, and domestic violence just to name a few. However, there are no resources for the complex co-occurring addictive behaviors associated with the streets. Individuals who are addicted to elements of the streets are in desperate need of a rehabilitative process. This style of programming will assist in the process of helping those exposed to the street dynamic to start the process of reshaping their identity.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Maximizing the Neighborhood Benefit in Affordable Housing: Understanding the Role of Mission-Driven Developers

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Hearing Room A

Sponsors: Assemblymember Dilan and Senator Bailey

Affordable housing is a top-line issue for most communities and for their political representatives. But not all "affordable housing" is created equal, and evaluating the details of the alphabet soup of the City and State affordable housing development programs is tricky. For local neighborhood residents, the issues boil down to: Is "affordable" actually affordable? How long will the affordability last? What other local services does the developer bring? How can I make sure the community is getting the greatest benefit? This workshop will provide a strategic overview of these issues, and explore why the mission-driven development model is a key part of the answer to creating the greatest community benefit.

My Brother's Keeper

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Hearing Room B

Sponsor: Assemblymember Blake

In conjunction with Regent Lester Young, this workshop will highlight how leaders are enacting the six millstones of the My Brother's Keeper Alliance: Entering school ready to learn, reading at grade level by 3rd grade, graduating from high school ready for college and career, completing post-secondary education or training, successfully entering the workforce and reducing violence and providing a second chance.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Trump Era: Healthcare for Special Populations

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Hearing Room C

Sponsor: Senator Rivera

In the face of massive federal change, New York must be a national leader, strengthening core protections for special populations including the LGBTQ community, immigrants, communities of color, people living with HIV, and public hospitals. State action will be critical to prevent rollbacks of existing coverage and access to healthcare. Any reductions in coverage make the sustained fiscal health of public hospitals and health centers critical. This panel will discuss proposals to: 1) change public health insurance programs and its impact on special populations; and 2) legislative actions at the state level to prevent loss of coverage for these communities.

Rewarding Careers in Public Service

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 1

Sponsor: Assemblymember Titus

The Department of Civil Service will conduct a joint hour-long presentation with the Department of Labor to assist job seekers in finding employment opportunities in both the public and private sector. The Department of Civil Service presentation will focus on the vast array of employment opportunities available through New York State government, the civil service exam, and the hiring process to become a New York State employee. In addition, the presentation will highlight Governor Cuomo's hiring programs for veterans and internship opportunities for college students.

Improving the Financial Literacy of New Yorkers

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 2

Sponsor: Assemblymember Rodriguez

The workshop is designed to discuss many of the ongoing services and initiatives that are aimed at improving the financial literacy of New Yorkers. Helping constituents better budget and manage their incomes, save and invest responsibly, and avoid fraudulent and risky behavior in order to further improve the state's economy as a whole.

Public Higher Education Investments: Opportunities and Challenges

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 3

Sponsors: Assemblymember Pichardo and Senator Parker

Over the past eight years, NYS's public investment in higher education has declined by 14percent. For many minorities in the state public higher education institutions, such as SUNY and CUNY are their only viable option. The panel will discuss the recent history of budget cuts on SUNY and CUNY and its impact on our communities. Improving this situation will require an increased investment from the state. We will explore strategies to increase state investment in public higher education, which will lead to supporting enhanced access while increasing student and faculty diversity.

Challenging Incarceration and State Violence While Promoting Community Empowerment and Racial Justice

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 4

Sponsors: Assemblymember Hunter and Senator Perkins

This workshop will involve panelists outlining the problems and the solutions from their collective platform to end mass incarceration, stop state violence and torture, promote community empowerment, and build racial justice and repair. The workshop will outline 2017 policy priorities calling on New York State and local policy-makers to: adopt parole and bail reform, HALT solitary confinement, close Rikers and Attica, raise the age of criminal responsibility, revamp all sentencing, restore voting rights, provide higher education to people incarcerated, protect domestic violence survivors, and promote racial justice through a truth, justice, and reconciliation commission as well as reparations. The panelists will also share with participants ways that they can get involved in this growing collective movement.

The Amazing Black Child

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Assemblymember Barron

This workshop will explore ways to repair the damaging impact of racism and poverty to the Black Child.

Know Your Rights #ProtectNY

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Meeting Room 6

Sponsors: Assemblymember Crespo, Senator Alcantara and Senator Hamilton

There is a legitimate post-election climate of bigotry, that can be validated by the spike in hate crimes and other acts of discrimination across the Country, and as New Yorkers we are not immune. This workshop will discuss basic concepts, protections and obligations under the New York City Human Rights Law. Protected classes and general human rights will be highlighted particularly as it pertains to religious accommodations, immigration rights, and racial discrimination.

2nd Annual Say Her Name Panel and PowHER Luncheon: *Perseverance through Sisterhood: Strengthening Community Foundations*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Assembly Parlor (Capitol Building, 3rd Floor)

Sponsor: Women of Color Subcommittee

We find women of color at the hard-working forefront of the basic building blocks of our communities – as public school administrators and day care providers, as Directors of our Community Based organizations, as trailblazers in civic and community organizing, and as the caretakers of our extended families. In the new political environment, the basic commitment to these foundation stones cannot be taken for granted. In fact, it is apparent that the new Administration fully intends to rip many of them away.

Join our dynamic panel of Women of Color who have been leading the struggle for rights and resources for our communities to learn how, as individuals, we can take everyday steps to strengthen our communities' foundations.

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Activism & Democracy During the Age of Trump

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Hearing Room A

Sponsor: Senator Parker and Assemblymember Walker

With the election of Donald Trump, his controversial cabinet picks, and his allegations of voter fraud, tensions in communities of color are at an all-time high. Constituents are wondering how communities of color can reset and come together to resist the repugnant public policies we see thus far, and expect down the road from the Trump regime. Panelists will explore actions state legislators have put in place to address voting issues, as well as advocacy on issues affecting minority communities. The panel will also address mobilization, voting rights, redistricting, 2020 Census, Immigration and electoral reform.

Raise the Age

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM – Hearing Room B

Sponsors: Assemblymember Blake and Senator Hamilton

In this workshop, participants will learn about raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18 years old while ensuring the safety and security of detained or incarcerated youths while enhancing social services and early intervention programs. Panelists will address expanding funding for rehabilitation and re-entry programs for youths, including new family support centers, additional mental health counseling, crisis intervention, clinic assessments, and community based programs. We will also address the collateral consequences of a criminal record by determining which criminal offenses should be eligible for sealing of a criminal record and the time elapsed post-criminal conviction to be eligible for sealing.

We Can End These Epidemics

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Hearing Room C

Sponsors: Senator Rivera and Assemblymember Mosley

New York State's historic Plan to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2020 and the recommendations made by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Ending the Epidemic (ETE) Task Force are currently being implemented and have already yielded significant results and international recognition. New HIV infections statewide decreased to 2,481 in 2014, marking the lowest HIV incidence reported by the State Department of Health; in 2015, NYC saw an 8.3% decline in new HIV diagnoses. This panel will discuss innovative new ETE initiatives and how a similar approach can be used to address State's hepatitis C and opioid epidemics.

Combating Racism: Building Our Toolkit

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 1

Sponsor: Assemblymember Titus

This past year's world events have shined a clear light on an enemy that some thought no longer existed in a post Obama world. Hello Racism! As we move forward in this new reality, it is essential that we develop understanding, build strength and fortify our communities with a broad toolkit that can be used to survive our new reality. Our panelist will help us unwrap this issue and build tools for that new toolkit to help our families and communities as we each navigate in different spaces of our lives.

Marijuana Legalization as Racial Justice

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 2

Sponsors: Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes

Marijuana prohibition has wreaked havoc in New York, resulting in the criminalization of hundreds of thousands, and has been highlighted by outrageous systemic racial disparities in its enforcement. While New York continues to arrest young people of color for simple possession of marijuana, reform has been sweeping the country. Medical Marijuana Programs exist in 28 states and 8 states and the District of Columbia have now legalized marijuana for recreational use resulting in the formation of a multi-billion dollar industry. This industry is largely white and is exclusive by design. As interest in bringing that industry to New York grows, it is imperative that legislators figure out how marijuana reform can also be a vehicle for criminal, racial, and economic justice.

Beyond the Hashtags: Hip-Hop Culture and Its Influence on Social Justice and Politics

2:00 PM — 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 3

Sponsor: Assemblymember Richardson

The purpose of this workshop is to highlight and also bridge the gaps between social justice, politics, and hip-hop. Hip-hop yields wide attention, and isn't always used to its fullest extent to effectuate change.

Aging Alone: Behavioral Health and Dementia Among New York's Black Elders

2:00 PM — 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 4

Sponsors: Senator Perkins and Assemblymember Solages

New York State is home to the largest number of Black elders. Co-sponsored by Citywide Behavioral Health Coalition for Black Elders, Inc. and CaringKind, NYC this workshop will address the current situation of Black Elders regarding dementia and mental health care. The perspective is a holistic one, taking into consideration the spectrum of issues that impact Black Elders. This workshop will address recognizing early warning signs and dispelling myths, as well as appropriate treatment and services to ensure Black Elders' access to adequate, culturally competent care. Discussion will focus on what legislators and our communities can do.

We Are Mighty Builders

2:00 PM — 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Assemblymember Barron

This workshop will have a powerpoint presentation on building strong African American communities from Timbuktu to Tulsa to Weeksville.

Charters, Vouchers and Privatization: Will Your Local Public School Remain "Public" in the Trump Administration

2:00 PM — 3:15 PM, Meeting Room 6

Sponsors: Assemblymember Ramos and Assemblymember Walker

Forces are once again aligning to drain funding away from our public schools, this time on a national level. Panelists will explore the push to privatize and monetize public education, and how those efforts could negatively affect classrooms all across New York State. Hear informed perspectives discuss the lessons learned from Michigan, where Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has had a considerable role in shaping public education policy. Panelists will also discuss the role that parents and the community can play as we try to stop the dismantling of our own public schools right here at home.

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Harm Reduction and the Opioid Crisis in New York State

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Hearing Room A

Sponsors: Senator Rivera and Assemblymember Mosley

Overdose deaths are now the leading cause of accidental death statewide, and the response has shifted as the framing of opioid use has focused on rural and suburban New York--often overlooking areas that have been grappling with overdose for decades. Harm reduction services have been a core part of New York's response to drug use for nearly 25 years, but remain grossly under-supported in relation to other drug services and unavailable in many communities in need. This forum will provide a brief history of the role of POC harm reduction practitioners and the need for resources and evidence-based, wrap-around treatment services in communities of color.

Legislative Caucus Budget and Priorities

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Hearing Room B

Sponsor: New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus

Each year, the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus produces The People's Budget – a comprehensive analysis of the Executive Budget proposal that previews the priorities that Caucus Members have identified for the fiscal year. This workshop will serve as the official release of The People's Budget and will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the policies that the fifty-six member Caucus will be advocating for throughout budget negotiations.

Constitutional Convention: Why or Why Not?

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Hearing Room C

Sponsor: Assemblymember Titus

Every 20 years New York State voters get to vote on a ballot referendum which asks: "Shall there be a Convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?" This workshop will explore the option of holding a convention and opening the constitution.

Containing the Cost of Prescription Drugs

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Meeting Room 1

Sponsor: Assemblymember Blake

This workshop will examine ways and means that could reverse the escalating cost of prescription drugs.

Making New York a Leader on Economic Justice and Green Careers

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM, Meeting Room 2

Sponsors: Senator Parker and Assemblymember Latrice Walker

This forum will explore how New York can lead the nation in the fight against climate change, tackle environmental injustice in low-income and communities of color, and how to create thousands of high road green jobs in the new energy economy. This workshop will also focus on the Climate and Community Protection Act, a hallmark bill backed by a coalition of 100+ labor, community and environmental groups statewide.

Voices from the Formerly Incarcerated: Reform and Re-Entry

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM – Meeting Room 3

Sponsors: Senator Montgomery, Assemblymember Richardson, Assemblymember Walker and Assemblymember Wright

People being released from prison are faced with an array of obstacles re-entering society. In this workshop we will hear directly from the forgotten voices. The people who have been directly impacted will share their experiences, explore policy proposals, and make recommendations on how to help the formerly incarcerated transition successfully back into the community.

"I am A Solution" - Legal Solutions for Improving the Criminal Justice System

3:30 PM — 4:45 PM, Meeting Room 4

Sponsor: Senator Perkins

In the wake of the deaths of Eric Garner, Akai Gurley and countless others, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA) began organizing town hall meetings and legal solutions roundtables throughout New York aimed at identifying legal and legislative reforms that will reduce the number of unarmed civilians killed by law enforcement officers. The MBBA is the largest association of African American attorneys in the State of New York. The goal of our proposed panel program is to discuss legislative and legal reforms that will reduce the violence and lead to a more just criminal justice system.

How New York's School System Can Best Serve Communities of Color

3:30 PM — 4:45 PM, Meeting Room 5

Sponsor: Assemblymember Crespo

This workshop will explore issues around inequality in our public school system, and how we can find common ground to address and improve the system so that every child, regardless of their zip code, can receive a great education in an adequate facility.

School-To-Prison Pipeline

3:30 PM — 4:45 PM, Meeting Room 6

Sponsor: Assemblymember Perry

The panel will discuss the school-to-prison pipeline, a term that is used to describe the correlation between educational institutions' implementation of zero tolerance policies with increasing patterns of student contact with the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, and how these policies have created an environment for the criminalization of youth in schools. The panel will also discuss the disparities related to zero tolerance practices -- i.e., since 1973, the percentage of students suspended from school has at least doubled for all racial and ethnic groups, and nearly 3.5 million public school students were suspended at least once in 2011-2012. Across the nation, in 2011-2012, nearly one out of every four black students in middle and high school were suspended at least once; and 23.2 percent of black secondary school students were suspended at least once compared to 6.7 percent of white students. The panel will also discuss the widening racial discipline gaps related to zero tolerance policies, comprehensive models, alternative strategies, structural intervention, and restorative practices for effectively improving learning environments for students, and how we can change federal, state and local policies to reverse the growing school-to-prison pipeline.

Path to the Robes – Making the Judiciary More Representative of People of Color

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM – Assembly Parlor (Capitol Building, 3rd Floor)

Sponsor: Assemblymember Joyner

Focusing on the importance of making the judiciary fully representative of the Empire State's diversity, Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, chair of the Assembly's Subcommittee on Diversity in Law, is chairing a panel that examines strategies for enhancing the representation of people of color on the bench.
