



ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019



Albany speaks out against sexual violence



Rachel Wilson, from the Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Assault Center, speaks

Albany rallied in Washington Park on April 17 to Take Back the Night and speak out against sexual violence.

This year's theme of "I ask" is especially important because it starts with consent. It is about understanding what consent is, listening and accepting answers without pressuring or coercing others. Legislature Chairman Andrew Joyce and Sheriff Craig Apple joined the Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center to speak about the impact sexual violence has on a community and advocate for victims.

The Albany County Legislature is currently working on a bill that requires employers to provide paid sick time for all employees. In this bill is a special Safe Time provision that allows

victims to take time off to receive treatment and take the necessary steps to ensure their safety and recovery.

Under this bill, victims would be able to take time off to: Relocate; meet with an attorney or social service provider for any criminal or civil proceeding; to file a complaint with law enforcement; to take other actions necessary to improve or restore the physical psychological or economic health or safety of the individual.

"We need to encourage victims to speak out," Joyce said. "We need them to feel more comfortable in doing so and we need them to be provided the time and for them to take the time that is necessary to heal."

The event also included survivor stories, a march and a candlelight vigil.

Health Department earns national accreditation

The Albany County Legislature recognized the County Health Department for earning national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Pictured: Legislators Raymond Joyce and Lucille McKnight present Deputy Commissioner Maribeth Miller with a proclamation at the Legislature meeting on April 8.





Albany County legislation in the works:

- After months of discussion and revisions, the Law Committee voted 6-1 in favor of Local Law “O” regarding redistricting. The law will go to the full body for a vote on May 13.
- Law Committee also voted to hold a third public hearing on Local Law “C” of 2018, requiring paid sick leave. If approved by the full Legislature, the public hearing will be held May 28.
- The plastic bag ban (Local Law D of 2019) was tabled in committee after the New York State Legislature adopted its own plastic bag ban. Legislator Joanne Cunningham has submitted a revised bill that focuses on opting into the five cent fee.
- Local Law “E” regarding flavored tobacco was tabled in committee following a public hearing where more than 50 people came to speak.
- The Personnel and Audit & Finance committees approved separate collective bargaining agreements with 1199 SEIU for the registered nurses and maintenance units at the Albany County Nursing Home, and amended the 2019 Department of Residential Health Care Facility Budget.
- Law Committee voted to move Local Law “M”, which focuses on reducing the number of legislators in the Legislature, to the full body for a vote.
- Public Safety Committee approved several resolutions for the Albany County Sheriff’s Office including an agreement with Fleet Management regarding the lease of vehicles; an agreement with OD Security North America for the purchase of a full body scanning security system at the Albany County Correctional Facility; and the submission of grant applications.

More information about these items can be found at www.albanycounty.com/legislature/meetingagendas.aspx.

Your County Legislators

District 1 – Lucille M. McKnight	District 21 – Brian Hogan
District 2 – Merton D. Simpson	District 22 – Peter B. Tunny
District 3 – Wanda F. Willingham	District 23 – Paul J. Burgdorf
District 4 – Norma J. Chapman	District 24 – Peter R. Crouse
District 5 – Christopher T. Higgins	District 25 – Joseph E. O’Brien
District 6 – Samuel L. Fein	District 26 – Patrice Lockart
District 7 – Douglas A. Bullock	District 27 – Frank A. Mauriello
District 8 – Lynne Lekakis	District 28 – Dennis A. Feeney
District 9 – Andrew Joyce	District 29 – Mark E. Grimm
District 10 – Gary W. Domalewicz	District 30 – Charles E. Cahill
District 11 – Frank J. Commisso	District 31 – Travis Stevens
District 12 – William M. Clay	District 32 – Paul Miller
District 13 – Raymond F. Joyce	District 33 – William Reinhardt
District 14 – Alison McLean Lane	District 34 – Joanne Cunningham
District 15 – Robert J. Beston	District 35 – Charles S. Dawson, Jr.
District 16 – Sean E. Ward	District 36 – Richard M. Mendick
District 17 – John E. Frainier	District 37 – Richard N. Touchette
District 18 – Gilbert F. Ethier	District 38 – Victoria Plotsky
District 19 – Todd A. Drake	District 39 – Christopher H. Smith
District 20 – David B. Mayo	

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Legislature Newsletter
can be viewed on
the County website at:**

www.albanycounty.com/legislature