



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 10th District



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ADVOCATING FOR CHILD CARE FUNDING >

Child care is essential to our work force and COVID recovery, and is government's best investment in our future. Standing at Dee's Tots Family Day Care with other elected officials, including State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, and Kathy Halas of the Child Care Council of Westchester.

< SUPPORTING LOCAL NON PROFITS

Proud to support the good work of the many non-profits in our district. Seen here with Congressman Jamaal Bowman and Jennifer Ryan Safesel, the CEO the New Rochelle YMCA, the recipient of BOL funds for its afterschool and enrichment programs. We also funded similar programs at the local Boys & Girls Club as well as investing in construction of its new clubhouse and a residential apartment building on city-owned land.



Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2021 Newsletter



Damon R. Maher

District 10 ~ Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle
 Chair, Labor & Housing Committee



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the pandemic era has stretched into 2021, my most important job as your County Legislator continues to be to spread the most current information from all levels of government, constantly being in the community, and gathering information from the field to report back to all relevant departments. Beyond that, I have been literally on the **front lines of aiding those most in need** with food insecurity, housing and “digital divide” issues. This has not stopped us from the underlying and ongoing business of the County Government, actually **reducing the County property tax levy** for three consecutive years and prudently investing in the future of our infrastructure and of our people.

Our Board of Legislators has **accelerated work to improve** County roads (including upper Main Street/Winter Hill in Tuckahoe and the Bronx River Parkway running north from Cross County), bridges, wastewater recovery facilities and

the beautiful parklands that have been a refuge to many during these trying times. We have continued our ongoing programs to replace our diesel buses with electric and hybrid models, increase the number of electric charging stations in County-controlled parking lots, place solar panels on as many of our buildings as we can, and ramp up centralized recycling and composting programs. We also find it critically important to **improve our human infrastructure**, notably by steadily increasing support for daycare families, facilitating parents’ return to gainful employment and better preparing children for success in school and beyond.

An independent study commissioned by the County tells us that we need more than 11,000 new units of housing to meet the demand of those who wish to live and work here. We continue the work of **incentivizing private developers**, mainly by floating millions of dollars of long-term, low-interest bonds, to create a mix

of units that are attainable by regional workforce, local seniors and our less economically advantaged neighbors, along with units at market prices. We also passed a new law which will make sales of **co-op apartments** — often the first rung in the ladder to accumulated family wealth — more transparent and much simpler.

As a member of the County Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force, I pushed especially hard for **Mental Health Response Units**, modeled on those that have succeeded in several other jurisdictions. These units answer emergency calls with a personal crisis intervention team that is trained and equipped to de-escalate specific situations, and can direct residents to the help they need. This model allows the police to focus on the work they have been trained for.

Sincerely,

Damon R. Maher



< PASSING TOO SOON

Our New Rochelle community lost a strong, young leader and advocate, Rev. Dr. DeQuincy Manvel Hentz, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, on December 25, 2020. I was proud to partner with him on issues of housing and equity. He was a gifted man of God who was also fun-loving, with a big, contagious smile.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN >

On February 11, 2021, the Westchester County Board of Legislators honored the life of the late Sister Beth Dowd, OSU, with a Memorial Resolution. For over 42 years, Sr. Beth enriched the lives of thousands of children with music. “Reaching for Peace through Music” was her mantra and she fulfilled that dream through Songcatchers, a nonprofit organization which provides an array of choral and instrumental programs that serve the communities of New Rochelle and southern Westchester County.





< COVID RELIEF CONTINUES

Even as the community becomes vaccinated and many return to work, food insecurity remains a factor throughout Westchester. Here I am with County Executive George Latimer and our friends at the Food Pantry Mission of Bethesda Baptist Church on Lincoln Ave in New Rochelle.

ECAP TENNIS CLINIC, APRIL 2021 >

Coaches Brian and Muhabi Simunyola of BTNNS brought lots of fun and a new skill to Tuckahoe kids attending the ECAP after school program. When the rain came on the fourth day we moved indoors to the Tuckahoe Community Center.



< EARTH DAY, EASTCHESTER FESTIVITIES, MAY 2021

The Eastchester Environmental Committee kicked off the spring season with a clean-up of the Garth Road communal gardens.

FAMILY COURT GRAND OPENING >

On June 10th, I joined County Executive George Latimer and key stakeholders to cut the ribbon on the long awaited new Family Court site at 26 Garden Street in New Rochelle.

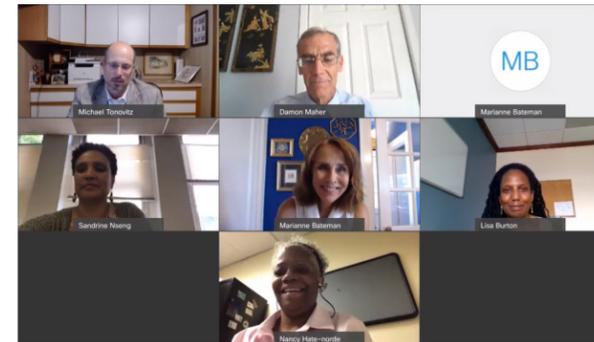


< JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS, JUNE 2021

I had the honor of speaking at joyous festivals in Tuckahoe (at left) and in New Rochelle, quoting the great orator, abolitionist and escaped slave, Frederick Douglass. We had dancing, kids' games and good food!

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH HONOREE: BARRY KRAMER, EASTCHESTER, JUNE 2021 >

June is Pride month and we were thrilled to honor Barry Kramer of Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Choice Realty in Eastchester, an advocate and activist for all LGBTQ + citizens of Westchester County.



< HOUSING WEBINAR, JULY 2021

Our latest Housing workshop was online and addressed the topic of Housing Choice Voucher "Demystifying Section 8 for Realtors and Landlords." Our three expert panelists showed business people how to tap an overlooked business opportunity.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, AUGUST 2021 >

Proud to once again join Legislator Terry Clements in sponsoring an ice cream truck at the NRPD's annual community event. As he does every year, NY Yankee legend Mariano Rivera was working the hot dog grill for hours.



< ETCOC NETWORKING EVENT, JUNE 2021

The Eastchester/Tuckahoe Chamber of Commerce held their first live in-person networking event for local businesses at the new Springfield Suites Hotel on Marbledale Avenue in Tuckahoe. That's Tuckahoe's new, history-making Mayor, Omayra Andino, front and center.