



Westchester County Legislator
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2023 Westchester County Budget

- **MENTAL HEALTH:** The 2023 budget paved the way for the reopening of two mental health clinics.
- **CHILDCARE:** The parent share subsidy program has been decreased from 10% to 5%.
- **HEALTHCARE:** \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds provided for neighborhood health centers throughout Westchester bringing the total to \$3 million in funding.
- **DIGITAL EQUITY:** Recognizing the importance of bridging the digital divide led to me supporting \$750,000 of funding being provided to Connect Westchester in an effort to increase connectivity in difficult corners of the County.



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Westchester County Board of Legislators

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Spring 2023 Newsletter

Terry Clements

District 11 ~ New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor
 Chair, Public Safety Committee

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor and privilege to represent the people of Pelham, Pelham Manor, and New Rochelle on the Westchester County Board of Legislators. I would like to thank the residents of our unique and resilient community for your continued support during these challenging times, as we try to normalize our lives in this post-pandemic era.

We, in the county legislature, continue to work on health concerns and housing needs, to help restore our communities. Our ongoing small business support helps rebuild and assist our neighbors struggling with lingering economic issues, from the pandemic. We are happy to have successfully passed a \$2.4 billion-dollar budget for 2023!

WESTCHESTER COUNTY IS GROWING STRONGER!

Westchester County is growing stronger, and our goal is to always put the needs of the people first. This year's budget focuses on child care, mental health assistance, public safety and affordable housing. I am delighted that we did not raise county taxes for the fourth year in a row. We continue to sustain our nonprofit partners who provide essential resources to the residents of District 11.

As Chair of the Public Safety Committee and an educator, the School Bus Stop-Arm Demonstration Program



New Rochelle's Police Department's National Night Out

law is essential for our community. This local law in Westchester County establishes a demonstration program, imposing vehicle owner liability for failure of a driver to stop for a school bus, displaying a red stop-arm with flashing lights.

There are many moving parts in government, we strive to improve community-based organizations my District, but for all of Westchester County. I have consistently provided funding for community based organizations for example, I supported the New Rochelle Police Department's National Night Out, an event that strengthens relationships between law enforcement and community members of all ages and encouraging unity in the community. The Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle and the YMCA of New Rochelle are staples in our District and a foundation for children's education, resources for adults and Se-

niors, and much more. Hope Community Services has over 600 volunteers, it has provided countless meals for everyone who is in need. The Youth Services Opportunity Program brings together seniors and youths for community projects. Our new partners Pelham Together has brought innovative ways to ensure a safe, healthy, and vibrant community for all youth.

As always, I would love to hear from you. I invite you to please reach out to me with your concerns, issues and your ideas for how we can continue to make Westchester County one of the best communities to reside.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Terry Clements
 Legislator, 11th District

Our County is Growing and Changing

The **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT** (ARPA), Westchester County was allocated \$187,926,698 in March 2021 and received its second installment of \$93,963,349 in June 2022. The County has until December, 31, 2024 to disperse the funds according to the Federal guidelines, and has allocated them to these critical areas:

- Public Health Investment
- Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby Home Visiting Program
- Non-profit Grant Program
- Small Business Development Assistance
- Tourism & Hospitality Development and Promotion
- Workforce Development Job Training
- Affordable Housing Development & Multi-Family Unit Rehabilitation

- Wastewater Infrastructure
- Revenue Replacement

It is with great pleasure I share this opportunity of **THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** (DIG) program offered in March 2023 for any municipality interested in applying and met all the following criteria:

- Municipalities are eligible if they do not receive direct CDBG funds from the Federal government or have not received a New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant in the past.
- Municipalities must be willing to participate in a joint collaboration (a contract or MOU may be required) between the local municipal government and the local Chamber of Commerce or other business organization.

- Local government must pass a resolution, to confirm their commitment to the program.

The Municipality of Pelham submitted an application, if selected The DIG Program will help the reimagine and revitalize their downtown economic engine through a program consisting of professional consulting and up to \$250,000 in implementation support. This is exciting news and more information will come in the near future. Each grantee will receive strategic one-on-one support to help grow consumer foot-traffic, retain existing businesses, recruit targeted-new businesses, provide training, and explore innovative new ways to strengthen and market their community through comprehensive analysis and a detailed action plan. ■

Working Legislation

The Clinic Access Law was passed, to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities. This law provides the right to access reproductive health care facilities and the right to obtain reproductive health care services and treatments. This is a personal right protected by our state. The right to peaceably protest and express one's views is an essential right protected by the state and federal law. Such constitutional actions include, the right to speak, march, demonstrate, picket and pray.

According to a 2018 Nature Magazine article, globally, more than 320 million tons of plastic are consumed every year, and the use of plastics has continued to expand. In 2019, National Geographic reported that plastic production has increased exponentially,

from 2.3 million tons in 1950, to 448 million tons in 2015; production will likely double by the year 2050. The manufacture of these plastics, made of petroleum and other fossil fuels, contributes to climate change and pollution. As we reduce, reuse, recycle my colleagues and I passed a local law on banning these items the plastic utensils, stirrers, splash sticks, and condiment packets, among other single-use food ware items are prevalent in Westchester County and around the world.

Another key piece of legislation sponsored by our Board is the "Truthful Disclosure by Candidates for Elective Office" Law. Following recent high profile misrepresentation of credentials and qualifications among those seeking office, this law requires additional

background information. The public can be confident that their elected officials have the experience, to effectively represent their constituency. It would require candidates for County Legislator and County Executive to complete a Candidate Disclosure Form that provides biographical information, including the candidate's educational, military, and employment histories. The Candidate Disclosure Form will also require the candidate to certify that the information contained in the form is true and correct. This form shall be open for public inspection, except for the month and day of the candidate's date of birth, the names of the candidate's minor children, and any information that is mandatorily required to be withheld under state or federal law. ■

PHOTO GALLERY



Press Conference Don't Dump in our River



Raise the Wage Press Conference with Senator Shelley Mayer and Colleagues



Eagle Scout Celebration



Veterans Day in Pelham



ArtsWestchester Meeting



Kemeshas Community Event



Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle with Senator Natalia Fernandez



Visiting Food Pantry at Hope Community Services



Centennial Celebration of the New Rochelle Lions Club



Earth Day, New RoStrong!