



Westchester County Legislator  
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# Westchester County Board of Legislators

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Winter 2024/25 Newsletter

## Terry Clements

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

## Preventing Gun Violence

I am proud to serve on the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce (WCGVPT), led by the County Executive Office and County Legislators, which will begin actively working in 2025 to combat gun violence throughout our communities. This task force builds on the important work already being done by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, expertly run by Commissioner Terrance Raynor, which includes the efforts of Community Resource Officers (CROs) and School Resource Officers (SROs) who help keep our schools and neighborhoods safe.

The WCGVPT is a crucial step forward in preventing gun violence across Westchester County. By bringing together agencies, organizations,



and community members, we aim to address the social conditions and influences that lead young people to gun violence. The task force will engage both victims and perpetrators in meaningful conversations and advocate for the necessary resources to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies.

This task force exemplifies the power of unified leadership. Together, we are fostering collaboration across all levels of government, law enforcement, nonprofits, and businesses. With this team in place, we are making significant strides toward creating safer communities for everyone in Westchester County. ■

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. As we approach the end of another productive year, I want to reflect on our progress and the opportunities ahead. Your steadfast engagement and dedication make Westchester County a remarkable place to live, work, and thrive.

Over the past year, we have focused on key priorities such as housing affordability, infrastructure improvements, and public safety. I'm proud to share that we passed a balanced budget for 2025, retaining Westchester County's triple-A credit rating, which reflects our commitment to responsible fiscal management. This budget prioritizes critical areas such as child care, mental health resources, affordable housing, and public safety without raising county taxes for the fifth consecutive year.

We have also strengthened partner-

ships with nonprofit organizations and community-based programs that provide essential services to residents of District 11 and beyond. These organizations, like the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, the YMCA of New Rochelle, and Hope Community Services, play a vital role in supporting our most vulnerable neighbors, fostering opportunities for our youth, and enriching the lives of seniors.

Investments in infrastructure have been another primary focus this year. By addressing longstanding flooding concerns and ensuring our roads and facilities are well-maintained, we're building a stronger foundation for the future. I'm particularly proud of our work to support small businesses, which remain a cornerstone of our local economy.

Community is at the heart of what we do. Events like the New Rochelle Police Department's National Night Out demonstrate how collaboration between law enforcement and residents

fosters trust and unity. I'm also excited about new initiatives led by partners like Pelham Together, which continue to promote safety, health, and common sense for youth in our district.

Serving as your county legislator for the past seven years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I am committed to continuing this work and ensuring that the voices of Pelham, Pelham Manor, and New Rochelle are heard loud and clear in the decision-making process. Together, we will build on our achievements and address the challenges ahead with determination and optimism.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an integral part of this vibrant community. I look forward to continuing to serve and work alongside you in the years to come.

Sincerely,

### Safety Measures for Domestic Violence Survivors

Survivors of domestic and gender-based violence are safer now in Westchester County, thanks to an Act that allows them to receive free installation of new locks and security cameras. This initiative aims to protect victims and their families, motivated by past tragedies where safety measures could have made a difference. The Act follows a similar ordinance in New York City, recognizing the urgent need for enhanced security. In 2022, the County saw a concerning rate of 17 reported domestic violence cases per 10,000 residents, with many more likely going unreported due to fear of retaliation. Created in collaboration with the Westchester County Office for Women, the County Executive's Office, and with guidance from the Pace Women's Justice Center, the Act allows documented survivors to apply as soon as it takes effect. ■

## School Bus Safety



As an educator, and in my role as Chair of Public Safety, nothing is more dear to me than the safety of Westchester's schoolchildren. I am proud to share that Westchester County Board has unanimously passed a Local Law amending Chapter 705, implementing a demonstration program aimed at holding vehicle owners accountable for failing to stop for school buses displaying red visual signals and stop-

arms while picking up or dropping off schoolchildren. This law also expands enforcement tools within the County, with the goal of significantly reducing the number of violations that continue to threaten the health, safety, and well-being of students.

As part of the amendment, a new requirement mandates that any recorded images of a violation must include an electronic indicator showing that the school bus's red signal lamps were flashing at the time. This enhancement is intended to strengthen the ability of authorities to prosecute offenders effectively.

The importance of this measure

resonates strongly with educators and public safety advocates. With driver inattentiveness on the rise, ensuring the safety of schoolchildren has become an urgent priority. Families need to feel confident that their children's journey to and from school is protected. Reckless drivers who ignore the law and fail to stop for school buses must be identified and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible.

This initiative reflects a broader commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of the community, emphasizing the County's dedication to both student safety and effective law enforcement. ■

## 911 Call Centers

The Board approved a \$1.3 million Bond Act to upgrade the County's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) system, also known as 911 Call Centers. These call centers are essential for handling emergency calls and coordinating the necessary responses, receiving calls from both landlines and mobile phones. With this approval, the County will acquire new equipment, software, and implementation services to ensure the system upgrade.

This upgrade is necessary as the current system is reaching the end of its life cycle. Westchester County and its municipalities maintain 37 primary and 3 secondary PSAPs that handle 911 calls. This project represents the second replacement of 911 equipment. This Act underscores the County's ongoing commitment to leveraging technology for community safety. ■

## Combating Climate Change

Climate change impacts every one of us, and addressing its challenges requires collaboration and proactive solutions. My office is working closely with local municipal officials and the County's newly appointed Director of Flood Mitigation and Stability, Dean Tarulli, to ensure our communities receive the resources and support they need. I'm proud to announce the Board's approval of two major 2024 capital flood mitigation projects for District 11: \$16 million for Pelham and \$6 million for Pelham Manor. As your county legislator, I remain committed to safeguarding the homes, livelihoods, and futures of residents most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. ■

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## Pelham Together



I am deeply honored to support Pelham Together in expanding essential youth programs. Investing in our young people is one of the most important things we can do for our community. Pelham Together's efforts to provide summer internships, year-round employment, connections with trusted adults and peers, and mental health support are crucial for the well-being of all Pelham youth.

Our young people are facing real challenges, including high levels of

anxiety and depression, long waitlists for affordable therapy, and the need for greater awareness around issues like binge drinking and edibles. Pelham Together creates a hub of opportunities and resources that will address these needs and offer our youth and families the support they deserve. I am proud to stand with Pelham Together in this important work and to help provide the resources that will make a difference in the lives of our young people. ■



Hope Community Services Backpack Giveaway



Giving out gifts at the Boys and Girls Club



New Rochelle Lafayette Bicentennial Celebration



Arts Westchester Challenge Grant Event

## More Affordable Housing is Coming to District 11

In June, the Board unanimously approved a Bond and Land Acquisition Act to promote the creation of affordable housing in New Rochelle. The Land Acquisition Act allows for the purchase and transfer of property for the construction of affordable condominium units. The Bond Act will finance the property's acquisition and the project's planning phase. These affordable units will be targeted toward households earning at or below 100% of the area median income and will remain affordable for a minimum of 50 years. Additional funding is anticipated from various sources, including state subsidies and tax credits. ■



New Rochelle Countywide Juneteenth Kickoff



New Rochelle YMCA