



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 16th District



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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Winter 2024/25 Newsletter



Shanae Williams

District 16 ~ Yonkers
Chair, Committee on Housing & Planning

Dear District 16 and Friends

I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season and Happy New Year! I am pleased to share my annual newsletter, highlighting key moments and undertakings from my first year as your Westchester County Legislator, Housing Chair, and a member of the following Committees: Budget & Appropriations, Appointments, IT & Cybersecurity, Public Works, Transportation. It has been an incredible year of growth, collaboration, and progress, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our community. I hope you find this newsletter insightful as we reflect on our achievements and look ahead to the work still to come.

Throughout this year, the Board of Legislators has made great strides in advocating for local initiatives and addressing the issues. While there's more to do, I am proud of our progress. As we enter the season of giving, I am reminded of the values that guide my work as a public servant; dedication, compassion, and a commitment to making a difference. I would be remised in not acknowledging and also extending my appreciation to my colleagues for welcoming and guiding me this past year.

Looking to the new year, I remain focused on continuing this vital work and tackling the challenges ahead. If you'd like to meet with me in 2025 to discuss any issues or ideas to continue to move District 16, Yonkers and Westchester County forward, please contact Charlotte at 914.995.2813 to schedule.

Warm regards,

THANK YOU for Supporting Legislator Williams' 1st Annual 5K Run/Walk!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the **1st Annual "Break the Silence on Domestic Violence" 5K Run/Walk** a huge success!

In just under two months of planning, together we:

- **Raised \$4,000** for the YWCA of Yonkers
- Welcomed **over 100 runners and walkers** to join this meaningful cause

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for the **2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk:**

- **Saturday, October 11, 2025** (*Registration: 7:30-8:30AM; Race begins at 9:30AM*)
- **Tibbett's Brook Park**

Proceeds from the 2025 event will benefit **Hope's Door**.

Learn more about the services they provide, visit hopesdoorny.org.

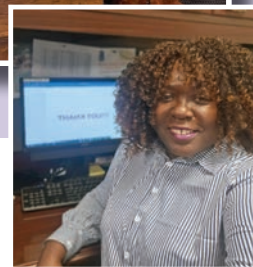
GET INVOLVED!

Would you like to be part of this impactful event? Opportunities include:

- **Joining the Planning Committee**
- **Becoming a Sponsor or Donor**
- **Volunteering** the day of the race and/or at related events

For more information, contact Charlotte at (914) 995-2813 or cxv2@westchestercountyny.gov.

Let's make the 2025 event an even greater success!



Pictured Top to Bottom:
Legislator Williams;
Personal Legislative Aide,
Charlotte Vinson



Pictured Left to Right: Business Council of Westchester 40 Under 40 Rising Stars 2024 Honoree; Total Faith Network 2024 Public Service Award; MetroNY NMBAA Power of You Conference 2024 Leadership Award



PUBLIC SAFETY

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE: A recent CDC report shows U.S. gun deaths at a 30-year high, with firearm injury the leading cause of death among youth. Legislator Williams and County Executive Latimer launched a County-wide Gun Violence Prevention Task Force to address the vital issue.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS: The Board passed legislation to provide free home locks and security cameras for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Developed with the Westchester County Office for Women, the County Executive's Office, and Pace Women's Justice Center, this Act enhances safety for victims.

STOP ARM LEGISLATION: This legislation will strengthen protections for children at school bus stops, in an effort to ensure their safety on the roads.

5K RUN/WALK: Leg Williams hosted the 1st Annual "Break the Silence On Domestic Violence" 5K Run/Walk at Tibbett's Brook Park on October 12th.

The proceeds of \$4000 were given to the YWCA of Yonkers to continue their Domestic Violence services and education. Save-the-Date: October 11, 2025 for 2nd Annual 5k Run/Walk at Tibbett's Brook Park, more information to follow.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECH UPGRADE

PUMPING STATION REHABILITATION

An \$18 million bond for improvements at the Mamaroneck Water Resource Recovery Facility to enhance infrastructure and efficiency.

ROADWAY CULVERT RESTORATION: This Bond Act finances a project to inspect and evaluate culvert structures along County roads. It will address flooding and determine necessary maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement, establishing a priority-based schedule.

GREEN INITIATIVES

SOURCE SEPARATION AMENDMENT: This amendment updates the law to require separate waste and recycling bins in public areas and clarifies food

composting rules. By streamlining reporting and aligning with state hazardous materials laws, it simplifies recycling and waste management for businesses.

FOOD SCRAP RECOVERY PROGRAM: A \$1.3 million capital project and Bond Act for the study, design and development of a major composting facility to reduce County waste and generate compost.

BEE-LINE BUSES & BUS SHELTER RENOVATIONS: The Board approved replacing 95 old buses with new hybrid and electric models and upgrading bus shelters with solar power, ADA accessibility, and other improvements.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Chair, Leg. Shanae Williams)

LOCAL ANNUAL INCOME MEDIAN: The Act sponsored by Legs. Williams and Imamura, as well as, passed by the Board of Legislator requires the Planning Department to annually calculate and publicly share the Local Area Median Income (LAMI) for municipalities with available Census data. The LAMI calculations must be posted on the department's website, submitted to the Clerk of the Board, and sent to relevant municipal officials. This tool aids local leaders in affordable housing discussions.

HOUSING FUNDS: In September, the Board approved funding for land acquisitions, development, and rehabilitation in several municipalities: 528 rental units in Yonkers; 404 in Mount Vernon; 583

in White Plains; 128 condominiums in New Rochelle; and 180 rental units in Ossining. In total, 1,821 Affordable Housing units are planned with amenities like parking and community rooms, and marketed by income eligibility.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR RESIDENTS

A \$1 million bond will fund the reopening of a mental health clinic in White Plains. The clinic will offer essential support for individuals with urgent mental health needs, helping to meet the increasing demand for services.

"WESTCHESTER GROWING TOGETHER" is a new health equity initiative in partnership with United "Way of

Westchester offering caregivers bilingual resources and personalized tips for young children. It also provides children's mental health training for schools and providers.

RELIEF FOR HARD-WORKING TAXPAYERS

- **COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES REMAINS FLAT** for the sixth consecutive year.
- **SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS** excludes Social Security income from eligibility calculations, increasing relief for seniors with fixed incomes.
- **SUSPENDED BEE-LINE BUS FARES** for the third summer and holiday season.
- **NYS UNCLAIMED FUNDS** individual

legislator notification letters sent to constituents; four workshops were provided/sponsored by NYS Comptroller's Office, County Executive and Board of Legislators to assist residents in obtaining their funds.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

School Funding Restored: Proposed cuts to Foundation Aid by the Governor threatened to reduce funding by \$20 million across Westchester County's 40 public school districts. The Board held a press conference and wrote a letter to the Governor, opposing these cuts. Fortunately, the reductions were averted, and Foundation Aid funding was reinstated.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

1. 5K Run/Walk "Break the Silence on Domestic Violence" 2. Love and Support to the Residents of Palisades Towers 3. Kawasaki 5000 Rail Celebration 4. YWCA of Yonkers Big Check Presentation from proceeds from the 5K Run/Walk 5. YAAHC Juneteenth Celebration 6. Pressley Memorial Church Pastor Recognition for 35 Years of Service from Westchester County 7. Tour of Inclusive Links 8. Coat Drive at the YWCA for the residents of St. Cashmere in collaboration with Yonkers City Councilwoman, Deanna Robinson, Yonkers PBA, Westchester Guardians, Yonkers Fire Fighters, Local #628, Vulcan Society of Westchester and Food Lab



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