



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Shelley B. Mayer

## Community Update: Commemorating Juneteenth, Public Hearings on Foundation Aid, Legislative Town Hall

SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER June 24, 2024

Dear Friends,

I have been deeply saddened by the many losses our community has faced in just the past few weeks: Mark Anthony Giordano, the 13-year-old Harrison boy who passed on June 12 in a tragic accident; Maria Coto, a caseworker for the Department of Social Services who was dedicated to helping others, who passed this week following a brutal attack; Joshua Martinez Arana, an 18-year-old who would have graduated from Fox Lane High School just a few days after he lost his life in a car accident; and Michael Donovan Volpe and Molly Murphy Donovan, the six-year-old boy and his mother who passed on Thursday after being struck by a school bus in Mamaroneck. My prayers are with all of their families during this very difficult time.

I hope everyone stayed cool and safe during last week's heatwave. When we are experiencing such high temperatures, it is important to keep safe by avoiding strenuous activities, drinking plenty of water, avoiding alcohol and caffeine, and by taking necessary precautions to avoid heat-related illness.

Last week we also commemorated Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas learned of the Emancipation Proclamation and that they were finally free. Juneteenth

is a powerful day of recognition and acknowledgement of how far we have come as a nation, and a reminder that we must reaffirm our commitment to fighting for equality.

I am pleased to share the announcement that the SUNY Rockefeller Institute of Government will hold five public hearings throughout New York State to hear testimony regarding the State's Foundation Aid Formula – which determines how public schools are funded by the state. These hearings provide an opportunity for all concerned New Yorkers to make their voices heard. I encourage all interested parties to use their voice and participate in these hearings. More details and how to register are below.

Lastly, tomorrow is primary day. If you are enrolled in a party, it is so important that you get out, use your voice, and vote. [Click here](#) to for more information and to find your polling place.

If there is anything my office can assist you with, please email me at [smayer@nysenate.gov](mailto:smayer@nysenate.gov) or call (914) 934-5250.

Warm regards,

Shelley B. Mayer

State Senator

37th District

Read the full Community Update [here](#).