



New York State Senator
DAPHNE JORDAN
(R, C, IP, REF) 43RD SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Friend:

Good afternoon and welcome to my Weekly Wrap's January 31st edition as this month has absolutely flown by! This wrap shares some important news including my advocacy for reforming NY's broken budget process, the 2020 Saratoga Springs State of the City, the Town of Sand Lake becoming NY's newest Purple Heart Community and much more. Please do not hesitate to call my district office at (518) 371-2751, or e-mail me at jordan@nysenate.gov if I may ever be of assistance. Thank you! –
Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

Attending Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Inspection Banquet





Last Saturday was the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Inspection Banquet. I attended and thanked all at the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department for their service and protection of Halfmoon Fire District #1 and its surrounding communities. These are everyday heroes with uncommon courage who answered several hundred calls for assistance this past year. Congratulations to the Company Officers and Firematic Officers installed, and thank you for your leadership. Special shout out to President Adam Higgins who served as Master of Ceremonies, Chief Butler, Deputy Chief Robert Courmoyer, and Assistant Chief Edward Olsted. It was said that answering one call is noteworthy (and it is!), but the following were recognized for having over 100 calls in 2019: Michael Root, 103 calls; Bryan Nyland, 114 calls; Victor Knorowski, 132 calls; Keith Butler, 162 calls; Harry Conerty, an Active Charter Member (1964), 164 calls; and George McBride, 184 calls. It was my honor to celebrate your service and achievements with you.

Calling for Reform of NY's Broken Budget Process



On Monday, I advocated for real reform of NY's broken budget process by keeping non-budgetary matters out of the annual State Budget (I'm pictured above at a press conference calling for this reform). The State Budget provides the legal authority to spend money, period. It is not intended to provide this Governor (or any Governor) a political end-run around the proper legislative process or act as a vehicle for policy experimentation. The Governor's altered budget processes have been roundly criticized by good government reformers from all across the political spectrum. I'm sponsoring Senate legislation that would enact comprehensive budget reform. My budget reform bills include:

S.3373: Restricts the ability of the Executive to make laws via the budget. Section 1 of my bill provides that appropriation and re-appropriation bills be constrained by existing law or by specific changes in law proposed and intended to amend an existing law that may only be stated in separate

legislation. Section 2 provides that appropriation bills submitted by the governor only contain items of appropriations and that each item of appropriation specifically relates to some particular appropriation in the bill, identifies the purpose of the appropriation, does not include requirements for implementation, and does not modify existing law. My legislation would make clear that the budget is to appropriate money for State spending, clearly enunciate what that money is being spent on, and shut out policy proposals that should be considered as stand-alone legislation.

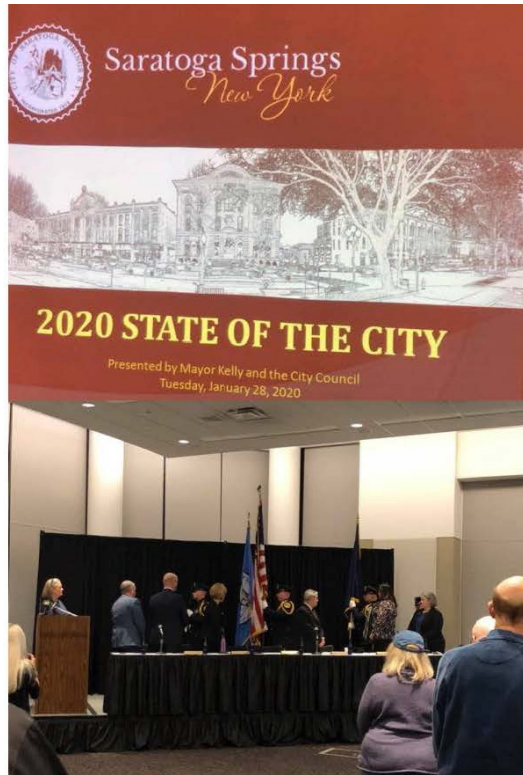
S.7563: Requires budget bills to clearly reference the section in the accompanying bill or bills where the corresponding appropriation or re-appropriation can be located and requires that the legislature not act upon bills that neglect to do so;

S.7564: Requires a two-thirds vote of the State Legislature for any increase, extension, imposition or restoration of any tax, fee, assessment, surcharge or any other such levy change, except any bill which results from the passage of a home rule message; and

S.3835: Requires legislative approval in the proposed closure of any correctional facilities and institutions across the state. My bill is timely and especially relevant because the Governor is proposing to close additional correctional institutions in the State Budget.

Budget process reform truly is a non-partisan issue and should receive strong support from both houses of the State Legislature. I'll continue advocating for true budget reform that restores the appropriate checks and balances that Albany sorely needs.

Attending the 2020 State of the City Address





On Tuesday, I attended the 2020 State of the City Address delivered by Saratoga Springs Mayor Meg Kelly that featured updates and progress reports from Commissioner of Accounts John Franck, Commissioner of Finance Michele Madigan, Commissioner of Public Works Anthony “Skip” Scirocco, Commissioner of Public Safety Robin Dalton, Supervisor Matthew Veitch, and Supervisor Tara Gaston. The Governor’s proposed elimination of VLT Aid for Saratoga Springs – which would cost the City \$2.3 million and the County \$775,000 – was mentioned and is a critical issue that I’ll continue working on!

Recognizing Sand Lake as NY’s Newest Purple Heart Community





On Wednesday evening, the Town of Sand Lake became the latest municipality in the 43rd Senate District to become a “Purple Heart Community,” a special, non-partisan effort to recognize and honor America's incredible heroes. During Wednesday’s meeting, 26 members of America’s armed forces were honored as recipients of the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to the American heroes who gave all, and those who live with combat wounds, on our behalf. Purple Heart recipients who live, or did live, in the Town of Sand Lake, along with families of the recipients, were present, as well as other veterans in the town. Each recipient received a certificate and there was a short ceremony (with a wonderful cake, featured above) commemorating the special occasion. I’m pictured above at Wednesday’s ceremony with Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, Town of Sand Lake Supervisor Nancy Perry, Ph.D., and Rensselaer County Legislature Member Robert Loveridge. In addition, I’m also pictured above seated with 95-years-young town resident Madison “Dwayne” Wehnau. We also all displayed some of the special Purple Heart Community signage that helps publicize the designation. Congratulations to the Town of Sand Lake and the 26 recipients we honored! To learn more about becoming a Purple Heart Community, e-mail me at jordan@nysenate.gov, or call my Community Liaison Deborah Curto at (518) 371-2751.

Helping Protect our Emergency First Responders

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Emergency First Responders Privacy and Protection Act S.7280

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
DAPHNE JORDAN



Last year, the Governor and Democratic Majorities in the State Legislature enacted so-called bail and discovery “reform” that pose a clear and present threat to the public safety of all New Yorkers. I voted against this measure and am working for a full repeal of this bad law. The new bail and discovery reform law recklessly endangers the safety and security of emergency first responders. Specifically, the new law established an expedited timeline to provide police reports, radio transmissions, videos, and witness names/contact information related to the prosecution of a crime to defendants within 15 days of arraignment. Presently, law enforcement personnel are protected from the disclosure of names and contact information. Unfortunately, the same protection was not extended to emergency first responders (firefighters and EMS workers). This is a serious, dangerous omission with real consequences for real people. Under the new law, violent criminals may target our emergency first responders. In addition to the threat of injury and loss of life, the discovery law could also hamper first responder recruitment.

That’s why I’m proudly partnering with my colleagues Senator Jim Tedisco, Assemblyman Dan Stec, and Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh by co-sponsoring Senate Bill S.7280/Assembly Bill A.9107 (aka the “Emergency First Responders Privacy and Protection Act”) to protect our courageous emergency first responders from having their personal contact information shared during discovery. I will continue doing everything in my power to help safeguard our emergency first responders from violent criminals that might otherwise obtain their address, phone number, e-mail and more. Your voices are critically important in this effort! Please consider contacting the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Assembly Speaker, and urge that they bring this common-sense measure to the floor for a vote. The following is the contact information for the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Assembly Speaker:

Governor Andrew Cuomo: (518) 474-8390, Link to contact form for email:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/government-contact-form>

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins: (518) 455-2585, email: scousins@nysenate.gov

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie: (518) 455-3791, email: speaker@nyassembly.gov

Another Bail "Reform" Horror Story

The news about our state’s so-called bail “reform” law continues going from bad to worse. The latest shocking case involves two-time bank robber Romell Nellis who cut off his ankle monitor to evade justice, meaning NYS has yet another criminal menace on the loose. Sadly, this is just the latest example of how NY’s disastrous bail reform law is endangering public safety. The Fox News video of this troubling story is linked below. We need to repeal bail reform NOW!

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6128266920001#sp=show-clips>.

Helpful Information for Veterans

Emil Baker, NYS Director of Employer Outreach ESGR at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), was recently at the Saratoga Naval Base with News Channel 10 Anchor Mary Wilson, Base Commander Phillip Boice, and Frank McClement, Director of Saratoga County Veteran Services, recording a PSA explaining how service-disabled veterans can now shop at the PX and Commissary and use other base services. A link to the News 10 story is below:

<https://www.news10.com/news/local-news/some-veterans-get-access-to-military-bases-including-naval-base-in-saratoga-springs/>

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