



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday, and welcome to the December 18 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

In this week's Wrap, you'll see my recent letter to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Commissioner regarding minimizing the movement of inmates to help protect our public safety professionals and reduce the spread of COVID. You can read more about this important effort in my letter posted below.

This week, I was happy to send out a New York State Senate Certificate of Recognition to Casale Rent-All, as the *Albany Business Review* recently named them a "Top Workplace," along with five other terrific local businesses. You can read more about the honorees in my Weekly Wrap.

Tuesday was the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Simply Food by Maura. There are so many terrific, hardworking businesses across my 43rd Senate District, I'm always proud to recognize them and celebrate their success! There are also hardworking volunteers such as the Rensselaer County Medical Reserve Corps that are helping with important COVID vaccine efforts. We are thankful for Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin and his leadership with this.

We ended the week with one of the biggest Nor-Easters that the Capital Region has seen in years, with some areas recording more than 30 inches of snow! Thankfully, by Friday morning I was able to attend the re-opening ceremony at Bowtie Cinemas in Saratoga Springs, which you'll read about in this week's Wrap.

With Christmas next Friday, and New Year's the following week, my Weekly Wrap will be taking a short holiday break and return for the New Year and new Legislative Session with the latest news you can use from Albany and details on many local community happenings.

Let me be among the first to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and healthy New Year!

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

**My letter to the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision**

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December 11, 2020

Mr. Anthony J. Annucci

Acting Commissioner, New York State Department of Corrections and

Community Supervision

1220 Washington Ave

Albany, NY 12226

Dear Commissioner Annucci:

I write on behalf of the dedicated, hard-working public safety professionals that help ensure the safety and security of all New Yorkers. Specifically, my correspondence concerns the ongoing movement of furloughed inmates in and out of Hudson Correctional Facility, a medium-security facility located in my 43<sup>rd</sup> Senate District outside the City of Hudson in Columbia County.

As you are aware, the Hudson Correctional Facility has a substantial work-release and furlough program for inmates residing there. Work release program inmates are picked up via bus in the morning and are transported around the area including the cities of Albany and Hudson, respectively, where they work all day and then return to the facility. Furlough program inmates are allowed to leave the facility for a few days, travel about the state, and return on designated days.

The public safety professionals of the New York State Correctional

Officers and Police Benevolent Association, Inc., (NYSCOPBA) shared with me their serious concerns – concerns that I share – about these particular inmates traveling to areas that the Governor has designated “micro-clusters” or “hot spots” for COVID. The inmates spend time out in Erie County, the City of Rochester, and New York City, and then return to the Hudson Correctional Facility. As you know, Erie County has some of our state’s highest rates of COVID spread.

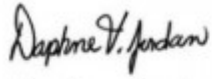
Furthermore, it was shared with me that should an inmate visit a micro-cluster area and contract COVID from family or friends, the virus can, and will, spread like a fire through dry grass at the Hudson Correctional Facility. This would most certainly lead to the inmates contracting the virus and spreading it inadvertently to the public. Additionally, should the infection rate climb high enough in the Hudson Correctional Facility, it could warrant the Governor designating the City of Hudson as a “micro-cluster,” placing significant restrictions on local businesses that are already struggling.

As New York State’s prison system continues seeing an alarming increase in positive COVID Cases, NYSCOPBA’s leadership has recommended that minimizing the movement of furloughed inmates in and out of facilities would help reduce the spread of COVID. I concur with their recommendation and ask that you work with NYSCOPBA to make the necessary temporary changes that would minimize the movement of these inmates and, in so doing, decrease the dangerous spread of COVID. Temporarily suspending inmate visits, as well as the furlough and work release programs, would be in the best interests of not only public safety professionals and inmates but the general public as well.

The men and women of NYSCOPBA have done, and continue doing, an incredible job protecting and serving in some of the most challenging conditions available. I ask that you share this recommendation with the Governor so we can continue minimizing the spread of COVID and help protect the health, safety, and well-being of all New Yorkers.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and my request.

Sincerely,



Daphne Jordan  
State Senator, 43<sup>rd</sup> District

As New York State's prison system continues seeing an alarming increase in positive COVID cases, the dedicated public safety professionals at the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) has recommended that minimizing the movement of furloughed inmates in and out of facilities would help reduce the spread of COVID. That's why I sent a letter (pictured above) to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) calling for a cessation of the movement of furloughed inmates to help protect the health, safety, and well-being of all New Yorkers. I'll be sure and update Weekly Wrap readers with the

response I receive from NYSDOCCS regarding my advocacy.

## Recognizing Casale Rent-All as a top workplace



Congratulations to Casale Rent-All, a family-owned and operated rental company in my 43rd District, for being recognized by the *Albany Business Review* as a Top Workplace! Pictured above is the New York State Senate Certificate of Recognition that I provided to Casale Rent-All to further recognize their achievement.

In addition to Casale Rent-All, five other wonderful local businesses in the district were recognized as Top Workplaces, and I celebrated their recognition. The businesses are DeCrescente Distributors; GTM Payroll Services; MJ Engineering and Landscaping; Adirondack Trust Co. and Airosmith Development. Congratulations to all of these outstanding local businesses!

Do you have, or know of, a local business, non-profit, or outstanding individual that should be recognized for their grand opening, great work, or dedicated service to the community? If so, please share the great news with my office so I can recognize their accomplishments and share it with my thousands of Weekly Wrap readers. Email the information to me at [jordan@nysenate.gov](mailto:jordan@nysenate.gov) and I'll be



sure and help celebrate them!

### Simply Food by Maura ribbon cutting



Congratulations to Simply Food by Maura on their ribbon cutting Tuesday! This is a hardworking woman, who has gone over and beyond to help people in the community, and I was honored to have been a part of this special celebration!

### Staying connected with constituents via Zoom meetings



This week was also busy with meetings! This one pictured above was via Zoom. I'm thankful for the nice view my team and I have from my Albany office!

### **Rensselaer County Medical Reserve Corps and COVID-19 vaccine efforts**



Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin has established the Rensselaer County Medical Reserve Corps to help coordinate COVID-19 vaccination efforts and needs help. For more information, visit the Rensselaer County website [here](#).

### **First Nor'easter of the season**



# WINTER STORMS



## PREPARE



Replenish your emergency kit with food, water and other items.



Fill your car with gas.



Bring pets inside and ensure horses and livestock have blankets.



Let it snow – and snow and snow and snow! That was what so many residents saw and experienced Thursday morning, as we measured 30” of snow in my hometown of Halfmoon! In fact, many areas across our Capital Region saw record snowfall as our winter wonderland arrived a little early this year, completely covering mailboxes and cars. I also spent some time Thursday checking on our elderly friends, which is always so important this time of year.

Also pictured above is Baby, our Yorkie, who braved the outdoor elements!

### **Re-opening ceremony at Bowtie Cinemas**



It was a pleasure standing alongside Joseph Masher, Chief Operating Officer of Bow Tie Cinemas and President of the National Association of Theatre Owners of New York (NATO), at the re-opening ceremony for the Bowtie Cinema in Saratoga Springs. The theater has been bombarded with requests to open, and so it is!

New York theaters may only be filled to 25% capacity. Seating at Bow Tie is reserved in family groups with three seats in between groups and every other row. All tickets and concessions may be purchased using the Bow Tie app. or they may be purchased in person. There have been no COVID cases tracked back to movie theaters not only in New York, but worldwide! New York is the 49th state to allow for their reopening.

I have learned from every business owner and manager that I have spoken to over the past nine months that no one cares more about the cleanliness and safety of their customers than those running the business itself!



I am pleased that Bow Tie Cinema in Saratoga Springs is now open; it will bring people to the City for lunch, dinner, and shopping along with enjoying the true movie experience you can only get in a theater.

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