



AMERICAN PAKISTANI
ADVOCACY GROUP

“Building Bridges to Empower Communities”
Engage.Empower.Elevate

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1

January 2020



American Pakistan Advocacy Group (APAG) is a not for profit social service and advocacy organization based in Queens, New York. APAG was formed to help the Pakistani American Community by assisting them adjust and thrive in the American system educationally, economically, helping to navigate all types of government or benefit groups, promote Pakistani American businesses and entrepreneurship. At the same time holding onto Pakistani identity, customs and sharing its culture with Americans.

American Pakistan Advocacy Group (APAG) have hosted community resources events, professionals seminars, political forums, interfaith vigils, rally's, round table discussion with elected officials and legislative work that effects Muslim / Pakistani Americans.

NYC Council Honors Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as One of the Greatest Statesmen Ever



On December 19, 2019 New York City Council issued a historical proclamation to the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) to commemorate the 143rd anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The Council honored him being one of the greatest statements ever.

New York City is home to over 200,000 Pakistani Americans who work hard, live peacefully and respect and cherish the beauty of America. Our goal as the American Pakistani Advocacy Group is to engage, empower, and elevate the Pakistani-American community so that we can deconstruct the malignant narratives that surround our people!

There is a famous quote by Mohammad Ali Jinnah "With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve. APAG wants to achieve a seat on the political table for Pakistani American community and have our voices heard into actions. APAG will keep playing its role by consistently engaging with top City and State institutions like City Council and the New York State Assembly.

Thanks to all Council Members who took part in the ceremony actively and affirmed their commitment to work with Pakistani American Community. Council Member Laurie Cumbo Council Member I. Daneek Miller Council Member Adrienne Adams Donovan Richards Carlos Menchaca Debi Rose Carlina Rivera Ydanis Rodriguez Council Member Paul A. Vallone Karen Kozlowitz, Margaret Chin, Bill Perkins, Peter Koo and Alicka Ampy-Samuel. Also, special thanks to Council Member Daneek Miller all members of NYC Council's Black, Latino & Asian Caucus (BLAC) who made this happen.

APAG organized community resource event with Queens District Attorney Office



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) along with the Queens Borough District Attorney's office organized an info session regarding resources available to community via Queens District Attorney's office. Many community related topics were discussed and all stakeholders made a commitment to work with Pakistani American community for any crime related matters especially hate crimes and immigrants outreach.

One of the reasons APAG was founded because we want Pakistani Americans to get involved in the civic engagement and it's very encouraging to see that APAG advocacy and outreach is working as Queens Borough District Attorney office just hired two Pakistani descent Assistant District Attorneys in Queens. APAG mission is to Engage, Empower and Elevate communities and we will keep working on having our youth learn & seek a career in public service. That's the best way to give back to the community while learning the ropes of the system.

APAG Stands with Kashmir!



Over 20,000 Americans gathered outside the United Nations on Friday September 27th, 2019 to show solidarity and highlighted the human rights violations being committed in Kashmir. This was a historic protest which included numerous religious, community and human rights organizations all united raised signs and slogans in support of Free Kashmir.

The Kashmiri people have been completely isolated from the world and living with no health care, education and food. A report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights raised serious concerns about abuses by security forces in Kashmir. Those included the use of excessive force to respond to protests and the detention of protesters, political dissidents, and other activists on vague grounds for long periods, ignoring regular criminal justice safeguards.

APAG hosted a round table discussion with NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) hosted a round table discussion with New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer with Pakistani American Community. The purpose of the meeting was to have the Comptroller interact with Pakistani American community and listen to their concerns and issues by having an open dialogue.

APAG co-organized South Asian American Convention 2019



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) co-organized South Asian American Convention 2019. Various South Asian Businesses, Political and Community Organization attended the event. Great Job by SAAVA for organizing.

According to United States (U.S.) Census South Asians are second largest Asian American group in the U.S. There are over 400,000 South Asians living in NYC with the largest concentration in the borough Queens. South Asians constitute almost 4% of New York City's and almost 10% of the Queens population.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) in collaboration with ICNA Relief offered meals to those in need.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) advocated to introduce legislation promoting Prayer Equity throughout NYC. This includes suspending parking meters around the mosques during Friday Jummah Prayers.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) members attended Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan's historic inaugural speech in USA to Pakistani American community. The event was held in Capital One Arena Washington DC.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) organized meet and greet with Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and NYS Assemblymember David Weprin who is running for NYC Comptroller office.



American Pakistani American Group (APAG) Co-Organized Professionals Seminar with CAG. Many Business Industry Leaders, Attorney's, CPAs, Educators, Elected Officials and Community Organizers attended the event.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) call to increase and expand Halal and Kosher lunches in NYC public schools. APAG members attended a rally to expand the Halal & Kosher food pilot program. Thanks to CouncilMember Chaim Deutsch and Rafael Espinal on leading this effort in New York City Council and calling on elected officials to increase the budget on Halal and Kosher food program in NYC public school.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) Co-Organized President, Registration Drive and Census 2020 Info session. The event was organized by SAAVA and co-organized by APAG.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) co-organized the Queens District Attorney Candidate Forum with other local community organizations. There was a great turnout and everyone in attendance had an opportunity to hear directly from the candidates on both their vision and platform in which they expressed how they will proactively serve the community that they represent in terms of inclusivity.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) President, Ali Rashid, speaking at Interfaith vigil held to remember the victims of Easter's horrific attacks in Sri Lanka at Queens Borough Hall. Faith leaders including Muslim, Jewish, Christian and many more attended the event.



QUEENS STANDS UNITED AGAINST HATE

Borough President Katz, U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks, Assemblymember David Weprin, Councilmember Donovan Richards (second from l), former Councilmember Elizabeth Crowle (second from r), and residents from across Queens held an interfaith rally on the steps of Queens Borough Hall.

American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) members participated in interfaith vigil at Queens Borough Hall as faith, community leaders & elected officials got together in response to the terror attack in New Zealand's Al Noor and Linwood Mosque that claimed many lives.



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) New York State 2019 Legislative Update

2019 has been the most productive and transformative legislative session in the history of the State of New York. Numerous meaningful and progressive bills have been passed over the last 6 months of the legislative session:

- > Progressive Tax System
- > Cut Middle Class Taxes and Fight SALT
- > Common-sense gun legislation to keep New Yorkers' safe
- > Voting reforms
- > The Child Victims Act
- > Religious garb bill prohibiting discrimination against religious attire
- > The DREAM Act
- > Fund and restructure MTA and other transportation systems
- > Ethics reforms, including finally closing the LLC Loophole
- > Record investment in school funding
- > Finally making the state's property tax cap permanent
- > Protected New Yorker's access to affordable and quality healthcare
- > Launch a \$150 Billion Infrastructure Plan
- > Overdue changes to our broken justice system
- > Traffic safety
- > Banned plastic bags
- > Passed strong bills to combat the opioid crisis
- > Raised smoking age to 21 statewide
- > Passed congestion pricing
- > Legislation to combat sexual harassment
- > The strongest affordable housing legislation and tenant protections in history
- > The nations most aggressive and comprehensive climate change legislation
- > Banned offshore drilling
- > Banned toxic toys
- > The Green Light bill to boost our economy and make our roads safe
- > Automatic Voter Registration
- > Expanded statutes of limitations on rape in the 2nd and 3rd degrees
- > Green light bill allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses
- > Addressed wage discrimination and equal pay for equal work
- > Supported MWBEs with groundbreaking legislation
- > The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act
- > Increase Trust in the Democratic System



American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) New York State 2019 Legislative Update.

2019 has been the most productive and transformative legislative session in the history of the State of New York. Numerous meaningful and progressive bills that affects Muslim/Pakistani Americans have been passed in the legislative session.

NYS Assembly approves a resolution making March 23 as “Pakistan Day” in the State of New York.



On March 20, 2019 American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) made history by submitting a first Pakistani Community resolution in New York State Assembly in Albany to Proclaim March 23, 2019 as “Pakistan Day” in the State of New York. The Resolution was submitted by Assemblyman David Weprin, which was passed unanimously. We had full support of the whole assembly.

Upcoming Events:

Queens President Borough Forum

It is another special election right around the corner. Queens is dynamic, diverse, growing and aching for leadership that counts everyone, calls everyone at the table, sensible, for the people and by the people. Melinda Katz, being elected as the first female DA of Queens, Queens Borough President (BP) special elections is slated for March/April 2020, date yet to be fixed.

Community Alliance Group (CAG) and American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) are privileged and honored to organize and host the next BP Forum right in the heart of Queens. APAG is devoted to cultivating and building bridges with local communities through the development, creation, and sponsorship of various initiatives and programs.

APAG focuses on issues that affects the Pakistani American community and is led by Ali Rashid and a great group of community activists and leaders.

The BP Forum is supported by Community1st, BAAG, Progressive Voices United, One Queens Indivisible, Muslims for Progress, Indivisible North East Queens, SAFEST, SAAVA, NAVA and MDCNY.



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE GROUP & AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT FORUM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2020. FROM 12:00PM TO 3:00PM

LOCATION: THE HARVEST ROOM
ADDRESS: 90-40 160 STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11432

MODERATED BY: NYS SENATOR JOHN LIU & ATTORNEY SOMA SYED
HOSTED BY: ALI RASHID & MIZAN CHOUDHURY

Supporting Organizations:

- BAAG
- SAAVA
- Community1st
- NAVA
- MDCNY
- Progressive Voices United
- Muslims For Progress
- One Queens Indivisible
- Indivisible North East Queens

JOIN US
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

For More Information Contact Us:

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Please join us and learn more about the BP candidates. Who you put in office matters. Take charge of your destiny, instead of waiting for someone to chart it for you.

American Pakistan Advocacy Group is proud to rally along with Our City Our Vote bill coalition to support the right to vote for immigrants in NYC.

This legislation would amend the City Charter to permit lawfully present residents and those with work authorizations to vote in municipal elections, such as races for mayor, comptroller, public advocate, borough president, and city council, as well as referenda and other local contests. The legislation would also allow residents to join political parties, and vote in primary elections for municipal offices. Under its terms, a noncitizen would be qualified to vote in municipal elections if she or he is (1) a lawfully permanent resident or authorized to work in the United States; (2) a resident of New York City for at least 30 days; and (3) otherwise qualified to register to vote under New York State election law once exempted from the requirement that she or he possess United States citizenship.



OUR CITY, OUR VOTE

PRESS CONFERENCE
JANUARY 23 @ 12PM
LOCATION: CITY HALL STEPS

RALLY TO EXPAND AND PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

RSVP HERE: [HTTP://BIT.LY/OURCITYYOURVOTELAUNCH](http://bit.ly/ourcityyourvotelaunch)
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: TEARITA@COUNCIL.NYC.GOV



AMERICAN PAKISTANI ADVOCACY GROUP

We will love to hear your feedback.
Contact Us Today

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Join Us, Work with Us, Collaborate with Us.

