



Dear Neighbor,

This newsletter is packed full of information from the 2022 legislative session.

I'm proud to report that we approved a state budget adjustment that ensures we live within our means and cuts taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars.

I know that there is lots of information to digest in these few pages, so please reach out with any questions.

It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children’s Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT’s Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANDRE BAKER JR.

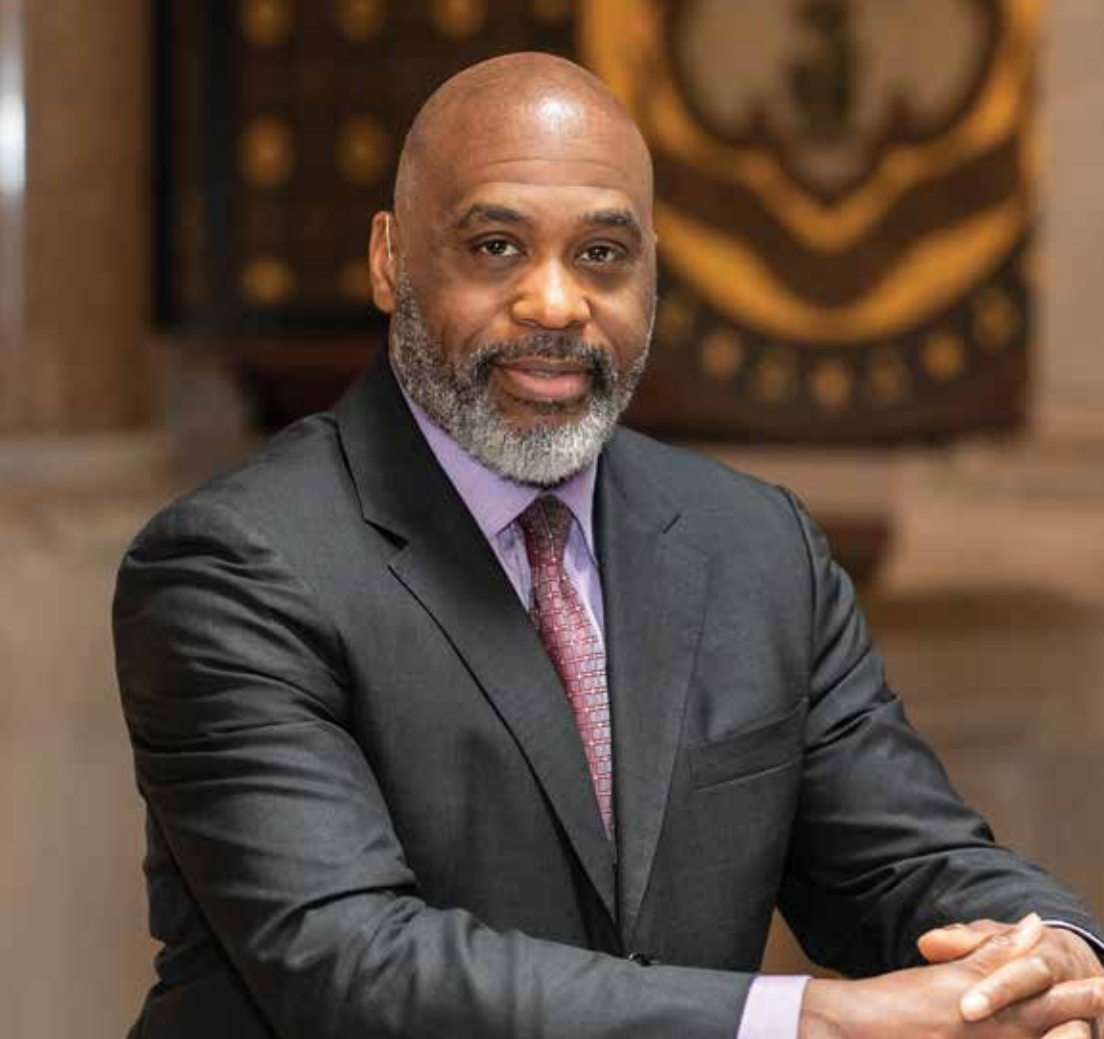
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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**



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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✓ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✓ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✓ Cuts the car tax
- ✓ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✓ Extends free bus service
- ✓ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✓ Invests in healthcare workers

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for Unemployment Insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses
- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets
- Supported CT residents with CDL training
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Helped community providers keep up with inflation
- Provided support to museums, theaters and other CT attractions
- Created additional student loan assistance programs
- Approved economic incentives for Sikorsky tied to new federal contracts and expansion

MODERNIZING STATE GOVERNMENT

- Funded a robust contracting standards board for more oversight and accountability
- Centralized and consolidated Information Technology departments across state government
- Leveraged new federal funding for community-based programming and substance abuse treatment
- Positioned the state with new planners and coordinators for an influx of new federal infrastructure money
- Streamlined regulatory review of healthcare applications
- Cybersecurity upgrades to protect our elections

PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

- Made it harder to resell catalytic converters
- Targeted gun stores who don't have a functional alarm system
- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration
- Expanded hands-on training for police
- Addressed laboratory and case backlogs
- Expanded use of GPS monitoring
- Toughened penalties for vehicle thefts
- Created more crisis training for our police
- Funded state and local task forces to address gun violence and auto thefts

MAKING CT MORE EQUITABLE

- Required the teaching of Asian American and Pacific Islander studies in public schools
- Limited the circumstances in which a felony disqualifies you from holding an occupational license and created a pre-approval process to check if a prior conviction disqualifies you before going through testing or training requirements
- Required most publicly owned facilities to provide free menstrual products
- Increased health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, up to age 12
- Required police departments to allow for the wearing of religious head coverings while on duty
- Created a Hate Crimes Investigation Unit within the State Police, while also improving data collection, reporting, and information sharing between departments
- Limited the use of solitary confinement and expanded the office of Corrections Ombudsman
- Required towns with over 25,000 residents to establish a local fair rent commission. These commissions will respond to tenant complaints about excessively harsh rent increases and lack of code enforcement by a landlord or property manager
- Established June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day. This new state holiday will forever celebrate the independence of African Americans freed from slavery



RESPONDING TO THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Initiated new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs
- Expanded mentorship opportunities
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Assisted local schools in expanding mental health staff and access to care
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians

\$2 MILLION HEADED TO MOUNT GROWMORE HYDROPONIC FARMING GREEN HOUSE AND WELLNESS CENTER

"I'd like to thank my fellow Bridgeport colleagues for working with me to help secure the funding for this project, and I would also like to thank Governor Lamont for approving the funding. Unfortunately, the East End has been called a food desert because of the lack of fresh food available but that label will be gone now. The benefits to having such a facility of this nature in the East End of Bridgeport is something I believe will be warmly welcomed by our residents and a model for other communities to follow." -Rep. Baker

