

Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCILMEMBER



Dear neighbors,

The close of 2024 marked the end of my second year on the Council. It is an immense privilege to serve Ward 3 and the District. DC faces many challenges, but as I reflect on the past year, I am proud of the work my team and I accomplished. Through legislation and oversight, constituent services, and communications, my office worked hard to address pressing issues, both immediate and longer-term, and engaged with constituents in our community. This report is a compilation of some of the highlights and key accomplishments of the past year. In some cases, we played leading roles in getting across the line, in others we were part of a broader team. In all, we were proud to be a part of getting there.

As we transition into the new year, the District is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of **DC Home Rule**. After years of advocacy and organizing by the community, the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, which gave residents more control over their own affairs and established the Council and the Office of the Mayor, was passed by Congress on Christmas Eve, 1973. The first 13 councilmembers took office in January 1975. Under Home Rule, DC has become one of the top places to live and visit in the country and in the world. We are financially strong and growing, we are a transit leader, we are an education hub, we are a global leader on the environment, and we are a diverse city with a vibrant culture. These are just some of the many reasons I agree with Mayor Muriel Bower that this is truly “the greatest city in the world.” While there are many challenges and lots of uncertainty in the coming years, there are also many reasons to be proud of what we have accomplished as a community and to be hopeful about our future.

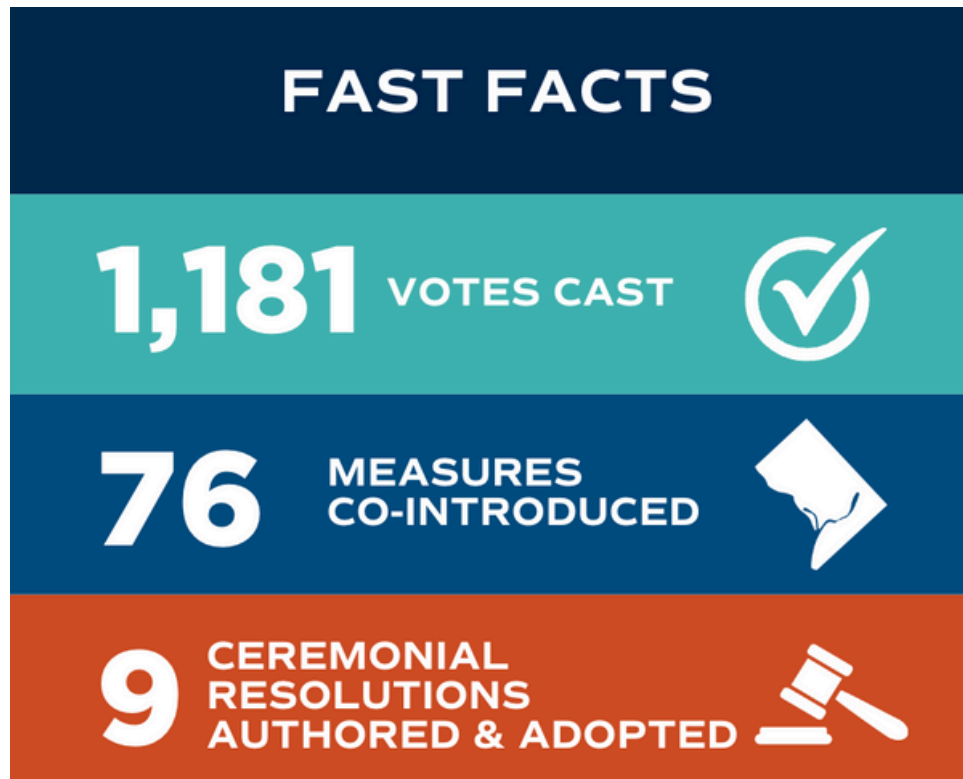
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Frumin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Matt Frumin
Ward 3 Councilmember



POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT



SCHOOLS

Secured Funding for Education

Last spring, I asked our Ward 3 schools to identify critical resource gaps. Through an amendment I introduced to the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, I was able to meet all their identified needs, while also adding funding to the MacArthur High School modernization project. In partnership with Chairman Phil Mendelson, I also reversed proposed cuts to early childhood education, including a potentially devastating reduction in the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP), which supports CommuniKids, St. Alban's Early Childhood Center, and Two Birds in Ward 3 and other essential pre-K programs across the city. I also advocated to restore funding for the Pay Equity Fund that supports early childhood educators, and ultimately that funding was restored.

POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT

Successful Back-to-School

I conducted school readiness tours in August at Ward 3 public school campuses to talk with administrators about their respective challenges and needs. I have been engaged with our schools for more than 20 years, and 2024's return to school was one of the smoothest I have seen. By and large, Ward 3 schools are meeting enrollment goals, are appropriately staffed, and facilities were prepared to welcome students back to school. I do not want to sugarcoat it, there are some issues, but overall, we have done well this year and my office is engaged with the administration where there are lingering issues.



Touring the library at Key Elementary

Council Hearing on Out-of-School Time Bill

On November 21, Chairman Mendelson and the Council Committee of the Whole held a hearing on a bill I introduced, the [**Universal Out-of-School Time Amendment Act**](#), during which more than 70 witnesses testified to the importance of out-of-school time (OST) in improving academic achievement and economic opportunity and reducing youth involvement in the justice system. The District is a national leader in OST programming, but DC does not currently have enough OST seats for every student. There is broad support, including in the administration, to meet these needs. I look forward to working with the mayor and my Council colleagues to secure growing funding for OST programs in the next budget. You can watch a recording of the hearing [**on my YouTube page, @CMFrumin**](#).

WTU and DCPS Reach Contract Agreement

The Washington Teachers Union and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) reached a contract agreement, later approved by the Council. This is exciting news for the thousands of dedicated educators who work hard

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each day to help our kids learn and grow. During more than a year of negotiations, I encouraged DCPS to come to the table and support teachers with healthy working conditions and fair compensation to recruit and retain the educators who are so critical to our public schools. I am encouraged it is a five year agreement, which means teachers and DCPS can focus on educating our students and not on another looming contract negotiation process.



With members of the Washington Teachers Union

PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime Numbers are Down

Like major cities across the country, the District experienced an increase in crime following the COVID-19 pandemic. As I have said in various settings, including [my August 8 newsletter focusing on public safety](#), and my [November Public Safety Forum](#), statistics show that crime is down in nearly every measurable category in every police district in the city compared to both 2023 and pre-pandemic levels. Violent crime is down 35% over last year, the lowest violent crime year we have had in the last 20 years of data collection. Although I am encouraged crime is on a downward trajectory overall in Ward 3 and in DC, many residents are not feeling safe in their neighborhoods, and there is more work to be done.

POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT

I am committed to continued engagement with stakeholders and finding more data-backed solutions that address the root causes of crime to ensure public safety in our communities.

Ward 3	2024	2023	2019	2014
Total Crime	1824	2067	1945	1827
All Violent Crime	65	101	88	95
Homicide	2	2	3	0
Sex Abuse	9	7	10	10
Assault w/Dangerous Weapon	16	29	24	27
Robbery	38	63	51	58
All Property Crime	1759	1966	1857	1732
Burglary	42	63	84	212
Theft f/Auto	478	668	622	576
Theft/Other	1118	1068	1056	856
Motor Vehicle Theft	121	166	95	87
Arson	0	1	0	1

Data from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 each year. Source: DC Crime Cards

Public Safety Legislation

Much of my term has been spent talking with residents about safety concerns in their neighborhoods, and I have worked closely with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and my Council colleagues to identify resources and pass legislation to address crime in our city. I voted for the [Secure DC Omnibus](#), which the Council passed in March 2024, and to fully fund MPD's hiring and retention requests in the FY25 budget we passed in June. The Council also passed emergency legislation to make it easier for the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) to hire retired police officers and firefighters as 911 call-takers. District residents rely on 911 as a lifeline, but an ongoing series of unacceptable outages and other issues have plagued OUC. This legislation will help OUC achieve a well-staffed, effective emergency response system.

POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT

Increased Collaboration and Community Engagment

In addition to legislative responses, another major focus of mine has been increasing collaboration with District agencies and residents to connect stakeholders with what I am hearing on the ground. I held two Public Safety Forums, one in **January** and one in **November**, to give constituents a platform to voice their experiences and District agencies to take feedback and answer questions. Attendees included MPD, OUC, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the Department of Human Services (DHS). I participated regularly in neighborhood crime walks, met with constituents to discuss their concerns, and engaged directly with MPD officers and leadership, and my staff toured the OUC headquarters.



On a MPD Community Walk

HOUSING

FY25 Housing Budget Wins

It is abundantly clear that we face real challenges in the housing sector, and I am committed to being a clear-eyed part of solving those challenges. The FY25 budget included several key wins to help address these issues, including \$26.9 million for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP) and \$11.5 million for Homeless Prevention Services to help prevent those who are housing insecure from losing their homes, \$80 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund to support the creation of new, affordable housing in Ward 3 and across the District, \$9 million for the Green Bank, which delivers sustainable, affordable housing development and green job creation, and funding for 619 Local Rent Supplement and Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers, providing critical assistance to families and individuals facing homelessness.



Touring new housing projects in Ward 3

Prioritizing Tenant Safety

I hear almost daily about the different dimensions and challenges of tenant safety at apartment buildings. I met frequently in 2024 with tenant associations, property managers, and advocates. I have heard residents' concerns and pushed for greater accountability for landlords for failures that compromise safety, increased financial transparency, and more accountability for tenants who violate their lease or break the law. The District also must provide adequate services to support high-needs tenants. As part of that advocacy, I engaged with the Office of the Attorney General, which introduced the [**Secure Apartments for Everyone \(SAFE\) Act**](#). During the December 10 Council [**hearing**](#) on the bill, we heard testimony that echoes what I hear from Ward 3 residents. As written, the SAFE Act can help address some of these issues, but there is significantly more work to be done in the year ahead to support the entire housing ecosystem.

Assisting Housing Providers Facing Unpaid Rent

Affordable housing providers in the District face unsustainable rent delinquencies, with more than \$100 million in unpaid rent owed to them. The arrears impact their ability to meet essential costs of maintenance, security, and debt financing, and jeopardize access to quality, affordable housing for District residents. If their properties go into foreclosure, they lose affordability covenants and deter new housing investment.

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In October, I voted with my Council colleagues to unanimously pass the [Emergency Rental Assistance Reform Emergency Amendment Act](#) to address one facet of rent delinquencies. During the COVID pandemic, the District critically and necessarily instituted measures to help stay evictions during the unprecedented health emergency. With passage of the emergency bill, the judicial process reverts to the status quo before the pandemic and gives judges discretion in determining whether to stay eviction proceedings for ERAP applicants. It also removes self-certification of tenant income from the ERAP process, which was allowed during the pandemic. No one wants evictions and we must support our most vulnerable residents who are struggling to get by, but a market without accountability cannot work.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ensuring Recreation Programs Are Available

Recreational activities create more connected communities. Our youth and young adults especially need recreational outlets that offer enrichment, provide them safe places to be, and foster intergenerational ties. I worked to ensure the FY25 budget maintains recreation facilities and supports healthy activities for all ages, including allocating capital funding to refurbish the playground and turf at Guy Mason and resurface tennis courts at Fort Reno and providing \$610,000 to sustain programming at Jelleff Recreation Center in advance of and during the facilities renovation. I also pushed to restore an annual grant for the DC History Center to support teaching DC history under new social studies curriculum and continued historical research.



Touring the pool at Turkey Thicket

POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT

Chair of Subcommittee on Recreation and Community Affairs

I was privileged to serve as chair of the Subcommittee on Recreation and Community Affairs from September 2024 to the end of the year, and I am proud that it was able to make a positive impact even in three short months. Shortly after being named chair of the subcommittee, I met with Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Thennie Freeman to discuss continuing to expand equitable access to facilities and coordination between DPR and other entities, such as the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of General Services (DGS). During my chairmanship, I visited many DPR sites across the city to see and hear firsthand the needs of facilities and staff members.

Hearings on Athletic Field Access and Collaboration with NPS

I held a roundtable on November 13 to discuss permitting, access, use, and capacity of athletic fields. Major themes from public testimony included areas in need of maintenance and upkeep, underused spaces across the city including the fields at RFK, the need for security but the extremely high cost to cover it, and a lack of clarity on DPR's application preference system.



Speaking about NPS collaboration at Fletcher's Cove

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With so much of the District's land managed by NPS, there is a significant opportunity to collaborate on how public spaces in DC are utilized and maintained. On December 10, I held a roundtable to hear directly from stakeholders and community members as we explore future possibilities for coordination with NPS. Over 90 witnesses submitted testimony for the record, underscoring what an important issue this is for residents. The roundtable coincided with the ongoing work of the [Federal City Council's DC Neighborhood Parks Project Task Force](#), of which I am a co-chair, along with former Mayor Anthony Williams and Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Nina Albert. The task force will provide recommendations to the District government for a more effective system to reach cooperative agreements or transfers of jurisdiction with NPS.

Recordings of both of these roundtables are available on my YouTube channel at youtube.com/@cmfrumin.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Businesses

The FY25 budget the Council passed balanced an emphasis on Downtown revitalization with investments in the city's broader small business ecosystem. I supported the inclusion of \$6.5 million for DC Main Streets and I fought to make sure the budget included renewed funding for each of Ward 3's seven Main Streets. I also believed we needed to lower the tax burden on small businesses and worked to double the Small Retailer Property Tax Credit to support small, local businesses faced with rapidly increasing rent and real estate costs.

Revitalization of Our Downtown Arena

A year ago, Downtown DC faced the threat of losing both the Wizards and the Capitals, which I felt would be detrimental to Chinatown, surrounding neighborhoods, and the many small businesses that serve them. A premier

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arena is an economic engine that can anchor a thriving commercial district in the heart of the city, creating revenue for the District and for nearby restaurants, retailers, and other businesses and improving public safety. In December of 2024, I voted in favor of legislation, which the Council passed, to support the transformation of Capital One Arena. As NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said, these venues are the “modern town halls.” Sports, music, and other live events unite communities in positive ways. With the Council’s approval, DC can have a world-class downtown venue that is not only an economic anchor but also a unifying cultural forum.



At the unveiling of new designs for Capital One Arena

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Safety in the Budget

In 2024, I worked to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. In the FY25 budget process, I advocated for safe routes to school for students, expanding multimodal transit options, and promoting sustainable alternatives to driving. In addition to making investments in street safety and roadway improvements, I also pushed for the FY25 budget to increase funding for WMATA by \$200 million to prevent our regional transit system from falling off a fiscal cliff.



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MATTHEW FRUMIN
Councilmember, Ward 3

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Executive Administration and Labor
Facilities and Facility Services
Hospital and Health Equity
Housing
Transportation and the Environment

July 15, 2024

Randy Clarke
General Manager and CEO
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Via e-mail

Dear Mr. Clarke,

Thank you for your continued work on the Better Bus initiative. As the first major redesign of our bus network in decades, this redesign is an opportunity to meet the transit needs of our region in a way that is reliable, equitable, and sustainable. My goal through this process is to allow community members to hear directly from WMATA about potential changes and to give WMATA a chance to hear feedback from across Ward 3. My team and I have made efforts to meet with WMATA and community members to discuss alternatives, trade-offs, and options to find resolutions to the concerns that have been raised. We received a very significant amount of helpful feedback, which speaks to how critical these proposed changes are to the lives of residents. I want to thank WMATA for the coordination with my office to hold a Better Bus Forum for Ward 3 residents. Those who attended the forum were encouraged by WMATA's willingness to listen, acknowledgement that the proposed network can be improved, and offer to work collaboratively with our office going forward.

In that spirit of collaboration, this letter provides my comments on and recommendations for the Better Bus plan for your reference as you craft the next iteration of the plan. These comments do not replace feedback provided by Ward 3 residents, tenant and building associations, community associations and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC), but amplify and summarize concerns heard directly by my office. I urge WMATA to look closely at comments and resolutions provided by the Ward 3 ANCs which go into further detail regarding residents' concerns. The ANCs can and should be valued thought partners as you consider possible revisions to the Better Bus plan in the coming months.

Before I address the main issues and concerns of Ward 3 residents, I want to acknowledge the many positive developments in the current plan that respond to feedback provided previously by residents and my office, including:

Letter to WMATA on Ward 3 feedback to Better Bus Proposals

Better Bus Network Engagement

In November, the full [Metro Executive Board](#) passed the final 2025 Better Bus Network plan, which is the first comprehensive redesign of the Metrobus network since its creation. My office was highly engaged in the process, as residents expressed concerns about potentially losing stops near their homes, changes to their work commutes, shortening of routes, and other serious issues that needed to be addressed. WMATA solicited community feedback throughout the process, and I worked with residents, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and community groups to collect, review, and share feedback on proposed network revisions. As part of that effort, I hosted a [community forum](#) in July with over 130 attendees to give residents an opportunity to hear directly from WMATA officials and express their feedback. I also submitted [a letter](#) reflecting the priorities and concerns of Ward 3. More than 350 individuals and groups submitted their input directly to my office. WMATA addressed many of the issues raised by Ward 3 residents, including changes to some of the previously proposed routes, stops, and service frequency. The [plan and resources are posted on WMATA.com](#).

POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND OVERSIGHT

Vice Chair of TPB

In 2024, Chairman Mendelson appointed me to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The TPB is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for metropolitan Washington and is housed at and staffed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. In December, I was elected as a Vice Chair of the TPB for 2025. I look forward to serving with Fairfax County Supervisor James Walkinshaw, who will Chair the TPB, and City of Gaithersburg Councilmember Neil Harris, who joins me as a Vice Chair.

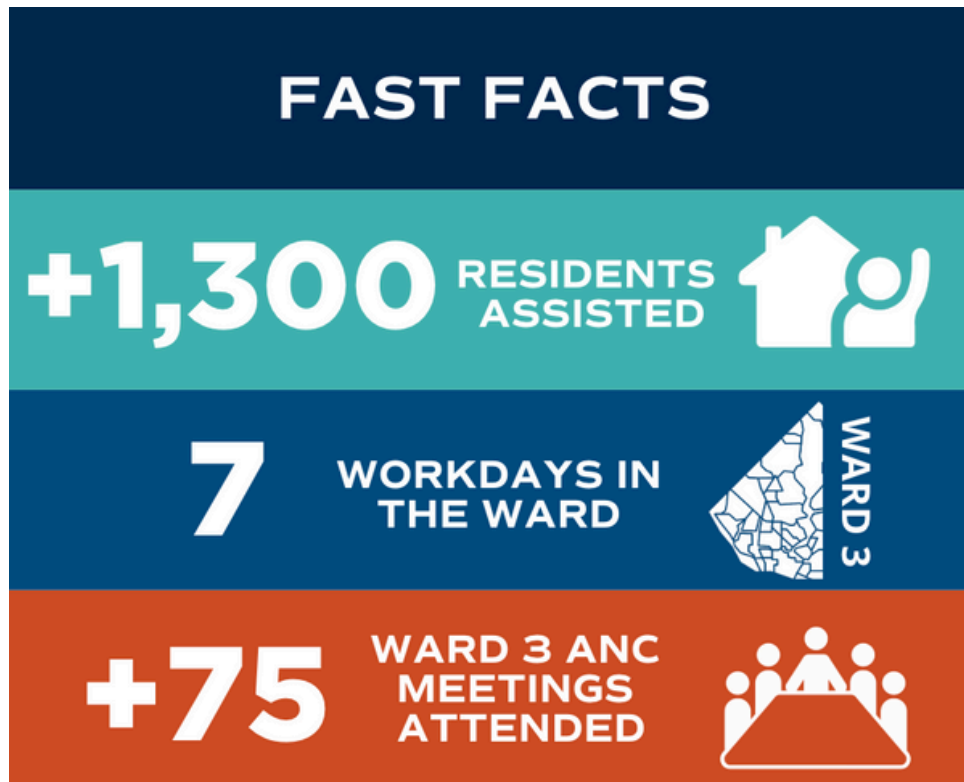
Mitigating Noise from Air Traffic

In 2024, I continued to assist residents in efforts to decrease the disruption of air traffic noise, including supporting and engaging with the Community Noise Working Group associated with the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority. On August 12, the Federal Aviation Administration announced a new flight path so incoming planes to National Airport (DCA) track closer to the Potomac River and expose DC residents to less airplane noise. This improvement is a direct result of the efforts of the working group. I extend my gratitude to Ken Buckley, Ward 3 representative to the working group, whose efforts contributed to this flight path change. The shift does not apply to airplanes departing DCA, so there is still more work to be done to further reduce airplane noise, but the change is great progress.



Councilmembers on the dais in the Wilson Building

CONSTITUENT SERVICES



Assisting Residents in Ward 3

In 2024, my constituent services team managed more than 1,300 cases. Our dedicated team assisted residents with a range of issues, from seemingly “smaller” problems to serious concerns, including trash collection and tree removal to housing assistance and public safety concerns. My staff and I hosted seven Workdays in the Ward in 2024. During these events, my office works remotely from a local business in Ward 3 to give residents a chance to engage directly with me and my staff in their home community. The events also include District agencies, such as MPD, District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Department of Public Works, and more, allowing residents to ask questions and follow up on concerns directly with agency representatives.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

To ensure we are in tune with constituents on the ground, my staff also attended more than 75 Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) meetings in 2024. Representatives from my office provided updates and the latest important information to ANCs and attendees, as well as listened to the discussion to make sure I stay informed on the important work of ANCs.



With constituents at Workday in the Ward

Improving Agency Communication to Residents

In the fall, I heard from residents about disruptive permitted **overnight work** on Connecticut Avenue NW and the limited communication they received from DC Water about the work. After my office engaged with DC Water and DDOT, both reviewed their plans for the ongoing work, addressed neighbors' questions, explained the rationale for the approaches taken, and received community feedback. The agencies also committed to improving future communication regarding such projects.

I hosted a virtual community meeting with DC Water and DDOT on November 6 to give residents a chance to provide feedback to the agencies and for the agencies to share more information with residents. Because the Connecticut Avenue project is part of a larger citywide infrastructure improvement project, it was important for residents to be heard so DC Water and DDOT improve future communication.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Advocating for Traffic Safety in Ward 3 Neighborhoods

In 2024, I repeatedly heard from residents about their concerns with traffic safety near the intersection of Fessenden Street NW and 34th Street NW. It is critical that pedestrians, including families with small children, can safely navigate the intersection. Too often, cars do not fully stop and jeopardize the safety of residents using the crosswalks, particularly students walking to and from Murch Elementary School. My office relayed these concerns to DDOT, and I am pleased that this intersection has been prioritized on the list of [Traffic Safety Input \(TSI\)](#) investigations for the coming year.



Speaking with a constituent at Workday in the Ward

COMMUNICATING WITH CONSTITUENTS



My office’s communications channels, including the newsletter and social media, grew to more than 9,000 total subscribers and followers. In addition to [Instagram](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), constituents can now follow @CMFrumin on [YouTube](#) for video content including committee hearings and public forums, as well as [Bluesky](#) for the latest updates and information. We published 24 newsletters, in addition to even more timely email updates and event invitations, and I appreciate the many residents who have reached out to my office to express positive feedback on the newsletter. If you are not already receiving my biweekly newsletter in your inbox, you can sign up on my website at MattFruminWard3.com. One of the best parts of my job is the opportunity to engage directly with constituents. As the “Matt on the Move” section of my newsletter shows, I spoke or participated at more than 130 community events.

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