

## NYCOM (New York State Conference of Mayors) 2020 Report

The dead of winter in Albany means it is state budget season, and 2020 was no different as the Governor proposed a \$178 billion spending plan. NYCOM, under the leadership of our then-President Robert Kennedy, Mayor of the Village of Freeport, fought day and night for amendments to the expensive discovery reform mandates adopted in 2019. With Mayor Kennedy we travelled the state, hosted news conferences and met with state legislators to make our point that reforms were necessary and could be done without harming the rights of the accused. These efforts culminated with our Winter Legislative Meeting in mid-February, which turned out to be NYCOM's last in-person gathering of our membership for 2020. We successfully conveyed our views to the chairs of the Senate and Assembly committees on local government, and also debuted our "My Community, My Future" public advocacy campaign. When the state budget was ultimately adopted in early April, we were able to claim victory on a number of fronts, including fixing the discovery reforms, securing additional water infrastructure funding, and protecting AIM / CHIPS aid from cuts.

Robert T. Kennedy

Mayor

Incorporated Village of Freeport