



Assemblywoman

**Catherine
NOLAN**

Reports to the
Community

Winter 2012

Dear Neighbor,

This year was a successful legislative session with the passage of an on-time state budget. We preserved existing services for seniors and increased education funding for students. We also passed several bills, including universal kindergarten for New York City.

As many of you know, every 10 years the state goes through a redistricting process to adjust Assembly Districts for changes in population. With the growth in population in Western Queens, the 37th Assembly District did see some changes. Several sections of our neighborhoods will now have different representation in the New York State Assembly. It was a pleasure to serve you and please know, if any issues or concerns may arise I am still here working for you.

Thankfully, despite some flooding, power outages and downed trees, our district was generally spared the type of devastation that others in New York City experienced during Hurricane Sandy. If you were badly affected by the storm and require assistance, please contact my office. We are here to help and serve.

I would also like to wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year. Please feel free to reach out to any of our offices. I look forward to working for you in Albany by fighting for necessary services and improving the quality of life for all residents of the district.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly

Updates from Albany

I am pleased to announce that I was the lead sponsor on nine pieces of education-related legislation that were signed into law by Governor Cuomo during the 2012 legislative session. These bills will help communities throughout Queens and all of New York State. All of these laws advance good public policies for our children and communities and, at the same time, generate cost savings for both schools and taxpayers. In addition, I sponsored legislation that was signed into law to advance the development of Hallet's Point in Astoria which will include new affordable housing and public access to the waterfront.

Several bills I sponsored also passed the Assembly. I plan to re-introduce these bills next year and work to get these important pieces of legislation passed.

A.8928 – This bill would require banking institutions to properly warn consumers about fraud before a money transfer is conducted. At the request of a constituent whose elderly mother had her life-savings drained by a scam, I introduced this legislation to help warn people. Senator Michael Gianaris introduced this bill in the New York State Senate.

A.6354 – This bill would increase the penalties relating to underground facilities and ensure that both excavators and operators follow the appropriate rules when they excavate a site involving underground pipelines.

New NY Education Reform Commission

In the last newsletter, I informed you that I was appointed as the Assembly Representative for the New NY Education Reform Commission put together by Governor Andrew Cuomo. It is a privilege to serve on the Commission and I have enjoyed working with leaders of both the public and private sector to address the many issues facing Education today. Throughout the summer and fall, I traveled around the state to attend regional public hearings to hear from the many stakeholders including superintendents, principals, policymakers, teachers, parents, and students about their experiences and concerns. I look forward to reviewing this testimony and reporting back to you about the Commission's findings.

Around Our District

School Visits

On October 3, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and I visited classrooms at P.S. 111 in Long Island City to highlight legislation recently signed into law which would require all five year olds in the city of New York to attend Kindergarten. As Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, I was the lead sponsor and pushed for this change along with Speaker Christine Quinn as it moved through the legislative process and was signed into law by the Governor.



I recently toured some schools with New York State Education Commissioner John King. The Commissioner highlighted the need for universal pre-kindergarten. It is essential for the state and city to invest in early childhood education and I look forward to following up on the progress of this program.



Chapter 157 of the Laws of 2012 (A.9861-Nolan) amends the state Education Law and authorizes the school district of the city of New York to require minors who are five years old by December 1 to attend kindergarten. There are two exceptions: parents may decide not to enroll their five-year old children in school until the following September or parents may enroll their children in non-public schools or instruct them at home.

The law strikes the right balance between compulsory education and parental choice. Early childhood education is important to the development and academic success of students. This new law will allow New York City to target resources in early childhood education.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Michael Gianaris, New York City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer and Co-President of Community Education Council 30 Jeff Guyton also attended.

All Queens Graduation



I was happy to give the keynote address at the 2012 Queens Borough Summer High School Graduation at Long Island City High School this summer.

New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) Chancellor Dennis Walcott, Queens High School Superintendent Juan Mendez, DOE Cluster 2 Leader Despina Zaharakis, Long Island City High School Principal Vivian Selenikas and Grover Cleveland High School Principal Denise Vittor were all present to congratulate the new graduates.

Hunters Point Library Dedication Ceremony



I was excited to join the dedication ceremony for the new Hunters Point Library Building. The building will be located between 47th Road and 48th Avenue, next door to Gantry State Park. The building will be environmentally friendly and will include a media center with computers, a garden and roof terrace, and a community room that can seat up to 150 people.

Queensbridge, Ravenswood & Astoria Houses



I was delighted to join Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney at a press conference to announce that the Floating Hospital will receive a federal appropriation of \$920,833 to improve the health care services of QueensBridge, Ravenswood, and Astoria Houses. This appropriation was made possible by the Affordable Care Act and will be renewed for the next three years.

The Floating Hospital must be congratulated for its dedication to the health and well-being of the residents of western Queens. I commend Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for securing much needed federal funds to improve the clinic. These federal funds, together with a \$200,000 capital grant which I secured for the clinic through the Assembly's Community Capital Assistance Program, will support very necessary renovations. These capital improvements will go a long way to improving the quality of life for all residents in Queensbridge, Ravenswood and Astoria Houses. We were also joined by Ms. Claudia Coger, Ms. Carol Wilkens, Ms. Marion Jeffries, and many other community leaders.

Memorial Day Parade



Assemblyman Mike Miller and I marched in the Vietnam Parade to honor veterans. As a member of the Assembly Veterans Committee, I understand many of the issues facing veterans today. I will continue to work to give veterans an easier way to access the benefits the state already provides. It is always important to remember the sacrifices that our veterans gave to this country.

Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with several board members from the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce. The Assemblywoman was the Key-note Speaker at the Chamber's annual event and spoke about the important contributions small businesses make to the Sunnyside community.

Assemblywoman Nolan meets with Deputy Inspector Michael Cody, Commanding Officer of the 104 Precinct & Officer Tony Jimenez



I recently met with Officer Jimenez and Deputy Inspector Michael Cody, Commanding Officer of the 104 Precinct. The 104 Precinct covers most of Ridgewood. We discussed several issues affecting the community including safety. I look forward to working with Captain Cody and Officer Tony Jimenez to improve safety and keep Ridgewood residents and our community safe.



Ridgewood Theatre Tour

On October 4, I toured the Ridgewood Theatre with Ted Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID and New York City Councilmember Diana Reyna. We spoke to the owners of the Theatre to get an update about next steps. I have been very concerned that the Theatre has stayed empty for a long period of time. I believe that there are better ways to utilize this space. I will continue to work with the owners to try to revitalize this very historic piece of property. Our community deserves better.

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan

61-08 Linden Street • Ridgewood, NY 11385 • 718-456-9492

41-02 Queens Boulevard, Suite 2B • Sunnyside, NY 11104 • 718-784-3194 • nolanc@assembly.state.ny.us