



# ASSEMBLYMEMBER **Rodneyse Bichotte**

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## *Year in Review 2015*

### Happy Holidays to All

Once the legislative session ended, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte spent the summer getting acquainted with many of the residents of the 42nd Assembly District attending and speaking at a number of MWBE conferences and forums, sponsoring a wide range of events, working on legislation, and giving back to the community. Assemblymember Bichotte wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

### State of the District

The Assemblymember will be hosting the first State of the District Address for the 42nd Assembly District on February 11, 2016. She will address the key issues in the State and district, as well as budget items. The State of the District is being held at Brooklyn College, East 27th Street and Campus Road, the Gold Room, 6th Floor, 6-8pm. There will be a program with a reception to follow.

### Past Events

#### Carib News Multi-National Business Conference Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

As part of the multi-day conference, Assemblymember Bichotte participated in a “Women of Power and Influence” panel.



*Assemblymember Bichotte, along with Dr. Patricia Marthone, Special Projects Coordinator, 1199 SEIU and Sabrina Hosang-Jordan, COO of Caribbean Food Delights, on a panel being moderated by Susan L. Taylor, CEO, National CARES Mentoring Movement.*

#### Turkey Give-Away

Assemblymember Bichotte distributed turkeys to churches and families in need in partnership with the Kings Plaza Mall and Transport Workers Union, Local 100.



*Assemblymember Bichotte with Marilyn Pierre, Executive Director of the Haitian Family Resource Center, and members of the community.*

#### Empowering Youth

Assemblymember Bichotte presents a citation at the Bonnie Rangers Award Dinner.



*Assemblymember Bichotte with the Bonnie Rangers, the 2015 American Amateur Baseball Champions (AABC) Jackie Robinson World Series Champions.*

#### Back to School Events

Assemblymember Bichotte co-hosted back to school events with both the Flatbush Y and Jewish Community Council of Marine Park.



*Assemblymember Bichotte, a former practitioner of martial arts herself, with aspiring martial artists at the Flatbush Y Back-to-School Barbecue.*



*Assemblymember Bichotte celebrating the last days of summer at the Jewish Community Council of Marine Park Back-to-School event.*

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**Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving Musical Concert**  
in partnership with Borough President Eric Adams, and  
elected officials Brooklyn-wide  
Brooklyn College, Walt Whitman Theatre



*Assemblymember Bichotte along with her colleagues Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, District Leader Geoffrey Davis, District Leader Anthony Jones, District Leader Melba Brown, and District Leader Olanike Alabi.*

**Toy Drive**

Assemblymember Bichotte hosted her 5th Annual Toy Drive. Members of the community contributed unwrapped toys, which were donated to the Flatbush YMCA.

**Making Strides to Survive Health Fair at the Flatbush Y**

in partnership with Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams and Senator Kevin Parker.



*Assemblymember Bichotte with colleagues Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams and Senator Kevin Parker working out to stay fit.*

**Legislation, Achievements, and New Proposals**

During the off-session, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte has continued to introduce legislation relating to tenants’ rights, economic development, education, and fire safety.

**Housing as a Right**



*Assemblymember Bichotte speaking at a press conference in partnership with the Flatbush Tenant Coalition about the deplorable conditions that members of our community are living under.*

**Fighting for Legislation for Tenants’ Rights**

The struggle continues as the Assembly left this past legislative session with a diluted version of what many had hoped for around vacancy decontrol, although there is still hope that certain parts of the rent laws will be strengthened. Unfortunately, tenants continue to be harassed and mistreated. With a higher budget for the Tenant Protection Unit (TPU), Assemblymember Bichotte plans to make sure adequate resources are used to stop landlords from taking advantage of tenants and will continue to work toward protecting the rights of tenants. In addition, the Assemblymember is introducing legislation that is intended to help expedite emergency repairs.

**Fire Safety and Education**



*Assemblymember Bichotte with Councilmember Chaim Deutsch promoting fire safety education and CPR training, a critical issue brought to her attention in the wake of the tragedy that occurred earlier this year in Midwood.*

*Assemblymember Bichotte with Kenneth Mbonu, Executive Director, Flatbush Junction BID, and Kevin Johnson, Chair, Flatbush Junction BID as they pause from sampling foods from the diverse eateries participating in the BID’s “Tasting the Flavor” event.*



Assemblymember Bichotte is introducing a fire safety bill, which mandates the installation of smoke detectors through inspection. Currently, no enforcement exists in residential dwellings. An aspect of this bill would provide social service agencies with smoke detectors to provide to their clients and the bill will also provide ongoing support for the New York City fire safety grant with the American Red Cross.

Recently, the Assemblymember partnered with Councilmembers Chaim Deutsch and Jumaane D. Williams, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Assemblymember Helene Weinstein, and Senator Simcha Felder at PS 193 to provide CPR training and tips on fire prevention.



*Assemblymember Bichotte issuing a citation to Ms. Rafaela Walker and her loved ones on Ms. Walker’s 100th birthday at the Member’s annual senior luncheon.*

# Ensuring Economic Equity and Empowerment

## Fighting for Civil Rights – Here and Abroad

Unfortunately, the plight of Dominicans of Haitian Descent in the Dominican Republic has not abated, and human rights violations continue to occur. In August, the Assemblymember continued to raise the visibility of the issue in the Dominican Republic as she joined a coalition of over 300 human rights activists in a march across the Brooklyn Bridge. However, discrimination against Haitians is not just occurring abroad. Recently, Assemblymember Bichotte and her colleagues Assemblymembers Solages, Jean-Pierre, Jaffee, and Zebrowski along with Senator Carlucci banded together to denounce an overtly racist ad in a local Pennysaver in Rockland County. They all lent their voices to the public outcry, which resulted in the company, Interim Health, Inc. issuing an apology and a commitment to re-examine their internal protocols. It also led to an investigation by NYS Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman.



*Assemblymember Bichotte with colleagues Councilmembers Ju-maane D. Williams and Matthieu Eugene, along with members of the Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA), and New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), speaking out about a racist ad placed in a local Pennysaver.*

## Fighting for Education and Social Justice

As a former teacher in NYS public school system, Assemblymember Bichotte stood strong with her colleagues to fight for equity in education and the right for public school students to have their fair share and access to resources.

She stands with the Alliance for Quality Education and its Campaign for Fiscal Equity, which sued the State and won for “failing to provide students with the classroom resources necessary to receive a “sound basic education.” Although the State honored its obligations for a short time, it froze school aid in the wake of the fiscal crisis. As a result, the public school system in New York City is still owed billions of dollars in school aide and resources. See how much your school is owed at <http://www.howmuchnysrobbed.nyc/>.

In addition, to funding for and access to a sound basic education, the Assemblymember is dedicated to the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) legislation as part of the core curriculum. Recently, the Assembly approved additional funding for STEM scholarships.

## Real Estate Tax Exemption Program (421-a)

The Assemblymember is advocating with the support of colleagues in the Assembly and the Senate to have MWBE goals included in the negotiated 421-a tax exemption program, which through tax incentives encourages real estate developers to build and develop projects in New York City. An MWBE component will contribute to economic growth and participation as well as help to address the economic disparities in communities of color.



## Advocating for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)



*Assemblymember Bichotte giving remarks at the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) conference on MWBEs.*

As chairperson of the Subcommittee on the Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, Assemblymember Bichotte has been very active in speaking on matters relating to MWBEs including: CUNY Competitive Edge, DDC, and the NYS MWBE Forum. She has also had the honor of celebrating the accomplishments of many graduates from MWBE programs. In addition, the Member has launched a quarterly newsletter and a micro-site on her assembly website, to inform MWBEs on a wide range of issues. The first issue included resources, recent legislation, and upcoming events. The website is updated on a regular basis and therefore has the most up to date information. She is in the process of introducing legislation that will increase the resources required to conduct outreach, as well as a feasibility study as well as legislation to ensure that subcontractors are paid in a timely manner, and bills to increase transparency in how MWBEs are being utilized.



*Assemblymember Bichotte in collaboration with Assemblymember Michaëlle Solages speaking about Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs).*



*Assemblymember Bichotte with Alphonso David, General Counsel to Governor Andrew Cuomo, with honorees at the NYS MWBE Forum.*

*Assemblymember Bichotte, and Deputy Borough President, Diana Reyna, with graduates of the YWCA of Brooklyn's Women's Entrepreneurship Mentoring Program, a collaboration with Business Outreach Center (BOC) and the Atlantic Avenue BID (AABID).*

## With Gratitude

No one person is able to do anything on their own. The Assemblymember is very grateful to the many community partners that her office had an opportunity to work with this year including her colleagues in government Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Senator David Carlucci, Senator Kevin Parker, Senator James Sanders, Jr., Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee, Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Assemblymember N. Nick Perry, Assemblymember Diana Richardson, Assemblymember Michaelle Solages, Assemblymember Latrice Walker, Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski, Councilmember Chaim Deutsch, Emblem Health, Haitian Cultural Exchange, Bill Howard, Benjamin Pinczewski, Mark Appel, Flatbush YMCA, Jewish Community Council of Marine Park, Pastor Gil Monrose, HABNET, St. Mark's United Missionary Church, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Kings Theatre and the NYC Economic Development Corporation.



*Assemblymember Bichotte along with Assemblymember Todd Kaminsky attend a rally and march alongside airports workers, members of SEIU 32BJ, to advocate for their rights to a better contract.*

## Haitian Studies Institute (HSI) at Brooklyn College



Assemblymember Bichotte has initiated the process of establishing the first Haitian Studies Institute (HSI), which, if approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees, will reside at Brooklyn College. The Institute would be a clearinghouse, which would document and disseminate the contributions of Haitian people here in Brooklyn, New York City, and abroad.



*Assemblymember Bichotte partners with HABNET and the Haitian American Caucus to address MWBEs interested in the certification process.*



*Assemblymember Bichotte along with Commissioner Maria Torres Springer of the NYC Economic Development Corporation, Dr. Una Clarke, Dr. Roy Hastick, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, welcome the redesign of the Flatbush Caton Market, which will include affordable housing, and services for small businesses. The developer, Meredith Marshall of BRP Companies, is an MWBE.*



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*Year in Review 2015*



*Assemblymember Bichotte responds to attendees about what role she can play to remove obstacles to working with government at the Red Tape Commission sponsored by NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer.*



*Assemblymember Bichotte along with other members of the NYS Legislative Women's Caucus attend a Meet and Greet hosted by First Lady Chirlane McCray.*