



COMMUNITY NEWS

from Assemblyman

Steven CYMBROWITZ

Spring 2012

Dear Neighbor,

We closed a \$3.5 billion state budget deficit without new taxes, fees or gimmicks. We also eliminated the sales tax on clothing costing \$110 dollars and under. This is good news for all New Yorkers. Our economy is showing signs of improvement, even if some of us have yet to perceive this, and the budget which went into effect on April 1st will help in New York State's economic recovery. Most importantly, this budget provides increased funding for many important programs.

I take my responsibility of representing you in Albany very seriously. Please take the survey included in this newsletter to let me know how you feel about some important issues. Also, please know that my office staff is available to answer your questions and assist you with community and personal issues. No appointment is needed and in most cases you may call, email or write.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office is Here to Help:

CALL:

718-743-4078

COME IN:

Monday to Thursday:
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WRITE:

1800 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, NY 11235

E-MAIL:

cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Sponsored Health Fair and Voter Registration Drive

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz sponsored a voter registration drive and health fair at the Turkish Cultural Center Brooklyn, offering free health screenings provided by Beth Israel Brooklyn, and information about voting along with voter registration forms. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office has voter registration forms available - just call, write, email or come by. As a recent local election demonstrated, every vote counts.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz with the teams from Beth Israel Brooklyn and the Turkish Cultural Center Brooklyn that enabled him to provide health screenings and voter registration information and forms to residents of our community.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Orthodox Union Sponsor Roundtable on Drug and Alcohol Abuse in the Jewish Community

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, Chairman of the Assembly's Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, joined with the Orthodox Union to sponsor a roundtable to explore the growing problem of alcohol and drug abuse in the Jewish community. The experts – rabbis and clinicians – agreed that they are seeing a significantly higher incidence of drug and alcoholism problems in the Jewish community and that there are too few resources. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and the Orthodox Union will be conducting a town hall meeting on prescription drug abuse in the Jewish Community within the next few months.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz providing roundtable participants with Albany's perspective on our local drug and alcohol problems. Pictured (L-R): Rabbi Binyamin Stimler, LMHC, CASAC, Assistant Director, Interborough Developmental and Consultation Center (Flatbush Clinic); Assemblyman Cymbrowitz; Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Executive Vice President, Emeritus, Orthodox Union; Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Twerski, MD; Ike Dweck, CACAC, CPGC, Executive Director, S.A.F.E.; and Dr. Andrew Kolodny, MD, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Maimonides Medical Center.

Holocaust Contest Ceremony Explored Music During the Holocaust

This year's Holocaust Memorial Essay, Poetry, Performance and Art Contest Awards Ceremony explored music during the Holocaust. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has sponsored this contest for 12 years to perpetuate the important lessons that are to be learned from this horrific period of history. Over 400 students, parents,

teachers, administrators and community leaders attended the ceremony. Holocaust survivors from the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center participated in a candle lighting ceremony. More than 600 entries were received from public, parochial and private schools, as well as yeshivas.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office Gets Results

CONSTRUCTION QUIETED FOR SCHOOL TESTS

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz was able to work out a construction schedule with the Health Department for the renovations of their health center on Avenue S that suspended loud drilling during the time students at neighboring PS 255 were taking their standardized tests.

DOG SPARED UNNECESSARY SURGERY

Fluffy is an eleven year old Shitsu. When his owner was asked to pay substantially more to renew his dog license because Fluffy was never neutered (a new law set higher renewal fees for "unfixed" dogs) Assemblyman Cymbrowitz got involved and the Health Department agreed to allow Fluffy's owner to pay the lower dog license fee if a note from the vet stating that the surgery would not be in the best interest of Fluffy's health was provided. The note was submitted and Fluffy didn't have to undergo needless surgery.

INACCURATE POLICE REPORT CORRECTED

What couldn't be resolved in seven years, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz was able to correct. Arthur K. tried unsuccessfully to get the Police Department to remove his vehicle from a car accident report that wrongly included his car because one number of the license plate was incorrect. After Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented Mr. K's evidence proving that his vehicle was not involved in the accident, the police report was changed.

SHEDS LIGHT ON DANGEROUS CORNER

When the residents living near the corner of Avenue W and East 7th Street complained to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz that the corner was dark and dangerous, he took their case to the Department of Transportation and they agreed. A street light is scheduled to be installed by fall.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Condemns NY Times Article Depicting Brighton Beach's Russian-speaking Community as "Criminals" and Calls for an Apology

Incensed that the New York Times attacked a significant portion of the community that he has lived in for 25 years and represented for 12 years, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny held a rally in front of the Shorefront Y condemning a recent article that depicted Brighton Beach's Russian-

speaking community as "criminals...with disdain for the rules and a willingness to cheat to get around them." Surrounded by a large contingent of Brighton Beach's Russian-speaking honest, hardworking residents, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz demanded an apology from The New York Times' publisher, editor and reporter.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz making his point at the rally in front of the Shorefront Y, as State Senator Diane J. Savino looks on.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz: State's New Budget A Lot of Numbers that Add Up to Good News

Our State's new \$132.6 billion budget closes a \$3.5 billion deficit and restores critical funding for education and health care without relying on new taxes, fees or gimmicks. One tax, the sales tax on clothing \$110 and under, has been permanently eliminated. Aid to New York City schools was increased by \$292 million, while CUNY community colleges will be benefiting from a \$9.1 million increase in funding and SUNY's community colleges will be receiving an additional \$22.1 million. Also, \$3.5 million was restored to the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) bringing its funding up to \$24.3 million.

Private schools, including Yeshivas and Catholic schools, will benefit from a restoration of the cost-based formula for the Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) program, as well as a mandate that was part of the budget directing the New York State Department of Education to develop a plan to pay delinquent reimbursements to the religious schools. A \$3 million allocation will provide bus service for New York City private schools that are in session before 9:30 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.

The Assembly rejected several insurance industry takeover provisions proposed by the Governor, which would have put the Early Intervention program in jeopardy, and restored last year's two percent reduction in payments to service providers. It

also rejected a proposal to shift costs from the Pre-school Special Education Program (4410's) to school districts.

The budget has good news for seniors with \$30.6 million being restored to the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program to help reinstate co-payment assistance for EPIC enrollees. Currently, seniors pay 25 percent of the cost of each prescription drug, which is a heavy burden. With the new funding that Assemblyman Cymbrowitz fought for, enrollees will return to paying no more than a \$20 co-payment for each of their prescriptions beginning January 1, 2013.

If our state's economy is to be robust once again, we will have to create new jobs. This budget provides \$794.6 million to various Empire State Development Corporation projects to help promote business growth with the goal of job creation. It also recognizes that until we improve our state's economic environment there will be New Yorkers who are unemployed. To help those individuals, the Assembly added \$2.25 billion to the Governor's budget allocation providing \$6.5 billion for unemployment insurance benefits.

Mass transportation is very important to residents of our community. That's why Assemblyman Cymbrowitz worked to increase the MTA's funding by five percent over last year and also provide the School Fare Program with \$25 million.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Out in Our Community

While Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has to spend part of his schedule in Albany, he dedicates the remainder of his calendar to working in the community. "Meeting with the people I represent enables me to better reflect their views in Albany and to know what local issues need to be addressed," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz explained.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz briefly interrupts a mahjong game as he says hello to members of the Homecrest Community Services Senior Center during a recent visit.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz meeting with Community Board 15 Chairperson Theresa Scavo and officers and brass of the 61st Police Precinct to discuss local safety and traffic concerns.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz calling on a Yeshiva of Flatbush student during a question and answer session that followed his providing the students with a firsthand idea of how our state government works.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz with local Sanitation supervisors discussing ways to make our community cleaner. While Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has been working on motivating shopkeepers to "adopt" a corner litter basket which reduces overflow, he points out that reducing litter is something we can all control by simply not littering and by encouraging our children and grandchildren to do the same.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Gives Local Schools Electronic White Boards



Bay Academy students, faculty and administrators showing their appreciation for receiving one of the Promethean (electronic) Boards that Assemblyman Cymbrowitz gave to local schools.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Adds a More Comprehensive Health Screening

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has traditionally offered a free vascular screening in May. This year he is sponsoring a more comprehensive test, a cardiovascular/stroke screening with a thyroid sweep which will be provided by Maimonides Medical

Center and Heart Scan Services. This non-invasive test requires 40 minutes and will be given on Thursday, May 31st, Tuesday, June 5th and Wednesday, June 6th. Call or email Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office to make an appointment or for more information.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Continues His Support for Brooklyn's Only Dedicated Cancer Center



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Dr. Patrick I. Borgen, Chairman of Maimonides Medical Center's Department of Surgery and head of Maimonides Cancer Center's Brooklyn Breast Cancer Program, in front of the new digital mammography machine, purchased through a \$125,000 state grant from Assemblyman Cymbrowitz. This machine provides doctors with a much clearer image than traditional mammography machines.



Dr. Jay Cooper, Director of the Maimonides Cancer Center and Chairman of the hospital's Department of Radiation Oncology describing the state-of-the-art treatments available at Maimonides' Cancer Center, as Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, who was instrumental in the facility's creation, listens.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Health Fair: Stay Healthy and Have Fun

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' ninth annual Health Fair will be held Sunday, June 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Emmons Avenue from Sheepshead Bay Road to Ocean Avenue (in case of rain it will be held in Bay Academy, 1401 Emmons Avenue). The fair will provide over 40 health screenings and information tables, as well as continuous music, clowns, face painting, a caricaturist and performances from local schools. "Staying healthy shouldn't be unpleasant. My health fair provides community residents with important screenings and information in a stress-free, entertaining environment. I hope to see the large crowd that we've had at past Health Fairs on June 10th," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Wants to Know What You Think

Your opinions are important to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your responses may either be submitted online <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=45&sh=story&story=47691> or by mail (1800 Sheepshead Bay Road, Brooklyn, NY 11235):

Name: _____

Address (including apt.): _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please let Assemblyman Cymbrowitz know how you feel about the following issues:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The schools in our community are excellent. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 2. There is too much litter on our streets. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 3. Our community is safe. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 4. The senior programs in our community are excellent. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 5. Traffic congestion is worsening. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 6. Illegal drugs are NOT an issue in our community. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 7. Casino gambling should be legal in our State. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| 8. Unemployment is a serious problem in our community. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |

Do you have any other concerns or comments? _____

