



# Assemblyman William Colton

**GETTING RESULTS FOR  
US AND OUR COMMUNITY**

Spring 2016

## **COLTON DISTRIBUTES BLUE RIBBONS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR POLICE OFFICERS**



For the past year, Southwest Brooklyn Assemblyman William Colton has been distributing blue ribbons to counter an anti-police climate.

Colton is urging persons to wear blue ribbons as a sign of appreciation for professional police activities in which our police officers risk their lives daily to protect us.

Assemblyman Colton and community leaders **Nancy Tong** and **Charles Ragusa**

also spoke out against the indictment and conviction of Peter Liang for manslaughter-despite it being clear this was a tragic accident, with no intention to harm, nor even any awareness of the presence of the victim in the dark, dangerous stairway of the housing development, deplorably maintained by the New York City Housing Authority.

To obtain free blue ribbons, go to Colton's Community Office at 155 Kings Highway and speak with Nancy Tong. As an alternative a very inexpensive way to show support is by making homemade blue ribbons simply with a safety pin and a blue ribbon.



*Assemblyman Colton and Community Leader Nancy Tong with mother of slain Detective WenJian Liu at street renaming in his honor.*

## **COLTON, TREYGER, GREENFIELD TEAM UP FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS**



*Assemblyman Colton and Council Member Treyger announcing the start of 4 day a week 86th Street cleaning.*

Assemblyman Colton, working closely with Council Members Mark Treyger and David Greenfield, constantly strived for quality of life and street improvements.

A few of such improvements this year include:

- Repaving Stillwell Avenue from Bay Parkway to Bay 50 Street, 18th Avenue from Cropsey to 86 Street, Bay 20 Street from Shore Parkway to 86 Street, Avenue T from West 6 Street to McDonald Avenue, Avenue S from Stillwell Avenue to McDonald Avenue, Quentin Road from Stillwell Avenue to McDonald, West 8 Street from Avenue P to Bay Parkway, Bay Parkway from 61 Street to 82 Street, Bath Avenue from 27th Avenue to Stillwell Avenue and Bay 38 Street from 86 Street to Shore Parkway

- Getting non-profits to do 4 day a week additional street cleanings of 86 Street and 18th Avenue, as well as removal of garbage dumped at Avenue T, Bay Parkway and other locations
- Approval of traffic controls such as at Bay 29 Street and 86 Street and Bath Avenue and Bay 28 Street, among others
- Review of height clearance signage on 86 Street from 18 Avenue to Stillwell Avenue
- Installation of truck restriction signage at Dahill Road and Avenue P
- Replacement of faded alternate parking signage at 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th Avenues from 80 to 85 Streets, among other locations
- Repair streetlights such as at 20 Avenue and 80 Street

## **Assemblyman William Colton**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE:** 155 Kings Highway • Brooklyn, NY 11223-1026 • 718-236-1598 • Fax: 718-236-6507

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon., Tues. and Wed.: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Thurs.: 12 noon - 8 p.m. • Fri. : 10 a.m. - 12 noon

**EMAIL:** coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us

# COLTON CONTINUES LONG BATTLE AS CITY PUSHES BUILDING SOUTHWEST BROOKLYN GARBAGE STATION

## Fight goes on despite city's refusal to listen

Since 2004, Assemblyman William Colton, Council Member Mark Treyger and Co-Chairs of the Anti Waste Task Force, Charles Ragusa and Nancy Tong, have led a community wide battle against the proposed Southwest Brooklyn Garbage Station at Shore Parkway and Bay 41 Street.

Despite tens of thousands of petition signatures and letters in opposition, numerous rallies held, community organizations and elected officials being mobilized and even a lawsuit commenced, New York City ignores all this and pushes forward with this ill-conceived plan.

### CITY CAUGHT DROPPING SLUDGE IN GRAVESEND BAY

The community warned that dredging Gravesend Bay to make it deep enough for garbage barges would release contaminants buried from the incinerator closed by Colton over 25 years ago. Yet the City ignored the warnings and proceeded with the dredging this past November.

Assemblyman Colton and Anti Waste Task Force Co-Chairs Charles Ragusa and Nancy Tong led volunteers to film the dredging. Just as was predicted, contaminants were caught dropping from the dredging bucket and falling into the waters. That is now posted on YouTube under the tag of "Gravesend Dredging." After a complaint by Tong

and Ragusa, two violations were issued and the person responsible for oversight was transferred but the City still continued to push ahead.

### FIGHT WILL NOT STOP UNTIL GARBAGE STATION IS STOPPED

Assemblyman Colton has pledged to continue this community battle as long as necessary to stop this ill-conceived Garbage Station that threatens the health, safety and quality of life of our community. The Mayor's stubborn determination to push forward against the community demands and in spite of the inability to open the Hamilton Avenue Garbage Station due to the inability to find anyone to accept its containerized garbage is a waste of taxpayer monies, as well as a threat to the quality of life of Southern Brooklyn.



## COLTON PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST

### COLTON, TREYGER join with NYC DOT IN A FREE RAIN BARREL GIVEAWAY



# RAIN BARREL GIVEAWAY

Saturday, June 4th 9am - 2pm  
Saint Finbar Church

1839 Bath Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11214

Saturday, June 11th 9am - 2pm  
P.S. 97

1855 Stillwell Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11223

Please call (718) 307-7151 to reserve your rain barrel.

A limited number will also be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



### BENEFITS OF USING A RAIN BARREL:

- 1 SAVES MONEY
- 2 IMPROVES HARBOR WATER QUALITY
- 3 KEEPS YOUR PLANTS HEALTHY
- 4 FREE CAR WASHES
- 5 ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE

## Minimum Wage and Tax Cut Passed

Assemblyman Colton announces passage of increasing of the minimum wage to \$15, together with Paid Family Leave so workers can take care of what matters most, their families, without jeopardizing their livelihoods. Colton has long fought to protect families and both of these programs reassure his commitment to do that.

### WAGE HIKE AND PAID FAMILY LEAVE INTRODUCED IN STAGES

The historic increase in the minimum wage will be implemented in stages to reduce any abrupt impact. NYC businesses having 11 or more employees will increase wages to \$11 at the end of 2016, then by \$2 each year to reach \$15 by 2018. For those with 10 or fewer employees, it will rise to \$10.50 by end of 2016 with additional annual increases of \$1.50 each year until it reaches \$15 by 2019.

Likewise, Paid Family Leave will provide paid benefits for employees after at least 6 months employment, to care for an infant, a family member seriously ill or pregnant. Benefits will begin in 2018 with 8 weeks payable at 50% of an employee's average wage, up to 50% of the statewide average weekly wage and by 2021 to 12 weeks of leave, payable at 67% of the employee's average weekly wage, up to 67% of statewide average weekly wage.



### TAX CUTS GIVE FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES MORE SPENDING MONEY

As in prior years, the Assemblyman has led the fight for small businesses.

The Assemblyman supported tax breaks to help working and middle-income taxpayers and small businesses. The cuts would incrementally reduce the middle-class tax rates for single filers earning between \$13,000 and \$200,000, heads of households earning between \$19,500 and \$250,000, and married couples earning between \$26,000 and \$300,000. Tax rates for brackets in these ranges would decrease from the current 5.9 percent, 6.45 percent and 6.65 percent to 5.5 percent, 5.5 percent and 6.0 percent respectively, over eight years.

These new tax cuts will benefit up to 6 million New Yorkers. The extra money in family pockets means more spending in our local businesses that will trigger more economic growth and cushion any negative impact of higher expenses.

## COLTON TOUTS HISTORIC INCREASES IN SCHOOL FUNDING

### BIG SCHOOL AID INCREASES



This year Assemblyman William Colton succeeded in passing a budget with historic school aid increases. The new budget provides an increase of \$1.4 billion over last year, with a \$550 million increase going to NYC schools. This is the largest increase since the 2008-09 school year.

As part of the increase multiple programs will be able to provide better services to students of all ages:

- Foundation Aid, geared towards high needs districts like NYC will receive \$1.1 billion more than last year.
- \$807 million will go to Pre-K
- Community schools will receive \$100 million, which is money for school districts, like NYC, with struggling schools. This also means more money for after school programs.

## COLTON FIGHTS FOR SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS

As a former teacher and UFT Chapter Leader, Assemblyman William Colton has long been a supporter of maintaining high standards in our Specialized High Schools such as Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech. This year's budget includes a new \$2 million program to help school districts with low Specialized HS admission rates prepare students by offering tutoring and prep courses for the admission exam, instead of lowering standards by changing the admission criteria.

### GOOD NEWS FOR CUNY AND SUNY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Assemblyman Colton, who served on the Higher Education Budget Conference Committee, is happy the \$485 million cost shift from state funding was rejected and monies were provided to freeze any tuition increases for the coming year. Also a 20% funding increase was provided for college opportunity programs such as SEEK, EOP, HEOP, STEO, CSTEP, Liberty Partnerships and College Discovery. The Budget provides \$819 million in capital monies and there will be a base aid increase of \$100 per student for community colleges such as Kingsborough.



Assemblyman Colton shown at Stuyvesant HS Parent Association event, with Principal Jie Zhang, Senator Chuck Schumer and Community Leader Nancy Tong.

## COLTON FIGHTING FOR "N" LINE RIDERS

Assemblyman Colton knows public transportation is the lifeline of neighborhood working families.

### "N" LINE WORK STARTED WITHOUT ACCOMMODATIONS

The MTA has started 14 months of renovation on 9 Manhattan bound "N" line stations between 86th Street and 8th Avenue, leaving only Bay Parkway and 8th Avenue open with temporary platforms. This work, without adequate accommodations, has caused riders many hardships.

### COLTON DEMANDS ALTERNATIVES FOR RIDERS

Assemblyman Colton, together with community leaders is pressing the MTA for alternative solutions during the renovation. So far, the MTA has failed to cooperate.

Now after collecting petition signatures, writing letters to the MTA and requesting meetings with MTA officials, Assemblyman Colton is asking the public to help document the hardships created by the MTA's refusal to listen and respond.

### RETURN THE BELOW TEAR-OFF TO DOCUMENT RIDER HARDSHIPS

Assemblyman Colton asks you to describe on the below tear-off how the work has impacted your family life and then to return it to his office. Colton will then have Nancy Tong, his Director of Community Relations, compile the tear-offs and bring your concerns directly to the MTA to persuade them to heed our demands for alternatives.



DESCRIBE ON THE TEAR-OFF ANY BAD EXPERIENCES YOU SUFFERED FROM THE "N" LINE RENOVATIONS AND RETURN IN AN ENVELOPE TO ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON, ATTENTION NANCY TONG AT 155 KINGS HIGHWAY BROOKLYN NY 11223.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## COLTON'S OFFICE OFFERS REDUCED METROCARDS

MetroCard Mobile Sales Staff will assist those who are eligible every month at Assemblyman Colton's Community Office located at 155 Kings Highway (between West 12 and West 13 Streets).

### Seniors 65+

Senior Citizens 65 years of age and older can apply for a MTA reduced-Fare MetroCard and can receive a temporary card the same day. Proper proof of age, such as Medicare card is required.

### Seniors with Disabilities

People with qualifying disabilities with a Medicare card with a valid photo ID, such as a driver's license, can apply for a Reduced Fare MetroCard and receive a temporary card the same day.

### People with Disabilities

People with qualifying disabilities without a Medicare card can also apply. No temporary card will be issued and the applicant must first meet all qualifying criteria. Please note that the application processing may take up to 8 weeks.

DATES	TIME
Friday, May 27th	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday, June 24th	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday, July 29th	10 a.m. to 12 noon

## COLTON URGES COMMUNITY TO HONOR OUR VETERANS

Assemblyman Colton constantly reminds people to honor our Veterans who sacrificed their lives in making this the greatest country in the world.

Colton holds a Veteran Day Meeting every November in which he invites the community to recognize our Veterans and their many neighborhood achievements.



**Assemblyman**  
**William Colton**  
 Spring 2016

**GETTING RESULTS FOR US AND OUR COMMUNITY**

## COLTON'S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVING YOU

155 Kings Highway (between West 12 and West 13 Streets)

Telephone: 718 236 1598 • Email: [coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us)



Monday-Wednesday ..... 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Thursday ..... 12 Noon to 8 p.m.  
 Friday ..... 10 a.m. to Noon



Small Business concerns + Veterans Benefits + Student College Aid Info + EPIC + STAR Rebates + SCRIE + DRIE + HeartShare + Housing Issues + Family Tax Credits + Health Insurance concerns + State/City Agencies problems + Homeowner concerns and much more