



News

from
Assemblyman
**DOV
HIKIND**

FALL 2011

Dear Friend,

This past summer was a difficult one for our community, one that none of us will ever forget. We were confronted with a tragedy that is almost unimaginable—the murder of an innocent eight-year-old child, Leiby Kletzky.

I will never forget the countless hours of being in the street, the numerous meetings with the parents, hoping that the story would end on a happy note. I will never forget the amazing outpouring of caring demonstrated by thousands of people who came from everywhere to offer their services, the incredible efforts of the Shomrim, Misaskim, Hatzolah, Chaveirim, the NYPD, and the countless volunteers who poured every resource possible into the search. I will never forget the phone call at 4:00 a.m. from John Sprague, Commanding Officer of the 66th Precinct, saying, “We found Leiby.” My immediate reaction was, “Is he okay?” When he began to give me the details I asked him to stop.



The search continued throughout the night.



Volunteers getting their assignments.

For the rest of us, life goes on. But for Leiby’s family the anguish continues. May God give them the strength to deal with their loss.

It is ironic that it took a tragedy such as this to bring out the best in us. It made me feel immensely proud to represent this amazing community. My hope is that the sense of unity and solidarity that prevailed during this difficult time will continue throughout the coming year.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,



In response to recent complaints about the state of affairs at Washington Cemetery, Assemblyman Hikind conducted a survey of the cemetery over the summer.

GRAVE CONCERNS I

Washington Cemetery is Brooklyn's largest cemetery, covering 110 acres and said to contain over 100,000 graves. Throughout his career, Assemblyman Hikind has been involved with ongoing issues at the cemetery, including maintenance, security, and vandalism.

In response to recent complaints about the state of affairs at Washington Cemetery, Assemblyman Hikind conducted a survey of the cemetery over the summer. "There was great concern that the cemetery had fallen into a state of disrepair, especially after last winter's blizzards," the Assemblyman said. "At the start of our investigation we expected to find tremendous devastation. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that although there was evidence of vandalism and destruction, the extent was not as significant as we thought it would be. While

even one toppled headstone is too many, the situation could have been a lot worse." He also noted that because some decedents were interred as early as 1860, many no longer have living relatives to ensure the upkeep of their graves and monuments.

Assemblyman Hikind has been notified that the City will provide funds to repair the outer fence of the cemetery which was damaged when sanitation workers piled mounds of snow against it during the snowstorms. The sheer weight of the snow caused the fence to collapse and topple adjacent headstones.

An additional \$50,000 will be allocated by the state's Monument Maintenance Fund to restore damaged or defaced headstones throughout the cemetery. The necessary work to repair the broken headstones is currently underway.



ANOTHER JOB (FAIR) WELL DONE

Encouraged by the success of the job fair he sponsored last winter in Midwood, Assemblyman Hikind hosted another fair this past summer in Boro Park, once again sponsored by the Orthodox Union. At last count, 26 applicants were hired and 56 received call backs.



GRAVE CONCERNS II

In what has become an annual tradition, Assemblyman Hikind again joined members of Chesed Shel Emes on the Tisha B'Av fast day to travel upstate to the Catskills where they conduct dedication ceremonies for graves of indigent individuals.

Chesed Shel Emes was founded by Rabbi Mendy

Rosenberg over twenty years ago as a tiny entity and has grown over the decades into a huge organization with close to 500 volunteers who take care of the needs of any member of Jewish society, regardless of affiliation, from time of expiration through burial and unveiling of tombstone.

HEARINGS ON LINE

In response to Mayor Bloomberg's "One-Click Hearings" initiative, Assemblyman Hikind has made his office available for constituents who want to fight parking and sanitation tickets online instead of appearing in person or responding by mail. His office is equipped with a dedicated computer and scanner to enable respondents who do not have access to a computer to provide supporting documents and/or photographs as part of their defense. Users of the online system can expect to receive a decision from an administrative law judge within 10 days.

"I applaud the Mayor for offering online hearings and streamlining the process of fighting tickets," the Assemblyman said. "I am thrilled that my office is now able to aid those who do not have access to a computer and who would otherwise be forced to dispute their violations in the traditional ways which are time consuming and burdensome."

The Assemblyman's office is available to assist constituents with their online hearings Tuesdays through Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Please bring your prepared, written defense, as well as any photographic evidence or documents with you.



REDUCING CONGESTION

Following a meeting with top-level NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) officials, Assemblyman Hikind received their assurance that sanitation trucks would steer clear of the main thoroughfares of Boro Park between the highly congested traffic hour of 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, as per an agreement originally reached between DSNY and former City Councilman Simcha Felder in 2006.

The Assemblyman is asking for the community's assistance in ensuring that garbage trucks comply with this agreement. "Of late, I have both observed and been approached by concerned residents saying that Sanitation drivers have not been adhering to the arrangement," he said. "This has caused major delays for school buses and drivers



Assemblyman Hikind with DSNY Brooklyn Borough Chief Thomas G. Killeen, Regional Deputy Chief Steve Montenino and Community Board 12 District Manager Wolf Sender.

and has literally brought traffic to a standstill on some blocks. I am therefore asking for the community's assistance. If you spot a sanitation truck during this period on the following streets, please note the truck number and contact my office at 718-853-9616:

- 42nd St. from 12th Ave. to Dahill Rd.
- 45th St. from 12th Ave. to 16th Ave.
- 47th St. from 12th Ave. to McDonald Ave.
- 48th St. from 12th Ave. to 19th Ave.
- 49th St. from 12th Ave. to 18th Ave.
- 50th St. from 12th Ave. to 20th Ave.
- 52nd St. from 12th Ave. to 20th Ave.
- 53rd St. from 12th Ave. to 20th Ave.
- 54th St. from 12th Ave. to 16th Ave.
- 59th St. from 12th Ave. to 20th Ave.



IT PAYS TO SPEAK UP

Assemblyman Hikind stands at the site of one of the former pedestrian islands on Ft. Hamilton Parkway that were removed by the NYC Dept. of Transportation after he spear-headed a community protest.

ASSEMBLYMAN DOV HIKIND

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