

Assemblymember

DAVID I. WEPRIN



Reports to the Community

Fall 2017

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia

A Message From DAVID I. WEPRIN



Dear Friends and
Neighbors,

It is a pleasure to write to you once again as we begin our autumn season here in the world's borough. I enjoyed spending the summer meeting with many of you at events across our district and am proud to be the representative of our vibrant and diverse district in Albany.

In the past few weeks and months, our country has seen a number of natural disasters affect individuals in different parts of the United States, as well as in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and across the Caribbean. As such, my office has partnered with our local precincts and other elected officials to organize a disaster relief drive to support those who have been adversely affected by these events. Please do consider stopping by either of my district offices in Fresh Meadows (185-06 Union Turnpike) or Richmond Hill (111-12 Atlantic Avenue, #5) or at any of our local police precincts; with batteries, flashlights, portable lanterns, diapers, baby wipes, cases of water, hygiene products, or non-perishable items for donation.

As always, please consider visiting either of my district offices in Fresh Meadows or Richmond Hill with any questions, concerns, for help with any local or state issues. If you'd like to call, my staff and I can be reached each weekday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at either 718-454-3027 or 718-805-2381 and you can always reach my office by email at weprind@nyassembly.gov.

Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to represent you in Albany and I look forward to working together to create a better community for all of us.

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly



Phil Konigsberg of Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Corey Bearak of KeepNYCFree.com, Rich Hellenbrecht of the Queens Civic Congress, Assemblyman David Weprin, Bob Friedrich, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Bobby Sher, and Thomas Grech of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

Assemblyman Weprin: No Tolls on the Free East River Bridges

Assemblyman David I. Weprin, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, and Councilman Barry Grodenchik gathered with representatives of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, Queens Civic Congress, and a host of other civic groups by the foot of the Queensboro bridge. The advocates assembled to express their opposition to any proposed funding plan that includes the tolling of the free East River Bridges, which have been free since 1911.

Weprin and his colleagues shared a variety of reasons as to why tolling would be unacceptable for Queens' residents and businesses. In addition to imposing a new financial burden on the working- and middle-class residents of the outer boroughs for the benefit of those who choose to reside in the center of the city, new tolls would also be a major financial burden on New York's small businesses that rely on the free bridges to keep costs down. Added tolling will not only reduce the competitive ability of these businesses, but will also lead to added costs for New York's consumers.

"Tolling the East River bridges would be devastating for Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island residents," said Assemblyman David Weprin. "The people who rely on these bridges are a diverse group of New Yorkers who are trying to make affordable choices in this city and any future transportation plan for New York must take into account the needs of outer borough residents."

Fighting Hate at the Old Holliswood Hospital

After personally seeing hate graffiti at the site of the former Holliswood Hospital in June, Assemblyman David Weprin stood with Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Senator Leroy Comrie, Community Board 8 Chair Martha Taylor, Rabbi Shlomo Hochburg of Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, Rabbi Moshe Taub of Young Israel of Holliswood, Kevin Forrestal of the Queens Civic Congress, President of the Holliswood Civic Association Linda Valentino, and other religious & civic leaders from the Holliswood area to denounce the hateful vandalism found on the property. The racial and anti-Semitic graffiti found consisted



of a KKK symbol on fencing surrounding the former hospital, drawn swastikas on windows, and additional markings inside the hospital with hateful language directed towards African-Americans and Jews. At the press conference, Weprin called for increased surveillance of the Holliswood area, additional lighting outside the hospital site, and also shared that the incident is being investigated by the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force and the 107th Precinct.

"Vandalism is a crime in itself, but by adding a KKK symbol, swastikas, and hateful language directed towards African-Americans, the perpetrators of this crime made a choice to assault the values of our community," said Assemblyman David Weprin.

DISTRICT OFFICES: 185-06 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366 • 718-454-3027
111-12 Atlantic Avenue, #5, Richmond Hill, NY 11419 • 718-805-2381
Email: weprind@nyassembly.gov • Website: <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/David-I-Weprin>

Fighting Hate at the Old Holliswood Hospital

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“The people of Queens stand together as a community against each and every incident of hate; and I thank my colleagues, religious clergy, and civic leaders for joining me today to speak out against these despicable acts of vandalism.”

As a result of Weprin’s efforts, the owner has since installed a fence along the perimeter of the property which has served as a deterrent to trespassers and reduced the occurrence of these malicious incidents. Weprin is continuing to work towards additional safety measures in the area and is supportive of efforts to permanently repurpose the property for alternate use.

School Officials Visit Thomas Edison HS

As the 2016-2017 school year came to a close, Assemblyman David Weprin joined Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa, New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School for a tour of the school and discussion on Career and Technical Education (CTE). The tour included a stop at the school’s Automotive Technology lab, where Weprin spoke with students about their experiences in Thomas Edison’s CTE programs. Speaking at a press conference at the end of the visit, leaders commented on a desire to make all CTE programs offered in the city official and state-certified programs.



Thomas Edison High School Principal Moses Ojeda, Assemblyman David Weprin, Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa, New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.

One-Way Conversion at MS 172

Early in September, Assemblyman David I. Weprin, and Councilman Barry Grodenchik joined Irwin Altman Middle School Principal Jeffrey Slivko, Community Board 13 District Manager Mark McMillan, and NYC DOT’s CB 13 Borough Planner Craig Chin to announce the one-way conversion of 256th Street, between 82nd and 81st Avenues, and 257th Street between 83rd and 81st Avenues; as a way to calm the streets surrounding the school.

The conversion was initiated after a concerned resident contacted Assemblyman Weprin’s office to express disappointment about the traffic safety conditions surrounding MS 172. The sentiment echoed concerns previously made by MS 172 Principal Jeffrey Slivko and others in the area about increased traffic outside the school, particularly during pick-up and drop-off times. In response, Assemblyman David Weprin’s office contacted NYC DOT, and after conducting a feasibility study, DOT proposed a one-way conversion of streets surrounding the school: 256th Street, between 82nd and 81st Avenues and 257th Street between 83rd and 81st Avenues. The conversion was completed by DOT on July 11.



Community Board 13 District Manager Mark McMillan, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Assemblyman David Weprin, CB 13 Borough Planner Craig Chin, and MS 172Q Principal Jeffery Slivko.

Diwali Celebration

In October, Assemblyman David Weprin celebrated the Hindu, Sikh and Jain holiday of Diwali at a City Hall event sponsored by Councilman Rory Lancman. Pictured with Assemblyman Weprin (left to right) is Dr. Neeta Jain, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Councilman Lancman, Renee Mehrra, Councilman Danny Dromm, and Consul General of India Sandeep Chakravorty.



Celebrate Israel Parade

Assemblyman David Weprin proudly marched along with Governor Andrew Cuomo, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, and Chemei Peres, son of late Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres at the Celebrate Israel Parade in June. The 2017 parade, which took place on the first Sunday of June, was preceded by an announcement by Governor Cuomo which proclaimed the day of the parade as “Shimon Peres Day,” in honor of the late Israeli president. Known as the largest gathering in the world in support of Israel, this year’s parade marked the 53rd annual Celebrate Israel Parade and recognized 69 years of Israeli Independence.



National Night Out Against Crime

As part of an annual tradition, Assemblyman David Weprin stopped at the New York Police Department’s 102nd, 103rd, 105th, 107th, and 111th Precincts for the National Night Out Against Crime. Organized for the first Tuesday of August each year, the National Night Out Against Crime is an annual campaign that promotes relationships between local communities and the police in an effort to prevent crime.



Marc Haken, Mike Agugliaro, Assemblyman David Weprin, Angela Agugliaro, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Anup Ramnauth, Community Board 13 District Manager Mark McMillan, and Community Board 13 Chair Clive Williams.

Centenarian Birthday Celebration at the Bayside Senior Center

Centenarians J. Irving Black, Jean Mastrangelo, and Pauline Kossar celebrated their 103rd, 103rd and 105th birthdays with Assemblyman David Weprin and a host of other elected officials at the Catholic Charities Bayside Senior Center this July. Weprin presented certificates to each of the accomplished seniors and joined them for a luncheon with dancing and birthday cake.

Assemblyman David Weprin joins Senator Tony Avella, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, Bayside Senior Center Executive Director Pan Chou, and Irene Cheung with Centenarians J. Irving Black, Jean Mastrangelo, and Pauline Kossar.



in in the Community

Supporting our Uniformed Workforce

Assemblyman David Weprin joined Governor Andrew Cuomo and fellow legislators from Albany in July for a gubernatorial bill signing to provide enhanced disability retirement benefits to uniformed police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, and sanitation workers in New York City. The new legislation will expand accidental disability benefits for eligible uniformed workers, regardless of whether or not they are eligible for a normal service retirement benefit. Additionally, the new law will allow retirees who are receiving an accidental disability pension to continue to do so.



Assemblyman Michael DenDekker, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, Assemblyman Peter Abbate, Jr., Senator Martin J Golden, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assemblyman David Weprin, Senator James Sanders Jr., Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, and Assemblyman Joseph Lentol.

Saul Weprin Memorial Scholarship Award

Assemblyman David Weprin joined NYC Urban Fellow and 2017 Saul Weprin Memorial Scholarship Award recipient, Giselle Cordero, at Queens College's Baccalaureate Honors Convocation Thursday night. Established at the College by the National Speakers Conference and Mrs. Sylvia Weprin, wife of Saul Weprin, the Saul Weprin Memorial Scholarship is in memory of the former speaker of the New York State Assembly and awarded to students on the basis of academic excellence, as well as demonstrated evidence of a commitment to the public interest. Cordero, a graduating senior who was born and raised in Queens, first worked in government for the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. In 2016, after completing a successful internship at the New York State Assembly, she served as a Congressional Intern at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute the same year. Cordero has also spent her time volunteering at food pantries and tutoring students at after-school programs.



Queens College President Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, Award Recipient Giselle Cordero and Assemblyman David Weprin.

Eid at the Jamaica Muslim Center

On September 1st, Assemblyman David Weprin joined the Jamaica Muslim Center to wish thousands of observers a happy Eid Mubarak on the Muslim holiday of Eid-al-Adha on the Jamaica High School Lawn. The holiday, which marks one of the holiest observances in Islam, is celebrated each year at over 250 mosques across New York City and in Muslim communities around the world.



Honoring Seymour Schwartz of the Briarwood Community Association

On June 8th, Assemblyman David Weprin honored Briarwood Community Association President Sey Schwartz with a New York State Assembly Proclamation at his last meeting as President of the association after 23 years of service. Schwartz, a World War II Veteran and longtime resident of Briarwood, is responsible for being the catalyst for a number of improvements in the neighborhood. Among his accomplishments are having an elevator installed at the Briarwood subway station and having the station renamed as the "Briarwood" station. He was also a force behind the opening of the Briarwood Post Office, a walkway on Queens Boulevard, and the Briarwood branch of the Queens Library.



Seymour Schwartz, Assemblyman David Weprin, and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

Muthamizh Munnettra Mandram Walk-a-Thon

On August 13th, Assemblyman David Weprin joined the Muthamizh Munnettra Mandram organization at Alley Pond Park for their first annual Walk-a-Thon. Inspired by a desire to increase health awareness in the Tamil community and beyond, the Muthamizh Munnettra Mandram Walk-a-Thon featured blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, the opportunity to receive a basic check up from a community doctor, as well as a community volleyball tournament.



Assemblyman David Weprin with volunteers from the Muthamizh Munnettra Mandram Walk-a-Thon.

Assemblyman Weprin in the Community



Assemblyman David Weprin and Rabbi Moshe Shur.

Young Israel of Jamaica Estates L'Chaim 5K Run

As part of an annual tradition, Assemblyman David Weprin attended the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates L'Chaim 5K Run. The 5K Run/Walk for Israel was begun in 2002 by the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates Coalition for Israel Action, Queens, New York. 2017 marked the 17th annual event, bringing together supporters of all ages for a day of family fun.

Kapur Sports South Asian Soccer Tournament

Assemblyman David Weprin visited the Kapur Sports South Asian Soccer Tournament at Martin Van Buren High School in August. The soccer tournament is meant to bring together youth from different communities across Queens to play soccer each year at a location in Eastern Queens.



Assemblyman David Weprin speaks with Dalvinder Pal Singh of PTC News at the Kapur Sports South Asian Soccer Tournament.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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**DAVID I.
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Queensborough Community College 56th Graduation Ceremony

Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Assemblyman David Weprin, Senator Toby Stavisky, QCC President Diane Call & CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Christopher Rosa.



The Young Women's Leadership School Graduation

Assemblyman David Weprin joins TYWLS graduates.



P.S./I.S 178

The Holliswood School Graduation

Assemblyman David Weprin presents an Assembly Proclamation to P.S./I.S. 178Q Parent Coordinator Phyllis Corley. In addition to holding positions in the school's Parent Teacher Association including as PTA Co-President, Ms. Corley has served as the Holliswood School's Parent Coordinator for 14 years.