



ASSEMBLYMAN
**ANDREW
HEVESI**

Reports to the People

WINTER 2012

Dear Neighbor,

I would like to express my gratitude for your support in affording me the opportunity to continue representing the 28th Assembly District. As we look forward to the New Year, I remain dedicated to serving the needs of our community both in the District and in the Capitol.

This year New Yorkers confronted great adversity from which our community displayed outstanding resilience. In October, our city experienced a storm of unprecedented magnitude. Superstorm Sandy has been declared the second most expensive storm in the history of the United States. Our community's response in assisting all affected New Yorkers has been remarkable, including countless examples of generous aid throughout the district. My office received and dispersed hundreds of donations to our neighbors in need. Your generosity in this time of adversity makes me unbelievably proud to be a member of this community.

With regard to other important issues that affect our community, the Oversight, Analysis and Investigation Committee of the New York State Assembly, of which I currently serve as Chair, has exponentially increased the scope and diversity of the range of issues that we are working on. The committee has held hearings and roundtables on multiple topics, including the overhaul of the New York State health care system, the current status of services available to veterans, the activities of the New York State Human Trafficking task force, and the costs and benefits of the governor's economic development initiatives. My staff and I are currently developing legislation in these subject areas to pursue in the upcoming legislative session. I look forward to working with my fellow committee members and colleagues in the Assembly and Senate as we address these and other issues that affect our community.

As always, I am honored to serve as your elected representative in the State Assembly, and will continue to advocate on behalf of our community. My office is always available to assist with any issues or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to stop by or call (718) 263-5595.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Andrew Hevesi.

*Andrew Hevesi
Assembly Member, 28th AD*



A Year In Oversight

For the past year and a half, I have had the honor of serving as Chairman of the Assembly Oversight, Analysis and Investigation Committee. The task of oversight is crucial to achieving an efficient and responsible government. It is the responsibility of this committee to analyze the implementation of laws, and investigate whether state agencies and authorities are acting effectively, efficiently, and in compliance with legislative intent. Each year, the Legislature and Governor enact hundreds of new laws. Legislative oversight enables policymakers to examine how those laws are implemented and to ensure that the intent of the legislation is being followed. The hearings and investigations undertaken since I began chairing the Oversight Committee have led to numerous policy recommendations for governmental reform.

In 2012, the Committee undertook several new projects. In conjunction with the Assembly Standing Committee on Government Operations, I held a public hearing and the first in a series of roundtables on the state's use of information tech-

nology to improve public access to government information and to increase government efficiency. We also, in an effort to continue to streamline government, contacted thousands of municipalities throughout the State in an ongoing effort to identify municipal reporting requirements that are no longer necessary, or could be modified to be less burdensome.

The Oversight committee worked with the Assembly Committees on Children and Families and Social Services to examine the State's oversight of legally-exempt childcare through a public hearing. I also, together with the Assembly Codes Committee, began to examine the availability of social services for victims of human trafficking and held a roundtable in New York City to gather information on the topic.

I will do my best to serve the taxpayers of the State of New York by ensuring that our government continues to streamline activities in the most efficient, cost effective manner, and that the spirit and intent of laws enacted and budgets passed are upheld.



Assemblyman Hevesi holds a joint committee hearing on veterans' affairs.

Oversight and Health Committees Examine Recent Changes Implemented by Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team

Under the direction of Governor Cuomo's Medicaid Redesign Team, New York State's Medicaid system is undertaking a mandatory movement of patients from fee-for-service into various forms of care management. While Medicaid has phased in managed care requirements over the past number of years, there will now be a mandatory transfer the remainder of long-term care patients and their providers into managed long-term care (MLTC) programs and Medicaid managed care plans. This transition will be implemented as the state awaits federal approval to begin managed care for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibles. The stated goal of this adjustment, according to the Governor's team, is to better facilitate care coordination across medical, behavioral, social, and personal care services through enhanced electronic health record systems, capitated provider payments, and a reduction in administrative errors

to improve patient outcome and care.

The rate at which this transition for long-term care patients is being undertaken is of interest to the Assembly Health and Oversight, Analysis and Investigation committees. The hearing provided affected parties, from the New York State Department of Health to care providers and patients, the opportunity to discuss their experiences with the transition process. While a number of panelists highlighted the successes of this transition, many others voiced concerns about various pieces of this complex change. The need for additional oversight during the remainder of the transition was of primary importance among a number of individuals that testified. The committees will hold another joint hearing on the subject in the beginning of next year to follow up on recommendations.

Price Gouging – Hurricane Sandy

Please be aware that there have been reports of contractor price gouging in the wake of Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts. It is against New York State law to price gouge, and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is investigating reported instances. The information below provides some tips on how to detect and avoid scams:

- ✓ Always check for licenses and ask for references before hiring a contractor.
- ✓ Be sure the contractor has valid insurance so you are not liable for any injuries, and always confirm the contractor's address.
- ✓ Do not be rushed into making a decision on which contractor to choose.
- ✓ Do NOT pay the full price upfront. Always hold final payment until after the job has been completed.
- ✓ Get estimates in writing and secure building permits before the job starts.

You can verify accreditation of any contractor or repair service with the Better Business Bureau at BBB.org. If you feel you were a victim of price gouging, or you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at (718) 263-5595.

Apply for HEAP

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded state sponsored program that assists eligible low income households in meeting their home energy needs. Qualifying individuals must meet an income requirement and be either 60 years of age or older, a head of household receiving Social Security disability (SSI), or live in an eligible housing situation.

Eligible households that pay directly for gas heat can receive a benefit amount of up to \$400. Individuals paying directly for oil heat can receive a benefit amount of up to \$600. Qualifying individuals that do not pay directly for heat receive a standard statewide benefit of either \$40 or \$50, depending on income level.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,138
2	\$2,796
3	\$3,453
4	\$4,111

The Home Energy Assistance Program application can be found online at <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/apply/>, or please contact my office at (718) 263-5595.

How to Contribute to Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts

While Hurricane Sandy has passed, the after-effects of the storm will be long lasting. The New York City Service office will continue taking donations and placing interested volunteers to help with Hurricane Sandy Relief.

Clothing Donations

The Salvation Army will be collecting clothing this season; to find your local Salvation Army location, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK.

Food Donations

Keep in mind that water and non-perishable items are of the highest priority to disaster relief efforts. The following organizations are currently accepting donations for victims:

City Harvest – 646-412-0600

Met Council – 718-763-5318

Food Bank NYC – 212-566-7855

Please also visit www.nycservice.org, or call (212) 788-7550 to find out more on how you can make a difference for the victims of Hurricane Sandy.



Assemblyman Hevesi and his colleagues discuss community issues with Queens District Attorney Richard Brown.

Serving Our Communities

Below are some examples of issues my office has been able to address on behalf of our neighbors:

- *Advised constituents of drop-off donation locations for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.*
- *Helped a parent navigate the New York City Public High School application and admission process.*
- *Assisted a constituent in understanding the NYC Rent Guidelines Board regarding the heating season.*
- *Helped a constituent contact the sanitation department to obtain a waste receptacle near a bus stop.*
- *Assisted a constituent in obtaining information and paperwork on how to become a notary public.*
- *Helped a disabled constituent apply for Access-A-Ride.*

Legislative E-mail Program

In addition to my office's ongoing programs, I encourage you to participate in my Legislative E-mail program. This program allows you to interact with me and my staff concerning current and proposed New York State policies. You may request bill information and register support or opposition to legislation. The feedback constituents provide me through this program is greatly valued in the decision making process. If you would like to join, please contact my office at:

hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us



Assemblyman Hevesi speaks at a street renaming ceremony held by Council Member Karen Koslowitz to honor the late Congresswoman and first female Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

Internships Available

Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi's district office is seeking interns for the spring semester. Internships provide a great opportunity for high school and college students to experience firsthand dynamics of a legislative office. Interns will be responsible for helping assist in constituent cases, doing legislative research, and aiding in the communications efforts of the district office. Interested candidates can fax or e-mail a resume and cover letter detailing their interest to (718) 263-5688, or hevesia@assembly.state.ny.us. If you would like more information, please free to contact my district office at (718) 263-5595.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDREW HEVESI

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