

# Assemblyman William Colton

*Fighting for Us  
and Our Community*



Spring 2018

## COLTON WORKS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

### COLTON CHALLENGES MTA KINGS HIGHWAY PLAN



### COLTON FIGHTS TO STOP KINGS HIGHWAY PARKING DILEMMA

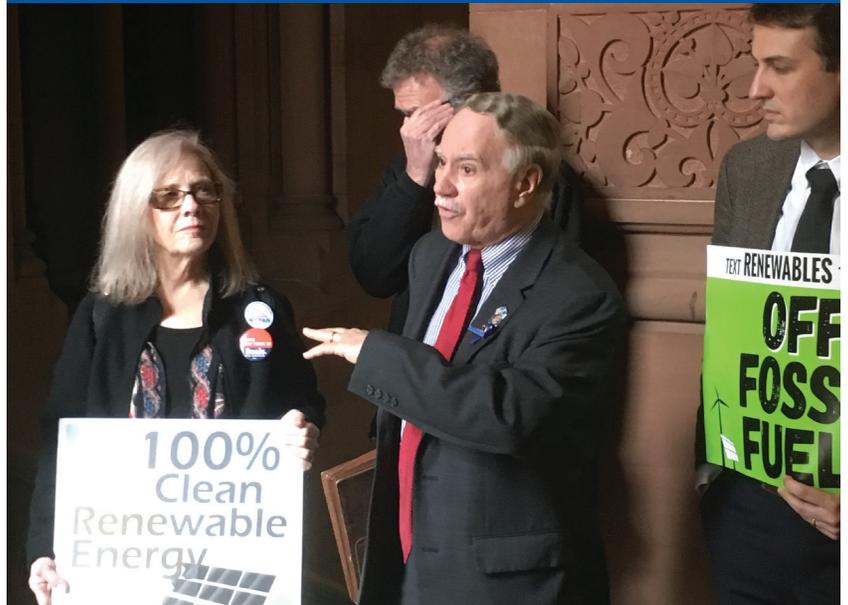
The MTA has a new plan that will hurt residents and small businesses along the Kings Highway B82 route. Assemblyman Colton and his Community Relations Director, Nancy Tong, opposed the plan and have taken steps to inform and mobilize affected business owners, customers, and residents who would suffer if parking spaces are removed to make room for unnecessary and dangerous bus lanes. Assemblyman Colton proposes increasing enforcement of illegal double parking as a better solution.

### BUS-ONLY LANE REPLACING PARKING LANES OPPOSED

Overwhelmingly, those in the neighborhood oppose the plan over concerns that the scarcity of parking spots will cause local businesses to shutter and residents to be pushed out of the community. Available parking has grown increasingly limited, and the livelihood and quality of life of the community will suffer further consequences, such as loss of business, decrease in access to services and goods, and loss of jobs.

Although the MTA has announced that it will delay the project, and the bus-only lanes will not be implemented on July 1st as planned, the fight to protect residents from harm must not relent. We must not waiver in our determination to preserve our community's quality of life.

### COLTON REENERGIZES 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL



Assemblyman Colton's bill to achieve 100% clean renewable energy (A5105) is one of the most ambitious climate change bills in the country. Colton recently strengthened the bill by requiring state and local governments to adopt detailed climate change action plans to guide the transformation. The bill would halt new fossil fuel infrastructure, phase out nuclear plants, and require all new cars to be Zero Emission Vehicles by 2025. It also includes provisions related to environmental justice to ensure that the needs of impacted workers and vulnerable communities are addressed.

### COLTON DEMANDS STATE-OWNED VEHICLES COMPLY WITH DIESEL EMISSIONS LIMITS NOW

Assemblyman Colton calls for NYS to honor its commitment to reduce diesel emissions produced by its thousands of heavy-duty vehicles and contracted vehicles. The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) was signed into law in 2006. It requires state and state-contractor owned vehicles to use low-sulfur fuel and be retrofitted with emission-reducing technologies.

Diesel emission has been shown to greatly increase the risk of lung cancer and other respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. These illnesses are caused by particulates from the incomplete combustion of diesel, which contains hundreds of polluting compounds that cause damage to respiratory systems.

### COLTON CALLS FOR URGENCY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

After 12 years, DERA has still not gone into effect. State agencies have been requesting more time to comply year after year. Environmental groups were hoping that the act would finally go into effect this legislative session, but it was postponed again. Colton is disappointed at the state's lack of urgency when it comes to fighting climate change and its inability to enact change quickly.



Assemblyman William Colton

155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223-1026 • 718-236-1598

Room 733 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5828

coltonw@nyassembly.gov



# COLTON ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

## COLTON HELPS COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

*Assemblyman Colton voted for strong anti-sexual harassment policies and protections for victims in the workplace in the new budget.*

### MAJOR VICTORY: ESTABLISHING A STANDARD POLICY

- The Department of Labor and the Division of Human Rights is required to create a model policy to prohibit sexual harassment. All employers must adopt a sexual harassment policy. The policy requires a clear process for submitting complaints.

### PROTECTIONS FROM EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

- To allow for recourse, the state now prohibits contracts with mandatory arbitration agreements for sexual ha-

rassment claims.

- Similarly, confidentiality clauses are prohibited unless chosen by the plaintiff, in which case confidentiality would be mandated.

### PLACING RESPONSIBILITY OF COSTS ON HARASSERS

- The new legislation also allows state and local governments that have paid a victim for a sexual harassment claim on behalf of a public employee to recover payment from the harasser.

## COLTON COMMENDS GUN REFORMS PROTECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

New York State has taken measures to protect women against their abusers. The state will now prohibit those convicted of domestic violence offenses from owning guns or gun licenses. Once convicted, the court will order the surrender of all guns, and the FBI will be notified of convictions to conduct background checks. Colton said, "these changes will better protect the many women who die by the hands of their partners." Not only is gun violence the leading cause of homicide for women, but the majority of women killed by guns suffered at the hands of their partners.



Assemblyman Colton (second from left), Community Relations Director Nancy Tong (far right), Long-time Volunteer Paul S. Lipton, and Community Liaison Annie Mui speaking out against sexual harassment and against domestic violence.

## COLTON'S OFFICE OFFERS REDUCED-FARE METROCARDS

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

### Seniors 65 +

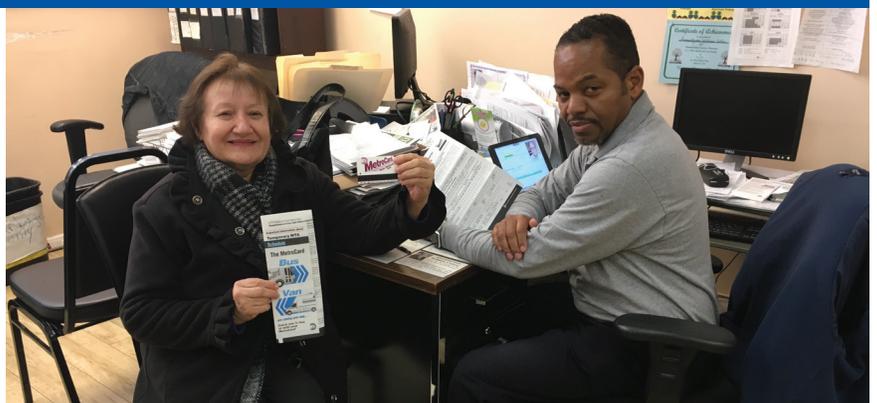
Senior Citizens 65 years and older can apply for a MTA Reduced-Fare MetroCard and can receive a temporary card the same day. Proper proof of age, such as a Medicare card, is required.

### Seniors with Disabilities

People with qualifying disabilities with a Medicare card and 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 meet all qualifying criteria. Please note processing may take up to 8 weeks.



### UPCOMING DATES

### TIME

Friday, May 25, 2018.....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, June 29, 2018 .....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, July 27, 2018 .....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, August 31, 2018 .....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, September 28, 2018.....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, October 26, 2018.....	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, November 30, 2018.....	10AM to 12 Noon

## COLTON HELPS STRENGTHEN LOCAL FAMILIES

### COLTON WINS \$914 MILLION INCREASE TO SCHOOLS



As a former educator, Assemblyman Colton cares deeply for equal quality education for all our children. Assemblyman Colton collected petitions to support more school aid to high-need school districts, which he sent to the governor. Now, Colton is glad to announce that this year's budget includes a total of \$26.6 billion for education, a \$914 million increase from last year.

### COLTON HELPS SECURE INCREASE IN FOUNDATION AID

Colton's petition drive and community campaign to increase foundation aid was signed and supported by many in the education community.

Foundation Aid was increased by \$618 million to make up past shortchanging. This aid ensures that high-need schools will receive fair funding. New York City schools make up a large portion of the schools that are considered high-need. Parents and advocacy groups know that city schools serve larger populations and have higher costs.

### COLTON FOUGHT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INCREASES

Colton fought to increase community college aid by \$100 per full-time student, which advances the education of students at institutions, such as Kingsborough CC.

The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) received \$35.5 million, an increase of \$5.9 million. Other wins for higher education include \$32.3 million for EOP, \$28.1 million for SEEK, \$18.4 million for Liberty Partnerships, \$15.8 million for STEP, \$11.9 million for C-STEP, and \$1.3 million for College Discovery.

This year, public libraries will receive \$96.6 million, a \$1 million increase and, the budget includes \$34 million for public library construction grants, an increase of \$10 million.

Colton is pleased to announce an additional \$118 million allocation to the Excelsior Scholarship program, which helps college students from working families earning less than \$110,000 a year.

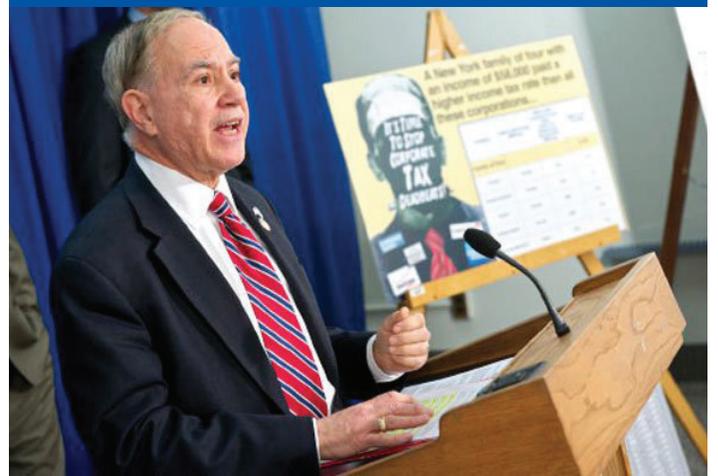
### COLTON INVESTS IN CHILDCARE

New York State believes in strengthening families and providing support particularly to families with young children that require costly child care. The budget this year includes \$105 million for child care programs overall.

Colton helped negotiate \$80 million for ensuring that child care programs comply with federal regulations. There will also be \$10 million set for new seats for children in child care facilities.

Also in the budget is a restoration of funding to New York City's Child Welfare Services, which helps keep children out of the foster care system.

### COLTON UPHOLDS TAX CUTS FOR FAMILIES



Assemblyman Colton has worked tirelessly to decrease the tax burden on working-class families, and is glad to inform his constituents that the new budget continues the phase in of middle-class tax cuts. Households with incomes between \$40,000 and \$150,000 will receive an income tax reduction from 6.45 to 5.5 percent. For households earning between \$150,000 and \$300,000, the income tax rate will be reduced from 6.65 to 6 percent. Families, on average, will save \$250 this year. With the new reductions, 6 million New Yorkers can expect to save \$700 next year.

### COLTON ADVOCATES FOR NYCHA RESIDENTS



Community Relations Director Nancy Tong, Community Leader Charles Ragusa, and Assemblyman William Colton have always been proponents of better quality for affordable housing.

Colton voted to include \$250 million in this year's budget for critical repairs to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) buildings, including replacing and updating heating equipment, and other maintenance projects.

# COLTON HONORED 30 DISTINGUISHED WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY



In honor of Women's History Month, Assemblyman Colton hosted his 5th Annual Distinguished Women's Awards ceremony on March 18th. The celebration drew a large, bustling crowd of over 200 community members, including 33 honorees, their friends and family, and local media.

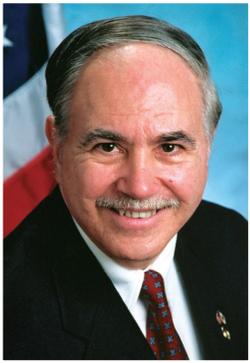
Those receiving recognition have made impactful contributions to business, education, healthcare, the military, government, volunteerism, humanitarian work, or community and civic affairs.

## COLTON'S 2018 DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Rosita Chan, Jeanine Cherichetti, Ruth Dallas, Shao Qing Deng, Zhen Deng, Tatiana DiSiena, Erika Duchonovic, Vanessa Figueroa, Olga Fiore, Angel Fung, Anna Geller, Jeanette Givant, Magie Kong, Marina Lagunova, Tsui Lai, Helen Lau, Jacky Lee, Bonita Lei, Lila Leung, Xiu Yan Li, Julia Liu, Antonella Lombardo, Larisa Magali, Nino Magali, Nicoletta Nerangis, Patricia Percaccio, Mary Placanica, Zlata Razdolina, Stella Shiv, Nancy Tong, Stephanie Wong, Angel Wu, and Angeles Yeung.

Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223

PRSR STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75



ASSEMBLYMAN  
**WILLIAM  
COLTON**

**Fighting for Us and  
Our Community**

SPRING 2018

## COLTON'S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVES YOU

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

Telephone: 718-236-1598 • Email: [coltonw@nyassembly.gov](mailto:coltonw@nyassembly.gov)



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



We will help you with: Small Business Concerns + College Aid Info + Veterans' Benefits + EPIC + STAR Rebates + Senior Homeowner Tax Abatements + SCRIE + DRIE + Heartshare + Housing Issues + Health Insurance Concerns + State/City Agencies Problems + Quality of Life Issues and Much More