



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

Reports to the People of the 81st Assembly District

DECEMBER 2018

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Serving the communities of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Norwood, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Village, Wakefield and Woodlawn



Assemblyman Dinowitz and local leaders are pictured at a press conference protesting the President's firing of the Attorney General and demanding that the Mueller probe be allowed to continue without interference. Pictured are local leaders including council member Andrew Cohen, Bill Weitz, Bruce Feld, Assemblyman Dinowitz, Ellen Feld, Teresa Colon, Congressman Eliot Engel, Randi Martos, and Eric Dinowitz.

Dear Neighbor:

While the chaos and division in our country has only accelerated this year under the Trump regime, I'm hopeful New York State is about to enter a new era of unity and progress. The Assembly supermajority continues and there is a new majority in the State Senate. Hopefully we will be able to pass many important laws in a wide array of areas that have been years in the making.

In all of the neighborhoods of our 81st Assembly district, construction of new buildings is accelerating as developers cram buildings into every nook and cranny, very often destroying single family homes and small buildings and replacing them with large buildings with a minimum amount of parking. We should not make it easy for this to happen.

I am concerned about the direction of our public school system under its new leadership. I am disappointed by the lack of solid commitment to funding our transportation infrastructure and the refusal by those who want to impose large fees on some Bronx drivers to commit to supporting improvements in the Bronx. I am worried about the fact that so many people still have no healthcare coverage, inadequate coverage, or coverage that they cannot really afford. We have to address these issues in the coming year.

Please feel free to contact my office with any issues, concerns and complaints. Everyone in my office is a notary public and we provide notary services free of charge.

Have a happy and healthy 2019.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assemblyman

Legislative Priorities in the Upcoming Year

Over the past decade, the Majority that controlled the New York State Senate stifled progressive legislation that repeatedly passed the New York State Assembly. In New York, legislation that has repeatedly passed the Assembly with overwhelming support among the public includes: extreme risk protection orders, electoral reforms, pro-tenant rent laws, and many others. Much of this legislation died along partisan lines in the State Senate, including legislation that I personally championed or supported.

This included the Reproductive Health Act to codify Roe V. Wade and protections for women in the New York State Constitution; the Child Victim's Act, which extends the statute of limitations for victims of sex crimes allowing them to come forward and report crimes as adults; the DREAM Act, to make Dreamers eligible for in state tuition and qualify for financial aid programs; Campaign Finance Reform, closing the LLC loophole that allows nearly unlimited campaign contributions from LLCs; Marijuana Legalization, to halt the overly harsh punishment and penalization of marijuana users; and Rent and Pro Tenant Regulation to combat greedy and corrupt landlord practices and the eviction of rent stabilized tenants.

The shifts that have occurred in the State Senate after the November election will now make it possible to put New York State back in the vanguard on progressive issues, where it should be. I fully expect to see these important pieces of legislation taken up and seriously fought for in the Assembly and Senate in the 2019 Legislative Session and look forward to working with my newly elected colleagues to see them through.

2395 Palisade Avenue

The development at 2395 Palisade Avenue has been halted after inspectors from both the Department of Buildings and the Department of Environmental Protection found multiple violations. The site underwent emergency asbestos abatement cleanup after the DEP inspectors found debris on the site that tested positive for asbestos-containing materials. Additionally, representatives from the DOB informed me that they found several violations including work being performed that did not conform to approved construction documents and have issued a stop work order until several violations are resolved.

Riverdale has remained one of New York City's finest neighborhoods by retaining its character in the face of those who would seek to diminish it through profitable, but sometimes underhanded, development schemes. When I speak of schemes, I of course refer to attempts to violate the public trust and the interests of the community by violating rules and regulations set forth by city agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Buildings. These rules are meant to protect the safety of the community and workers from hazardous and possibly toxic conditions, and their violation is not an indication of a developer acting in the interests of a community.



Assemblyman Dinowitz, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Council Member Andrew Cohen, State Senator Jamaal Bailey and young celebrants lit the Menorah at the Bronx Botanical Gardens.

FREE Notary Service

Our office provides free notary service during regular office hours, **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday**. Please bring two forms of identification, at least one with your photo and signature, if you would like your signature notarized.



Assemblyman Dinowitz provided food donated by neighborhood residents to the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and St. Frances of Rome Food pantry. This photo includes KHCC Executive Director Margaret Della as well as Lorrin Johnson and Pat McAffrey of St. Frances of Rome.

Holiday Food Drive Thrives

I recently concluded my annual holiday food drive and I was glad to see so many of my constituents and so many buildings participate. My office was full to the brim with canned goods and food donations from businesses, schools, coops, and buildings across the 81st Assembly District including Key Food- North Riverdale, Key Food- 235th Street, Stop & Shop, Le Chic, Young Israel, Robert E Hill Inc., Manhattan College, PS 7, PS 24, PS 81, 3299 Cambridge Avenue, 2575 Palisade Ave., 2727 Palisade Ave., The Windsors- 4705 and 4901 HHP, 640 West 231st Street, and 525 West 238th Street. My office made the donations to St. Frances of Rome Food Pantry as well as the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and the food was distributed to families in need during the holiday season. I was so thankful to participate in this wonderful event and look forward to doing so again next year.



Assemblyman Dinowitz pictured at the Woodlawn Christmas Tree Lighting. Pictured from left to right are Congressman Eliot Engel, Woodlawn Taxpayers Association President Ken Nugent, Jim Reilly, Father Brendan Fitzgerald, and Assemblyman Dinowitz.



Assemblyman Dinowitz continues to be a leader in the fight to improve our subway and bus service. He is shown at the West 242nd Street station on the one line with colleagues including Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and CIDNY activist and representative Dustin Jones.

“Democracy In Action” Northwest Bronx Town Halls

Following sweeping changes in the composition of the New York State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, many residents of the Northwest Bronx are shifting their focus to legislation that has long been left to stagnate in legislative chambers. My fellow elected officials, Congressman Eliot Engel, Council Member Andrew Cohen, State Senator Elect Alessandra Biaggi and I heard exactly what the people of the Northwest Bronx are looking to accomplish over the next two years after we hosted two town halls as part of a new series, “Democracy in Action,” where constituents of the 81st Assembly District made their voices heard on neighborhood priorities and legislative priorities.

The town halls were a massive success with over 500 people showing up to the events to ask questions, tell us their priorities and engage with their elected officials. We addressed neighborhood concerns as well as our battle to get legislation stifled too long through Albany and Congress. One of my favorite parts of this job is hearing what people think so that I can go and represent their views in Albany. Advocating for my constituents is the number one function of my job as an elected official, and in order to do so I need to know how people feel about important issues. I’m optimistic that much of the legislation for which I have been voting for two and a half decades will now find a much more sympathetic audience in

the new State Senate and I look forward to working hard to make sure we can get everything done that we want to get accomplished.



Assemblyman Dinowitz spoke at the Annual Veterans Day Commemoration at Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park. Herbert Barret, pictured to his right, spent many years working for the restoration of Memorial Grove.



Assemblyman Dinowitz is pictured lighting a Chanukkah Menorah at the Borough President’s Annual Menorah Lighting ceremony held at the Riverdale Y.

Assemblyman Dinowitz at Riverdale Senior Services after they received the Ready Center of the Year Award. Pictured from left to right are Christina Farrell, Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs at the NYC Emergency Management, Assemblyman Dinowitz, Linda Whitaker, Assistant Commissioner at the NYC Department for the Aging, Julie Dalton, Executive Director of Riverdale Senior Services, Community Board 8 Aging Committee Chair Eric Dinowitz, and Council Member Andrew Cohen.

White Supremacist Flyer

The rise in boldness of white supremacists has run into a brick wall of opposition in the Bronx. Congressman Eliot Engel, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and Councilmember Andrew Cohen joined me in denouncing the attempted creation of a new hate group in Woodlawn, which had raised concern among local residents after several flyers were posted in northeastern Van Cortlandt Park at Healy Field, along Nursery Road, and at the Woodlawn Dog Run. The flyers were quickly taken down and it is unknown if other flyers were posted and also taken down before anyone noticed them. The flyer called for public displays along Katonah Avenue on pre-designated days in order to demonstrate “White Strength.”

The Woodlawn neighborhood has long been a respite for New Yorkers who are looking for a more secluded neighborhood, attracting a rich tapestry of residents. The neighborhood’s commercial activity is mostly centered around Katonah Avenue. I am disgusted at whoever created this flyer and there is no place for racism and bigotry in our community. I believe that when a President calls himself a nationalist, it is a signal to racists, anti-Semites, Islamophobes, and other haters that he is with them. Hatred must always be condemned and I know that the good people of Woodlawn are disgusted by these racist losers.

Mosholu Parkway Subway Station Elevator

The fight for accessible subways in the Northwest Bronx continues, with a community coalition led by Community Board 7 Chair Jean Hill and Community Board 8 Aging Committee Chair Eric Dinowitz notching a key victory in the push for elevators at Mosholu Parkway along the 4 Train. Over 2,000 signatures were submitted to the MTA Board in September in support of ADA compliance at this important station, which serves two major hospitals in addition to a burgeoning commercial district and high density residential towers, and our community's voice was heard loudly and clearly. New York City Transit has agreed to begin the design phase for ADA compliance at Mosholu Parkway, which is a strong indication that they will install elevators sooner rather than later.

There is little doubt in my mind that this signature drive, which involved a wide array of community stakeholders, was integral in this decision from NYCT. The signature drive, working under the banner "Coalition for Accessible Subways at Mosholu Parkway," was supported with help from community institutions such as Montefiore Health Systems, North Central Bronx Hospital, Jerome-Gun Hill BID, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Sister Annunciata Bethell Senior Center, Community Board 7, State Senator Jamaal Bailey, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, Council Member Andrew Cohen, and myself. I am proud of this grassroots effort and it is an important reminder that we hold the power to affect change within each and every person in our community.

Beyond Mosholu Parkway, NYCT President Andy Byford has unveiled a bold and ambitious plan to bring at least 50 additional stations into compliance with ADA requirements over the next five years - ensuring that no straphanger is more than two stations away from an elevator throughout the subway system. I wholeheartedly support this plan, which would be an important step forward from the MTA to ensure that our transit system is usable by everyone. ADA compliance is important not only for those with disabilities, but also

new parents with strollers, people with shopping carts, senior citizens with canes and walkers, and anyone who is temporarily injured. The Bronx has a below average number of accessible stations, and I will continue advocating for transit accessibility for our community.

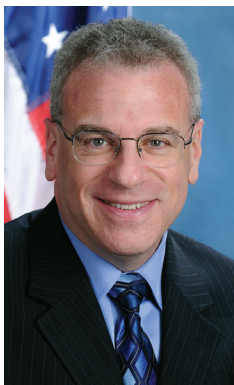
More Construction On Henry Hudson Parkway

After learning from my constituents of a proposal to build an as-of-right residential building on the property 3128 Henry Hudson Parkway East, I met with the architect to discuss the plans and what they mean for the community.

I have several concerns about this proposal, not the least of which being the significant impact it will have on traffic on the Henry Hudson Parkway East service road. This road is frequently used by drivers and a major bus route in the district for the Bx10, Bx20 and express buses. I can personally attest that there is not enough room on the road to pass the buses, and similarly any car that is double parked outside of a building is difficult to pass and can cause significant traffic.

Almost every residential building on the service road has a driveway allowing cars to pull up to the building entrance without blocking traffic flow on the road, however there is currently no plan to build such a driveway for this proposed building. In my opinion, this is a foolhardy move, since the building will not provide parking for every unit, and one can only assume that residents will need to use taxi and car services for pick up, delivery, and various services, without a driveway, this will impact traffic and cause headaches for anyone using the roadway.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
3107 Kingsbridge Avenue • Bronx, NY 10463



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DECEMBER 2018

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Over 300 people attended a town hall meeting in Riverdale on Legislative priorities for the coming year. Pictured on the left with Assemblyman Dinowitz are State Senator elect Alessandra Biaggi, Congressman Eliot Engel, Council Member Andrew Cohen and Moderator Gary Axelbank.



Assemblyman Dinowitz accepting canned food donations for his annual food drive from students and faculty from PS 7.