



# NEWS

June 2018

## From Bill Magnarelli

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### End of Session; Beginning of Summer

Last week, the 2018 Legislative Session ended. Twelve bills which I sponsored were passed by both the Assembly and the Senate, and eleven are currently awaiting Governor Cuomo’s signature. The Governor already signed one of these bills into law earlier this month. I am pleased that we were able to accomplish so much during this year’s session.

As we begin enjoying the summer months, I look forward to all of the community activities which abound. There are festivals planned and important anniversaries to celebrate. The Everson Museum is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and the Landmark Theatre is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We have so many wonderful community assets to enjoy. I am also looking forward to attending other community events in the 129<sup>th</sup> District and meeting with various groups and organizations which make our area great.

*William B. Magnarelli*

### Majority Assembly Members Rally to Stop Separating Migrant Children from Their Families

On Wednesday, June 20, Assemblyman Magnarelli joined his colleagues from the Assembly and Senate at a rally in the Capitol to express opposition to the President’s policy of separating families who have come to our country for asylum at our Southern border. The President’s administration took innocent migrant children from their parents and are holding them in detention facilities. This is an inexcusable effort to use children as political pawns to push regressive immigration policies. The heartless and senseless separation of migrant children from their parents does not represent who we are as a country. Across the board, child welfare experts agree that keeping parents and children together is the best practice for children. The group called on President Trump to rescind this unethical and inhumane policy. That same day, the President signed an Executive Order to keep families together for an indefinite period. We still don’t know what that means. As the sign the Assemblyman held in the rally read, he will continue to advocate that “FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER.”



### Successful Shredding Event



Shredding documents that have sensitive personal information is of the utmost importance when trying to protect your credit and identity from being stolen. This year’s 2018 Shred-O-Rama held at the NYS Fairgrounds on June 2 served 1,387 cars and shredded 57,480 lbs of paper. People who attended the event generously donated \$4,730 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The event was sponsored by Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli and OCRRA. Student Volunteers from Solvay High Athletic Association helped unload cars as part of their community service. Matt Shutts, Athletic Director for Solvay High School, holds a donation from Assemblyman Magnarelli in return for the students’ help at the Shred-O-Rama



## Unpaid Code Fines Added to Tax Bills

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli is pleased to announce the passage of legislation to help the City of Syracuse battle the problem of code violations and blighted properties in our neighborhoods. Assembly bill A.416-A allows the City to add unpaid code fines to an owner's property tax bill to seek payment. Currently, the City must take a property owner to court to enforce the payment of code fines. Combined with the City's new Municipal Violations Bureau, also created via legislation Magnarelli sponsored last year (Chapter 146 of 2017), City officials now have additional tools to combat problem properties and absentee landlords.

"This legislation will give the City of Syracuse another important option for collecting code fines from problem property owners. Repeat code violators will now face the possibility of losing their property if they don't pay up," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. Additionally, this legislation includes safeguards to ensure tenants are protected from an absentee landlord, and owner-occupied homes are excluded from this new enforcement mechanism. "This bill is intended to help the City go after absentee landlords and property owners that let properties decay and become nuisances to the neighborhood," added Assemblyman Magnarelli.

"We are incredibly grateful to Assemblyman Magnarelli for his leadership on this important effort, and urge its support from the Senate and the Governor," said Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh. "This bill helps us to hold property owners accountable for improving the conditions of homes in our City and as a result, contribute towards a better quality of life in our neighborhoods."

"This is great news for the City of Syracuse. Far too often, we just cite code violations without the ability to create real consequences," said Joe Driscoll, Common Councilor, 5th District, who collaborated with Assemblyman Magnarelli to get the bill passed. "This legislation will finally give us the tools to do true code enforcement, and address delinquent properties before they become unmanageable."

"The passage of this bill provides a critical tool in improving the city's most distressed housing stock and correcting code violations that threaten the health and safety of our most vulnerable residents," said Stephanie Pasquale, Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development for the City of Syracuse. "This bill, together with our newly-created Municipal Violations Bureau, goes hand in hand in holding those who ignore health and safety violations more accountable and incentivize compliance from the start."

The bill requires that a code fine be fully adjudicated and remain unpaid for one-year before being eligible to be added to the property tax bill. The accumulated code fines must equal 5% of the property's assessed value to be eligible for inclusion on the tax bill. The legislation includes procedures for a property owner to cure the violations and/or pay the outstanding fines.

The bill has passed both houses and is before the Governor for review.

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## Helping Local Breweries Remain Competitive

Next time you venture into a drinking establishment, notice how many of the cold-beverages being served are products of New York State. New York now is home to over 700 farm wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries; more than 320 are breweries.

One of these is Anheuser-Busch InBev in Baldwinsville, a 370.43 acre site that produces Budweiser, Bud Light and 65 other products – including, but not limited to, Goose Island and Blue Point "craft" beers, Lime-A-Ritas, Spiked Seltzers and non-alcoholic Teavana teas - for the United States and three other countries. The Baldwinsville plant employs more than 400 workers. The company has said that it has helped to create 1,430 jobs in New York and has provided more than \$32 million to the state through state and local taxes.

Since breweries are huge providers of economic benefits to CNY, in an effort to help strengthen this business, New York State recently initiated efforts to reduce the paperwork and other cumbersome requirements breweries face. These potential changes will hopefully foster a business environment which allows these companies to expand and further diversify their products.

In December 2016, Governor Cuomo created legislation to modernize New York's Alcoholic Beverage Control Law by expanding Sunday hours, allowing sales to begin at 10 a.m. instead of noon, and combining craft manufacturing licenses. This legislation also cuts the fees and reduced burdensome paperwork by requiring businesses in need of multiple manufacturing licenses to fill out only one application. Now breweries pay one \$400 filing fee and fill out one 10-page application. This is ideal for applicants combining two or more of the following licenses: farm brewery, micro-brewery, farm cidery, farm winery, micro distillery, micro-rectifier and farm distillery.

Since December, more than 33 manufacturers received a combined license. The State Liquor Authority reports issuing about two licenses per month. Still, more than 104 current craft beverage manufacturers have not taken advantage of this combined license.

Furthering this effort, I have sponsored legislation this year that would remove the bureaucratic "Red Tape" from the beer label registration process. The legislation, A996B, streamlines the process by permitting brand label registration applicants to submit their processing fee electronically, which reduces the 30-day waiting period to seven business days for approval by the New York State Liquor Authority for brand name labels that have already been approved by the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. The bill passed both the Assembly and Senate, and now goes to the Governor for review. If signed into law, both large and small breweries would be able to offer new products in a quicker time frame to better compete in the growing beer industry.

As breweries become more competitive, New York is focused on making the state's policies both business friendly and efficient. Cheers!



## 2018 Session Interns

2018 Assembly Session Intern, Kendall Cooper, from Liverpool, NY, assisted Assemblyman Magnarelli and his staff with Local Government Committee matters as well as day to day administrative duties. She is a junior at Syracuse University, where she studies Political Science.

Sean Lockhart of Highland, NY served as Assemblyman Magnarelli's Graduate Scholar for the 2018 session, assisting with legislative research for the Assemblyman and the Committee on Local Governments. Sean is a 2017 graduate of the John Jay School of Criminal Justice with a Masters of Public Administration and has undergraduate degrees from SUNY New Paltz and Dutchess County Community College. Sean is also an 11 year veteran of the NY Army National Guard.

Assemblyman Magnarelli with Session Intern Kendall Cooper.



## Youth of the Year Competitor

Dhawaf Noor Ahmed represented the City of Syracuse at the Boys and Girls Club of America New York State Youth of the Year Competition in Albany. Ahmed volunteers at the Syracuse Boys and Girls Club. He was honored for his volunteer work at the club.

Assemblyman Magnarelli presented Dhawaf Noor Ahmed with a citation at his Syracuse District Office.



## Local Professor's Composition Moves Toward Being the Official State Hymn of Remembrance

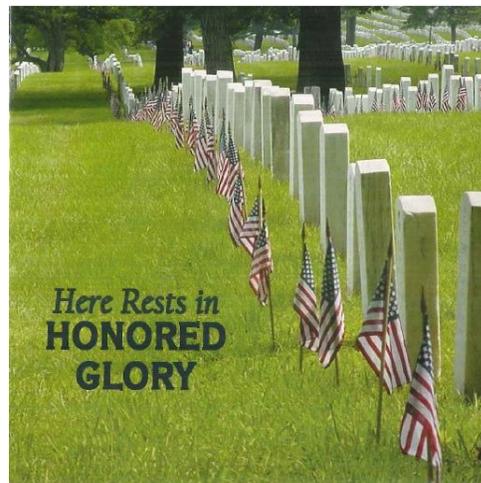
On June 14, Flag Day, Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli was pleased to announce that the NYS Assembly passed bill A.8704-A designating the hymn "Here Rests in Honored Glory" as the Official State Hymn of Remembrance for all American Veterans. The hymn was composed by former OCC Professor Emeritus, Dr. Donald Miller and has been played in memory of our service men and women at events and ceremonies across the world.

"I was pleased to sponsor this legislation in honor of our veterans and military," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. "Dr. Miller's moving composition is a fitting tribute to those that served and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

OCC President Dr. Casey E. Crabill said, "On behalf of the entire OCC Campus Community and most especially OCC Professor Emeritus, Dr. Donald B. Miller whose outstanding talents created such a revered tribute to our Nation's fallen veterans, we express heartfelt appreciation to Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, for his sponsorship and dedicated efforts along with the entire Assembly to proclaim 'Here Rests in Honored Glory' as the official New York State Hymn of Remembrance. It has been the leadership of Assemblyman Magnarelli, widely known for his dedication to our military and host of the annual CNY Veterans Parade and Expo, which has resulted in the Hymn proclaimed today...on such an important day as our Nation's Flag Day."

For 31 years, Dr. Donald Miller served as Professor of Music at Onondaga Community College, and is now Professor Emeritus. Dr. Miller has over one hundred thirty published pieces of music ranging from choral works to two separate ensemble series. His choral work, "Here Rests in Honored Glory" received the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge George Washington Medal of Honor award in the fall of 2009. "Here Rests in Honored Glory" is played annually on June 6th during the Ceremonies recognizing the Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion at the Normandy Museum, France. Dr. Miller received a medal from the Normandy Museum which was given to all Heads of State that commemorated the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in 2014. Dr. Miller generously donated the original score of "Here Rests in Honored Glory", and the medals received for the work to Onondaga Community College.

The legislation passed both houses and now goes to the Governor for approval.



### About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. During his terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.