

Assemblymember

DAVID I. WEPRIN



Reports to the Community

Winter 2019

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,

Winter is once again upon us and the temperatures are dropping. It is important to stay warm during the upcoming months. According to New York City law, heat must be provided in residential buildings between October 1st and May 31st. When going outdoors, be sure to layer clothing, stay hydrated, and avoid wet or icy conditions. The holiday season is also just around the corner and I would like to wish everyone in the district happy holidays.

This past year's legislative session was the most productive in our State's history and I am excited about the prospects for the upcoming session which will begin on January 8, 2020. Thanks to all your comments and feedback we will undoubtedly be able to make New York fairer and more equitable. As always, it continues to be my pleasure to represent District 24 and advocate on your behalf in our State Capital of Albany.

If you have any questions or concerns about legislation or any other issue that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to call my Fresh Meadows or Richmond Hill offices at 718-454-3027 or 718-805-2381 or email me at weprind@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely Yours,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

WTC Responders Bill Signed by Governor Cuomo



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo Signs A8278 alongside Assemblyman David I. Weprin, Senators Andrew Gounardes, James Gaughran & Joseph P. Addabbo and Assemblymembers Peter J. Abbate Jr., Stacey Pheffer Amato & Karines Reyes, as well as Patrick Lynch, President of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and the family of the late Det. Luis Alvarez.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed Assemblymember David I. Weprin's bill, A8278C, guaranteeing civilian public employees who aided in 9/11 recovery efforts the same 75% disability benefit coverage as uniformed responders. The bill eliminates a previously unjust disparity in coverage and will impact hundreds to thousands of employees suffering from debilitating illnesses. The signing took place at the Governor's 7th annual 9/11 motorcycle ride and ceremony in the Jacob K. Javits Center. Previously, if these workers were unable to work due to an illness, they would only be able to receive a 1/3 disability benefit resulting in extreme hardships for them and their families.

Hearing Aid Bill Signed by Governor Cuomo



Assemblyman Weprin delivers remarks in the Assembly Chamber.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed Assemblymember David I. Weprin's bill, A4000, into law preventing the New York City Police Department (NYPD) from forcing its members who require hearing assistance devices to retire, into law on Friday. The legislation amends the administrative code of the city of New York to exclude members of the police force who use hearing aids from the definition of disabled and prevents NYPD personnel who can perform their duties from unjustly being terminated. The legislation was initially inspired by Deputy Inspector Dan Carione, who was forced into retirement after the NYPD began implementing a ban on hearing aids for existing officers in 2009.

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Assemblyman Weprin in the community

Raising Awareness About Domestic Violence



Assemblyman Weprin stands with Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik, Community Board 8 District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, and the Shalom Task Force in Fresh Meadows.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin joined Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik, Community Board 8 District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, and the Shalom Task Force to distribute information about domestic violence in observance of Go Purple Day at Union Turnpike and 188th Street in Fresh Meadows. Domestic violence commonly involves violence or abuse between intimate partners or family members and purple is the symbolic color of domestic violence awareness. Each year, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence hosts many informational events on Go Purple Day which occurs during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Opposing Medicaid Cuts



Assemblyman Weprin stands with Senator Leroy Comrie, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, members of 1199SEIU, and staff members of the Hillside Manor Rehabilitation and Extended Care Facility.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin joined 1199 SEIU, Senator Leroy Comrie, and Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, and Council Member Barry Grodenchik to protect local nursing homes and oppose Medicaid funding cuts at the Hillside Manor Rehabilitation and Extended Care Facility and Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation. The New York State Department of Health proposed a \$250 million cut to the Medicaid Case Mix index rate. This will result in a significant cut in Medicaid reimbursements for nursing home providers and reduce the quality of care patients receive. If the cuts go into effect, they will affect over 600 certified nursing facilities in the state.

Honoring Rabbi Bovit



Assemblyman David I. Weprin presents a proclamation to Rabbi Menashe Bovit, alongside Senator John C. Liu and Barry S. Grodenchik at the Bellerose Jewish Center.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin presented a proclamation to Rabbi Menashe Bovit, alongside Senator John C. Liu and Barry S. Grodenchik, for 10 years of service to the Bellerose Jewish Center. The Bellerose Jewish Center has been serving Eastern Queens for nearly 60 years and Rabbi Menashe Bovit has been an important fixture in the community. He was born in Chicago and his father was a Holocaust survivor. He studied across the country and brings a wealth of experience to the Bellerose Jewish Center.

Queens Veterans Day Parade



Assemblyman Weprin gives a tribute to local veterans at Christ the King High School in Middle Village.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin marched in the Queens Veterans Day Parade in Middle Village to honor the service of local veterans. Each Veterans Day we acknowledge the services of those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The grand marshals of this year's parade included WWII veterans Arthur Grabiner and Vincent DeMartino.

Weprin & Hochul Tour Alphapointe Employment Facility for the Visually Impaired



Assemblyman David I. Weprin, Scott Thornhill, Alphapointe Senior Manager of Public Policy, Reinhard Mabry, Alphapointe President & CEO, and workers stand with Lieutenant Governor Kathleen C. Hochul as she presents a proclamation.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin and Lieutenant Governor Kathleen C. Hochul toured the Alphapointe organization's renovated headquarters on 123rd Street in Richmond Hill in October. The facility employs about 200 visually impaired or blind workers and is one of the largest employers of legally blind individuals in New York. At the end of the tour, the Lieutenant Governor presented the organization with a proclamation for their efforts to train and employ workers who face high unemployment prospects. Alphapointe was founded as a non-profit in Kansas City, Missouri in 1911 and first located in Richmond Hill in 2017.

Assemblyman Weprin in the community

OATH Pop Up Court



Rachel B. Amar, OATH's Special Assistant to the Commissioner, John Castelli, Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Affairs, Assemblyman David I. Weprin, Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik, Abdullah Zahid, Hollis Library Manager, and Marisa Senigo, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs announce a neighborhood pop up court at the Hollis Library.



New York State Assembly Member David Weprin, New York City Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik and officials from the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) hosted a Neighborhood Pop-Up Court for City-issued summonses at the Hollis library branch. Through this initiative OATH travels to neighborhoods across the five boroughs to conduct hearings directly in the community at Community Boards, libraries, offices of elected officials and other civic organizations in an effort to increase response rates to City-issued summonses by making it more convenient for people to access justice at the City's administrative law court.

The program is focused on areas that are so-called "transportation deserts" or are far away from where OATH borough hearing offices are located.

Michael Simanowitz 5K



Assemblyman Weprin joined Assemblymembers Daniel Rosenthal and Michael Cusick, Jennifer Simanowitz, and Josh Simanowitz to pay tribute to Hon. Michael Simanowitz.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin attended the Yeshiva of Central Queens' annual 5k run in honor of former colleague and friend Hon. Michael Simanowitz. Assemblyman Simanowitz represented the neighboring 27th Assembly District and passed away in 2017. Assemblyman Weprin joined Assemblymembers Daniel Rosenthal and Michael Cusick, his wife Jennifer Simanowitz, and son Josh Simanowitz in Flushing Meadows Corona Park to pay tribute to him.

High Holiday Food Distribution



Assemblyman Weprin joined Yaniv Meirov of Chazaq and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty to distribute Kosher food in Kew Gardens Hills.

Assemblyman Weprin joined the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and Chazaq to distribute kosher food to people in need before the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Weprin participated at food distributions at Chazaq in Kew Gardens Hills and the Central Queens Y. Over the past 40 years the Met Council has helped over 225,000 New Yorkers.

Celebrating Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab



Assemblyman David I. Weprin joins staff member Harpreet Singh Toor and the Sikh community in Richmond Hill.)

Celebrating Diwali

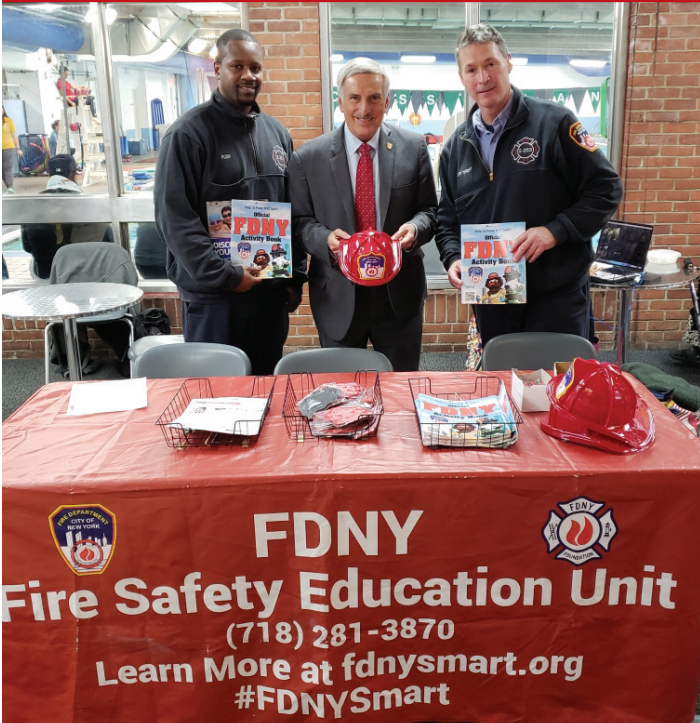


Assemblyman Weprin stands with Council Members Rory Lancman, Donovan Richards, and Costa Constantinides, and community members in the City Council Chambers.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin joined Council Members Rory Lancman, Donovan Richards, and Costa Constantinides, and community members to celebrate Diwali at City Hall. Weprin also stopped in at celebrations at Queens Borough Hall, Elmhurst Hospital, and Gracie Mansion. The holiday is known as the festival of lights and lasts five days. It symbolizes the spiritual victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

Assemblyman Weprin in the community

Promoting Fire Safety



Assemblyman David I. Weprin stands with Firefighter Christopher Pugh and Captain Jim Tierney at the Cross Island YMCA.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin joined Firefighter Christopher Pugh from Engine 309 and Captain Jim Tierney from Engine 253 at the Cross Island YMCA for a Change Your Clocks, Change Your Battery event where they distributed fire safety literature and 9-volt batteries to constituents. Each year in conjunction with the beginning and end of Daylight Saving Time, the FDNY recommends that residents change the batteries and test their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.



Assemblyman **David Weprin** and **Irwin Altman Middle School 172**
are sponsoring a

Holiday Toy Drive

**Honoring the Memory of Jason Mark Weinstein,
son of the Honorable Jeremy S. Weinstein,
Former Administrative Judge, Supreme Court of Queens County**

To benefit the children of HeartShare Human Services of New York,
as well as additional children's programs throughout Richmond Hill

Please bring a new or gently used unwrapped toy, book or game suitable for children ages 12 and under to Assemblyman Weprin's:

Fresh Meadows District Office
185-06 Union Turnpike
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366
718-454-3027

or

Richmond Hill District Office
111-12 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 5
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
718-805-2381

*All donations must be received by
December 20th*

Please keep in mind, a portion of these donations will be going to children with special needs, ages 5 and under.



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Seniors Pet Pups at Therapy Dog Event



Assemblyman David I. Weprin stands with the therapy dogs and their handlers.

Assemblyman David I. Weprin partnered with New York Therapy Animals to bring four trained therapy dogs to the SNAP Innovative Senior Center in Queens Village where dozens of seniors enjoyed their companionship. Pet therapy is a relatively new practice that uses dogs or other animals to support healing and this was the first event of its kind to be sponsored by Assemblyman Weprin. Just a few minutes with a therapy animal can help seniors cope with mental and physical health issues including anxiety, isolation, and recovery from cardiac diseases and cancer treatments. New York Therapy Animals has extensive experience serving seniors in hospitals, nursing homes, and rehab facilities but also serves all age groups. Their dogs and handlers complete 7 weeks of training and education to become licensed and insured therapy animal teams.