



Reports to the Community

Winter 2024

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows, 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



Friend,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to wish you a happy holiday season and joyous festivities with friends and family.

The 2024 Legislative Session concluded in June, but since then Governor Kathy Hochul has been considering all the bills that passed both houses. I'm pleased to report that 7 of my bills have been signed into law, along with another 31 additional bills that I've co-sponsored. We are already meeting with community groups and advocacy organizations to prepare priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session. As the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Insurance, I am committed to fighting fraud, ensuring market stability, and broadening coverage while bringing costs down for policyholders. We are facing many challenges - both statewide and at the city level - and we will be entering a new presidential administration. It is incumbent upon us to find ways to work with the new administration for the benefit of all New Yorkers, and I look forward to finding common ground and productive solutions.

I've been privileged to join communities throughout the 24th Assembly District for celebrations and commemorations. I look forward to continuing to share in these important moments and milestones as we welcome the holiday season.

My staff and I are ready to assist you should you have any concerns, issues, or questions. Both of my District Offices - located at 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows and 111-12 Atlantic Avenue #5 in Richmond Hill - are open 5 days a week from 9am to 5pm. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us by phone, mail, email, or an in-person visit. You can call the Fresh Meadows District Office at 718-454-3027 and the Richmond Hill District Office at 718-805-2381. Email my office at weprind@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

Resilience & Flood Prevention

This year we observed the third anniversary of Hurricane Ida, remembering the lives lost and the terrible damage the storm caused. I'm pleased to report that the NYC Department of Environmental Protection has invested \$1.2 billion in anti-stormwater flooding projects and strategies to fortify communities against climate change. I joined the DEP for one of their Flood Preparedness Town Halls in Jamaica, which was an informative presentation that included a Q&A session and the distribution of 200 flood preparedness kits to attendees. In September we celebrated the completion of two flood mitigation projects in Eastern Queens: the conversion of three acres of concrete medians in Queens Village into a system that can collectively manage 5 million gallons of stormwater, and an innovative porous pavement project in Jamaica Estates. While there is no single solution to these extreme weather events, we are deploying multiple strategies that can prevent or offset damage to our homes and neighborhoods. I will continue to work with my partners in Albany and at the city level to ensure that our communities are protected from these extreme weather events.



NYC DEP Queens Borough Commissioner Alfonso Lopez, Assemblyman David Weprin, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Queens Community Board 8 Chairperson Martha Taylor, and City Council Member James F. Gennaro



Assemblyman Weprin joins Mayor Eric Adams, NYC DEP Commissioner Rohit T. "Rit" Aggarwala, local community leaders, and DEP staff

Back to School Giveaway

I partnered with Metro Health Plus in distributing backpacks and school supplies to families in need. Seeing the smiles on children's faces as they received their brand-new supplies was incredibly rewarding. Each backpack and notebook represent not just tools for learning but a boost of confidence and excitement for the school year ahead. By coming together to support students, we're helping to build a brighter future for them and our entire community.



Assemblyman Weprin with leaders from the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Maka Services Corp, Save The People, the American Debate League, and the Sikh Cultural Society

Rosh Hashanah Food Pantry

I gathered with community leaders and the Met Council at Tomchei Shabbos of Queens to mark Rosh Hashanah - the start of the Jewish New Year. Over 13,000 pounds of food were distributed from this single site, going to needy families during the High Holidays. I'm proud to partner with and support both the Met Council and TSQ, and I look forward to boosting the great work that these and other mutual aid organizations deliver.



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Judge Cassandra Johnson, Senator Leroy Comrie, Met Council Managing Director Aaron Cyperstein, Assemblyman Weprin, President of Tomchei Shabbos of Queens Shimi Pelman, Executive Director Queens Jewish Community Council Mayer Waxman, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, and City Council Member James F. Gennaro

Turkey Giveaway with MetroPlus Health & APAG

I partnered with MetroPlus Health to host a turkey giveaway in front of my office in Richmond Hill, an incredibly rewarding experience that brought joy to many families unable to secure a turkey for Thanksgiving. The event was a chance to give back to the community and ensure everyone could enjoy a warm, traditional holiday meal despite the challenges they face. I also had the privilege of attending the American



Assemblyman David Weprin and APAG Cares President Ali Rashid



Assemblyman David Weprin with District Leader Rhonda Binda

Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares) 5th Annual Halal Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway, also held in Richmond Hill. Ali Rashid and his dedicated team did an outstanding job organizing the event, ensuring that families in need had access to Halal-certified turkeys. To further support the community, their care packages included essentials like rice, canned goods, and warm beverages, making the distribution even more meaningful. Seeing the gratitude of those we served was heartwarming, and it reinforced the importance of fostering inclusivity and togetherness. It was a powerful reminder that even small efforts can make a big difference, especially during the harsh cold weather.



NO to City of Yes!

I stood alongside my colleagues in government and local community leaders to oppose the "City of Yes" proposal. For months, I have listened to the overwhelming concerns from Community Boards, Civic Associations, the Queens Civic Congress, and countless New Yorkers. This proposal would bring a host of new challenges that threaten to fundamentally alter the character of our neighborhoods. Our communities already struggle with inadequate transit options – limited bus and subway services are barely meeting current demand. Adding housing beyond what our infrastructure can support risks pushing these systems to a breaking point. I still have deep concerns about this measure's implementation, and I greatly appreciate the Council Members who voted against it.

Celebrating the Grand Ratha Yatra

I was a guest at the Grand Procession of Lord Ganesha, hosted by The Hindu Temple Society of North America. This incredible event, marking the grand finale of the temple's largest annual festival, celebrated Lord Ganesha in a magnificent silver chariot adorned for the occasion. Together with thousands of devotees, I joined the procession through the streets, immersed in joyful devotion. We chanted prayers, sang, danced to the beat of traditional drums, and pulled the chariot with ropes, creating an unforgettable atmosphere of unity and reverence. It was a profound experience, showcasing the beauty of community, tradition, and faith.



Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and Assemblyman David Weprin march with a Pandit

Marching in the Sikh Parade



Assemblyman David Weprin stands with the committee members and former President Bhupinder Singh Boparai of Gurudwara Sikh Cultural Society

I had the pleasure of attending this year's Nagar Kirtan in Richmond Hill. This vibrant celebration took place on Sunday, September 1st and commemorated the Sikh holy book the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. I always feel privileged to join our thriving Sikh community and I was proud to be named a guest of honor for the procession.

Celebrating Diwali in the Community



Dr. Neeta Jain, Council Members Shekar Krishnan, Lynn Schulman, Linda Lee, Sandra Ung, James Gennaro, Assemblyman David Weprin, and Guruji H.H. Dileepkumar Thankappan

I was pleased to attend multiple Diwali celebrations this year, including one in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most significant celebrations in India and among Indian communities worldwide. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance - themes that are common to many faiths. I'm proud to have sponsored and co-sponsored legislation throughout my career in both the City Council and the New York State Assembly to boost recognition of Diwali. This year marked the first day off from school for students in New York City to observe Diwali.

Scooter Presser & DOT Community Engagement Forum

One of the pressing issues in our neighborhoods this year has been the unchecked proliferation of e-scooters, which are cluttering streets and sidewalks. While the concept initially held promise, its poor implementation has created significant challenges, including a lack of proper arrangements and safety measures. The high speeds at which these scooters operate on sidewalks have introduced new risks, endangering pedestrians as they exit buildings. I stood alongside Council Member Gennaro at a community press conference in front of the Hillcrest Jewish Center to advocate for ending the e-scooter program in Council District 24. We also expressed deep frustration with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its refusal to participate in town hall discussions with our office to address these concerns.



NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and Assemblyman David Weprin



Council Member James Gennaro, Assemblyman David Weprin, Assemblyman Sam Berger, Queens Community Board 8 Chairperson Martha Taylor, and Council Member Sandra Ung

Queens Public Library Reopening Ceremony at Hillcrest Branch



Assemblyman David Weprin, Queens Community Board 8 District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8 Chairperson Martha Taylor, Dennis Walcott, Senator John Liu, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, and Council Member James Gennaro

We were thrilled to welcome Dennis M. Walcott, Queens Public Library President and CEO, to celebrate the grand reopening of our beloved Hillcrest Branch. This newly renovated space is now more than just a place for books; it's a welcoming hub for learning, connection, and inspiration for the entire community. I'm happy to announce that the library will be hosting new events such as Adult Coloring, Painting, and Grant Learning Basics. Libraries are the heart of every community, offering endless resources and a haven for curiosity and discovery. Here's to a new chapter for our library and to the countless stories, discoveries, and memories that will be created in this beautiful space!

Alfie's Pizza 50th Anniversary Block Party



Assemblyman David Weprin with Rossella Muto and Luigi Muto

I attended Alfie's Pizza's 50th Anniversary Block Party, and it was nothing short of magical. For five decades, Alfie's has been a cherished cornerstone of the Richmond Hill community and has built a reputation for not only serving incredible food but also fostering connections that make their customers feel right at home. The celebration was lively and full of joy, bringing generations of loyal customers for a day of fun and games, burgers, hotdogs and, of course, Alfie's signature pizza. Here's to another 50 years of continued success, delicious food, and the unwavering community spirit that makes them truly special!

West Indian Day Parade with Governor Hochul

I was thrilled to join the 57th annual West Indian Day Parade celebration on Brooklyn’s Eastern Parkway, a showcase of Caribbean diversity, pride, heritage, and culture. The parade dazzled us with vibrant colors and intricate costumes, feathers, and beads shimmering as dancers moved to the rhythms of soca, reggae, calypso, and dancehall, each reflecting the energy and passion of Caribbean life. The energy was infectious, with spectators swaying to the beats and cheering for performers. Flags of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana and more waved high, symbolizing unique identities brought together in unity. The electrifying performances, rich flavors, and kaleidoscope of colors embody the spirit of the Caribbean, proud, passionate, and full of life.



No to Congestion Pricing!

I held a press conference at my District Office in Fresh Meadows to firmly oppose congestion pricing. I have been advocating against this program since its initial proposal by Mayor Bloomberg in 2007 and called for its permanent cancellation during the pause implemented by Governor Hochul. Congestion pricing disproportionately harms lower-income New Yorkers who rely on their vehicles for commuting or daily needs and places a significant financial strain on small businesses across the city. The MTA’s ongoing failures to provide accessible transit services, especially for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with health issues, all highlight critical flaws in the system. Despite years of promises, these issues have not been addressed, leaving vulnerable communities with limited alternatives to driving. Adding to the already high cost of living in New York City, this program would further burden families who are already struggling to make ends meet.



Director of Metro Region Operations for the Trucking Association of New York Zach Miller, Queens Community Board 8 Chairperson Martha Taylor, Assemblyman David Weprin, and Queens Civic Congress President Warren Schreiber

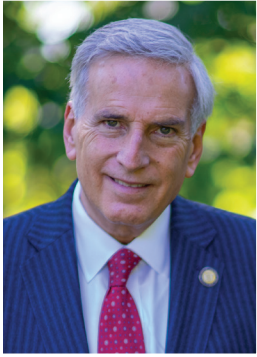
Indian Home Gala

I attended the annual Indian Home Gala at Terrace on The Park, where Speaker of the New York City Council Adrienne Adams was honored. The event celebrated another impactful year of addressing the needs of South Asian senior immigrants. It was a remarkable evening filled with inspiring stories, delicious cuisine, live dance performances, and fundraising for the hub serving South Asian seniors in Queens. The dedicated team behind the Indian Home Gala has brought joy to the lives of hundreds of South Asian seniors through their unwavering efforts in fostering happiness, connection, and a sense of belonging within the community while also providing social, psychological, recreational, and spiritual services in a culturally sensitive environment. It was an honor to be part of such a meaningful celebration.



Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, India Home Vice President Dr. Amit Sood, Assemblyman David Weprin, India Home Board President Mukund Mehta

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember
DAVID I. WEPRIN

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Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Lou Carnesecca

I was deeply saddened by the passing of Luigi “Lou” Carnesecca, a legendary coach and ambassador for the sport of basketball. I was honored to represent Lou in the New York State Assembly, and I recently signed a proclamation honoring his legacy. Lou was a tireless advocate for the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and education, inspiring generations of young people to pursue excellence not only in sports but also in life. He earned the respect and admiration of his peers, players, and fans alike, and I was honored to represent him in the New York State Assembly. My late father, Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin, welcomed Lou to Albany many times to a hero’s reception. I will always cherish my memories of Lou and this photograph of us together. May his memory be for a blessing.



David Weprin, Coach Luigi “Lou” Carnesecca, and then-Speaker Saul Weprin