

Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein held a Little Bay Park Beach Cleanup with assistance from Boy Scout Troop 268, Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association, and the Northwest Bayside Civic Association. The cleanup removed over 100 bags of garbage from Little Bay Park.



Assemblyman Braunstein provided a \$125,000 grant to the Whitestone Community Volunteer Ambulance Service (WVAS) for a new ambulance. Assemblyman Braunstein received a plaque from WVAS Captain Charles J. Silverstein and Vice President Peter Oliveri, Sr. in honor of the arrival of the new ambulance.



Congratulations to the winners of Assemblyman Braunstein's Annual Mother's Day Essay Contest. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured (L-R) with Isabella Lorenzana of PS 169, Dominic Moller of PS 184, Lexie Wu of PS 203, and Alessandra Sullivan of Holy Trinity Catholic Academy.



Assemblyman Braunstein marched in the Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan, the world's largest public event celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary.

Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

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Assemblyman Braunstein Announces Assembly Passage of Gun Safety Legislation

Assembly pushes to create extreme risk protection orders

Assemblyman Braunstein announced that the Assembly once again passed legislation he supported to establish an “extreme risk protection order” to help keep guns out of the hands of people demonstrating a serious threat to themselves or others. These orders would help prevent gun violence, including mass shootings, domestic violence homicides and gun suicides, Assemblyman Braunstein noted. Unfortunately, despite overwhelming public support for this commonsense measure, the State Senate has refused to bring it to the floor for a vote.

The Assembly passed a version of the bill in March, but has since strengthened the legislation by adding school officials to the list of individuals who can petition for an order, recognizing that teachers and counselors are on the front lines and are often among the first people to see the warning signs that lead to school shootings.

“All too frequently, disturbed individuals use guns to take innocent lives,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “We need to be taking real action to combat this growing problem. One of the most significant steps we can take is making sure that people who exhibit clear warning signs do not have access to guns.”

The legislation gives courts the ability to issue a restraining order, known as

an “extreme risk protection order,” prohibiting a person who exhibits serious signs of being a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm for up to one year. The petitioner, who could be a family member, school official or law enforcement officer, would be required to file a sworn application describing the circumstances and justification for the request. Following a hearing, the court could grant the order if there is reasonable cause to believe the individual in question is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to themselves or others. In emergency circumstances, the court could also issue a temporary order restricting access to firearms pending a final hearing.

There are frequently red flags for gun violence. The authorities were warned the Parkland shooter was amassing weapons

with the intent to attack a school. In fact, research shows that 42 percent of mass shooters between 2009 and 2016 exhibited warning signs. A law in Connecticut that allows courts to remove guns from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others resulted in a nearly 14 percent reduction in firearm suicides.

“Too many lives have been lost to gun violence,” Assemblyman Braunstein said. “Thoughts and prayers will never be enough – they will not bring victims back and they will not keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. This legislation is an important step toward protecting New Yorkers.”

Assemblyman Braunstein also passed these commonsense measures to prevent and reduce gun violence in New York and will keep fighting to make them law.

- ✓ Ban the possession, manufacture and sale of bump stocks
- ✓ Establish a longer waiting period to ensure more thorough background checks



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the 49th Annual Udalls Cove Preservation Committee Meeting & Wetlands Cleanup.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the Annual Kiwanis Veterans Picnic at the NYS Veterans' Home at St. Albans.

Assemblyman Braunstein Opposes Elimination of SHSAT

Assemblyman Braunstein announced his opposition to legislation supported by Mayor de Blasio which would eliminate the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT).

“I strongly disagree with the Mayor’s proposal to change the admissions standards for specialized high schools, including eliminating the SHSAT,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “A change of this magnitude to our education system should not have been introduced at the end of the legislative session without a public hearing and input from the stakeholders who would be greatly affected by this proposal. That’s why I fought along with my colleagues in the Assembly Asian Pacific American Task Force to block the passage of the proposed legislation eliminating the SHSAT.”

“While more needs to be done to increase diversity in specialized high schools, it should begin with a more robust effort to provide students in underrepresented communities with the assistance they need to gain admission,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “The Department of Education must increase efforts to educate families about the admissions process to specialized high schools, as well as expand the availability of free or low-cost test prep classes. Additionally, the Mayor’s proposal to limit the number of seats available at specialized high schools for private school students is arbitrary and unfair to thousands of taxpayer families in New York City.”



Nearly 200 Seniors Attend Assemblyman Braunstein’s Senior Health & Wellness Forum

On June 27, 2018, Assemblyman Braunstein hosted a Senior Health and Wellness Forum at the Samuel Field Y in Little Neck.

Nearly 200 people attended Assemblyman Braunstein’s forum, which included a free lunch, and featured as guest speaker elder law attorney Ann-Margaret Carrozza. In addition, participants at the forum included Kinray, a Cardinal Health Company; Little-Neck Douglaston Community Ambulance Corps; Northwell Health’s Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine; NY Connects; NYC Department of Finance; Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation; and Paul David Russell from Boy Scout Troop 153. The New York State Dental Foundation provided free dental hygiene products for the attendees.



Assemblyman Braunstein Provides Benefits Assistance for Seniors

Assemblyman Braunstein, in partnership with Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc., is offering benefits and entitlements counseling to persons 60 years of age and older, including help with EPIC, Food Stamps, HEAP, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, SCHE, and SCRIE. Please call Assemblyman Braunstein’s office at **718-357-3588** if you would like to schedule an appointment with a case worker.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the 91st Annual Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade.



Assemblyman Braunstein donated blood at his office’s 6th Annual Summer Blood Drive at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center. Over 100 donors participated at the drive, which was held in conjunction with the New York Blood Center.

Dear Neighbor:

This newsletter highlights the actions I have been taking in our district and in Albany on behalf of our community. If you would like to sign up for my email list to receive more frequent updates, please email me at braunsteine@nyassembly.gov.

As always, my office is available to assist you. If you are having trouble with state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. My staff and I are always here to help you obtain benefits, provide information on government programs, and develop legislative solutions to community problems.



Edward C. Braunstein
Member of Assembly, 26th District

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Assemblyman
**Edward C.
Braunstein**
Reports to the People

Summer 2018



Assemblyman Braunstein joined over 200 residents at a rally against a proposed out of character four-story, 18-unit building in Bay Terrace.



Assemblyman Braunstein recently allocated nearly \$2 million to public schools in his district. Each school will receive \$75,000 for technology, such as computers and security cameras. Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured reading to students at PS 32's "Activate Our Garden" event.