



Assemblymember  
**Robert C. Carroll**  
Assembly District 44

**March 22, 2019**

Greetings –

I was in Albany for most of this week for legislative session and conference meetings on budget topics and am going back up this weekend and will remain there until the budget is passed, hopefully by the deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. I want to thank everyone who attended my second town hall on the budget last night at PS 10 as well as the one we held last month at PS 139. There are many important issues within the budget, but one that came up last night and that many of you have emailed me about is campaign finance reform at the state level. As a long-time supporter of a public financing system that would prioritize people over moneyed interests, I was glad to participate in the New York State Senate hearing this past Wednesday in Albany.

[View my exchange with the NYC CFB here:](#)



I look forward to working on this issue over the next two weeks so that we can implement a system as soon as possible. And if we don't successfully get it into the budget, I will continue to work until we are able to pass a public financing bill through both the Assembly and Senate.

[Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany:](#)

I was glad to join my colleague Jo Anne Simon's 4th Annual Dyslexia Awareness day in Albany last week. It was great to share my story of being dyslexic with so many parents, students and advocates from around the state and talk about how important it is for New York State to universally screen all K and 1st Graders for dyslexia and to ensure that teachers are trained in multi-sensory sequential phonics so that all of our children (including kids like me) can become fluent readers.

[Hear my story here:](#)



Join the 2,000+ who have signed my petition for funding here: [robertcarroll.nyc/dyslexia](http://robertcarroll.nyc/dyslexia)

In case you missed it, The Albany Times Union published my op-ed last Friday on this topic.

[Click here to read the full op-ed:](#)



### **Life Saving Speed Camera Legislation Passes Assembly and Senate:**

I was proud to co-sponsor legislation that passed this week in both the Assembly and Senate to expand the use of speed cameras to 750 school zones in New York City ([A.6449](#)). The cameras will operate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and the city will be required to install signs giving notice that a speed camera is in use.

This bill will save lives. I specifically want to acknowledge Assemblymember Deborah Glick and my Senate colleague from Brooklyn, Andrew Gounardes, for their leadership on this issue.

### **Standing Against Hate**

I joined a host of elected officials and leaders of all faiths to stand against hate in response to the heinous atrocity that killed 49 Muslims in New Zealand last week. These tragedies and terrorist acts should shock all New Yorkers. [New Yorkers from all backgrounds of religion, ethnicity and race must always continue to stand up against hatred in our own country and abroad.](#)



*Photo by John Wright*

### **Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade – Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone who joined me and the Brooklyn Irish LGBTQ Organization (BILO) this past weekend to march in the Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade and to everyone who came out to watch the parade and cheer us on. BILO was the first LGBTQ group to march in the parade's 44 year history. [Please read the piece in BKLYNER which did a terrific job covering the parade on a truly historic day for our neighborhoods.](#) Because my Grandfather helped found this parade in 1976 to celebrate the American Bicentennial and the contributions of the Irish and Irish Americans to Brooklyn and our country, I felt a particular responsibility to right this wrong.



That's me (w/tan sash) as a 6 year old marching with Buckley School of Irish Dance, whose leader, Bernadette Buckley Kash was the Grand Marshal of the Parade this year. So again I want to thank Lisa Fane and Matt McMorrow and all the membership of BILO for working with me on this for the past 2 years and the Irish American Parade Committee for allowing this parade to be truly inclusive for all!

### **Open Letter to Queens Protestors**

A city council member from Queens chose to bring dozens of people to stand in front of NYC Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks' home on Sherman Street in Windsor Terrace on Monday to protest the siting of a homeless shelter in Queens. Councilmember Brad Lander and I sent a letter on Monday to share our view. It's posted below:



March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Queens Neighbors,

We are the local elected officials representing NYC Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks, whose home you are protesting at this evening.

We treasure the First Amendment in this neighborhood, so we value your right to protest. And we share your sorrow that homeless shelters are necessary in our city. No one wants to stay in a shelter. Everyone would rather have a safe, decent, permanent, affordable home to live in.

We have seen new shelters open in our neighborhoods as well, and we know that it will be necessary for the City to open more. We don't generally celebrate their opening, since it is a symbol of the homelessness crisis in our city.

There is no doubt that the efforts of the de Blasio Administration have been far from perfect. They have not done enough to provide pathways to permanent housing for homeless New Yorkers, or to preserve and strengthen NYCHA. We have criticized the Administration's efforts on many occasions.

However, we don't protest outside the home of our neighbor for doing his job to provide everyone in our city with a place a warm place to spend the night, to get connected to services, and to get on the road to a permanent home.

Few people have given more of their lives to supporting homeless New Yorkers on their path to stability than Steve Banks. As a Legal Aid lawyer, he led the effort to make sure that we would provide a right-to-shelter for all New Yorkers, so that none of our neighbors would have to sleep on the street. As a public servant for the past five years, he has worked diligently to make our city live up to that obligation.

This has not made him popular in many neighborhoods, since those shelters have been sited all across the city. You are free, of course, to disagree with him about the location of a shelter, as other New Yorkers have. But you can be sure he is not doing this for glory, or for joy, or for profit. He is doing it because he believes we must find a way to live up to our obligation as a city.

Here in his neighborhood, we do not vilify Steve Banks. We honor him, and his hard work to extend compassion, opportunity, and a place to spend the night to all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Robert Carroll  
New York State Assembly

Brad Lander  
New York City Council

### **Next Week's Community Calendar:**

#### **70<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Sector D NCO meeting**

35-45 Tennis Court (between E 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Avenue)

Tuesday, March 26

7:00pm to 8:00pm

[Neighborhood Coordination Officers](#), or NCOs, are your local problem solvers. They spend all their working hours within the confines of their assigned sectors, actively engaging with local community members and residents. They get to know the neighborhood, its people, and its problems extremely well. PO Callender and PO Sesay, the NCOs for Sector D, will provide a neighborhood update and respond to questions and concerns from residents.

#### **Community Board 12 Monthly Meeting**

Amico Senior Citizens Center

5901 13th Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Tuesday, March 26

7pm

Open to community members. The CB 12 board meeting is typically scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

## **78th Precinct Community Council**

78<sup>th</sup> Precinct

65 6th Avenue

Tuesday, March 26

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [78th Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Tuesday of each month.

## **70th Precinct Community Council**

ADAPT Community Network

175 Lawrence Avenue

Wednesday, March 27

7:30pm

Open to community members. The [70<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council](#) meetings typically take place on the last Wednesday of each month.

See you around the neighborhood,  
Bobby

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