



Assemblymember Robert Carroll

Fall 2020 Community Update



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Opposing Another National Grid Rate Hike

For years, National Grid has pushed to build the Metropolitan Reliability Infrastructure Pipeline, a fracked gas transmission pipeline that would run through New York City. In order to fund this pipeline, National Grid is asking the state for another rate-hike. I have objected to having New Yorkers rates raised in order to support a program that holds us back from New York’s renewable energy goals and will exacerbate climate change.

In early October, I sent a letter to the Chair of the New York State Department of Public Service, urging them to deny National Grid’s request for a rate hike of \$185 million to pay for their new fracking project. In 2019, the Legislature passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which requires zero net emissions in the state by 2050. If New York is committed to the goals of the CLCPA, we cannot continue to invest in fossil fuels.



Assemblymember Carroll rallying with advocates to oppose the latest National Grid rate hike.

Climate Week and the New York State Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Leadership Act

Late last year, I introduced A.8617C - The Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Leadership Act (LEECLA). This bill will incentivize producers of concrete to take steps to decarbonize the production of concrete and its main component, cement, by favoring bids from concrete producers that have a lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) score. This will change our current State bidding process from factoring only cost when awarding State contracts. By requiring the State to look at the environmental impact of a specific bid, we will incentivize cleaner ways of producing concrete. This landmark legislation has been featured on “Now This News” and led to my participation as a panelist for a national conversation about Sustainability in the Built Environment during Climate Week NYC in September. Cement is responsible for 8% of CO₂ emissions globally and is the 2nd most used substance in the world, after water.

State governments are major buyers of concrete. The collective purchasing power of public agencies and departments can help build a local market for low carbon concrete alternatives. LEECLA draws on different local and state policies that have emerged in recent years to address this challenge, but it incorporates the novel mechanism of “climate competition.” Concrete manufacturers and their component suppliers would be incentivized to implement low carbon methods and products because superior climate performance boosts their competitiveness to win State contracts. This elegant approach mobilizes the creative power of markets and competition without imposing any costly mandates during an economic crisis.

Assemblymember Carroll speaking about the Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Leadership Act during the Lafarge Holcim USA Climate Week NYC conference on September 24th.



Schools



Assemblymember Carroll with Councilmember Brad Lander and PS 130 parents rallying for "Orange Zone" schools to re-open.

COVID-19 has created many challenges for the 2020-2021 school year. I have been in contact with parents, teachers, the DOE, and both the Governor and Mayor's offices about outdoor learning, additional resources, safety protocols, testing, and more. Safety must be our top priority, but clear communication and guidelines to students, parents, and teachers is critical.

Our teachers and administrators have done an admirable job balancing blended and remote learning. Unfortunately, the Governor and Mayor have given mixed messages and created competing criteria for our schools to follow. Going forward, we need a universal standard regarding safety protocols and closures.

Earlier this Fall, I rallied with Councilmember Lander and PS 130 parents when their school was unjustly closed by the Governor due to a COVID spike that was in no way connected to the teachers or students at that school.

The City and State must do more to ensure that our children get a quality education this year.

I will continue to work with all parties on how best to keep our schools safe and to make sure students continue to have an opportunity to opt into blended learning.

Electric Bike Rebate Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a nationwide surge in bike sales. In early September, I introduced A.10974, which would redirect unused funds currently budgeted to an electric car rebate program to a new program – the Ride Clean Rebate Program. This program will provide rebates of up to \$1,100 to New Yorkers purchasing e-bikes. This bill would help New York get ahead of the curve on traffic congestion and issues of sustainability in transportation.

Advocating to End Tax Lien Sales

New York City has long sold unpaid tax bills of property owners to for-profit third parties who attempt to collect the unpaid tax or foreclose on the delinquent property.

In normal times, the practice of municipalities selling property tax warrants to private for-profit companies is cruel. During the COVID-19 emergency, it will further contribute to ruining homes, lives, and businesses so a select few can profit. This practice should be eliminated altogether, but a good first step would be to suspend this activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. I introduced legislation, A.10481, to end the sale of property tax liens during the COVID-19 pandemic and am advocating for the practice to be eliminated completely.

Assemblymember Robert Carroll Around the District



Assemblymember Carroll with the Boro Park JCC distributing masks in October.



Assemblymember Carroll speaking at an event to honor the legacy of Brooklyn's own Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



Assemblymember Carroll with David Berliner, the President of the Brooklyn Museum, at the reopening of the museum on September 12th.



Assemblymember Carroll with the American Council of Minority Women for a food distribution event in September.



Assemblymember Carroll back on the subway. Assemblymember Carroll has been fighting to get additional funding for the MTA.



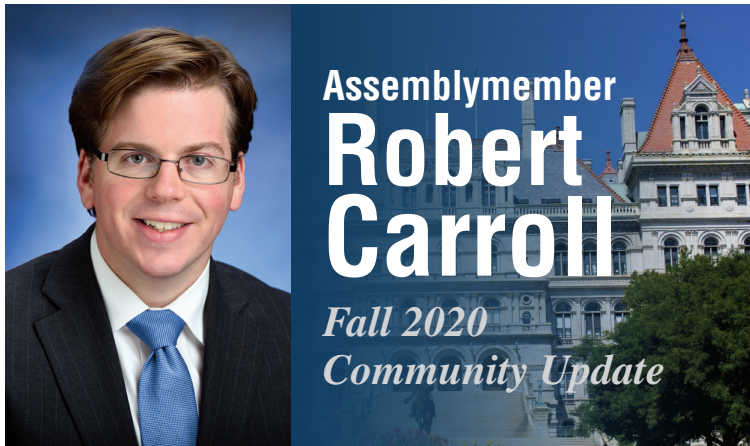
Assemblymember Carroll with local small business owner Aliou Lo. COVID-19 has ravaged small businesses, and Assemblymember Carroll is working to keep people like Aliou Lo in business.



New American Spotlight

Mohammed Ahmed Alaskari became a U.S. Citizen in September. Mohammed is an immigrant from Yemen and he runs a local deli in Park Slope. Through the pandemic, he and his staff worked 7 days a week and dealt with more than their share of hardships; including the loss of a family member due to COVID. I stopped by his deli to present him with a Citation from the New York State Assembly to mark his achievement and celebrate his hard work.

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Help Keep Prospect Park Clean and Green with “It’s My Park” and Other Volunteer Opportunities!

The increase in park visitors, combined with budget cuts due to COVID, has led to the park getting much more love than it can handle. Join me and sign up to pitch in and help clean the park with “It’s My Park Day” and other volunteer opportunities for adults and families.

Volunteers are provided with trash grabbers, garbage bags, and gloves. You must be 18 years old to register, but children are welcome to accompany adults. Groups are welcome. Various dates and times are available. To learn more, visit the Prospect Park Alliance’s website.



Assemblymember Carroll with Councilmember Lander and Sue Donoghue, President of Prospect Park Alliance and Park Administrator.