



ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON

PROTECTING US AND OUR COMMUNITY



ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON ACTIVELY WORKING WITH THE NYPD AND COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT HATE CRIMES

All Hate Crimes Must Be Condemned

Hate crimes attack not only the victim but also tear apart the very fabric that holds our society together. The assault rate on the Asian-American community has been on a continuous rise which devastates our unity. Likewise, citywide hate has risen against all groups because if all do not oppose hate against any group, it will ultimately attack all groups.

Judges Must Have Right to Detain Hate Crime Offenders

As an Assembly Member in a district where my constituents are concerned with becoming victims of hate crimes, I find it outrageous that a person caught in the act of a hate crime, who had been arrested forty times in the past, should be released without bail being set. Recently, a hate crime was committed against St. Athanasius Church



in our neighborhood. Citywide, there have been attacks against synagogues, mosques, and other churches. This, as well as hate attacks against individuals, is hate in its most hateful form. It sends a horrible message to not only the community but also to the justice system for not being able to fairly hold a criminal accountable.

Colton Introduces Bill, A.7940, to Include Hate Crimes for Bail Detention

It is crucial to fight against hate crimes and immediately stop assaults based on hate discrimination. Assemblyman Colton introduced legislation to change the bail reform law to include hate crimes on the list of crimes where the judge will have the discretion to set bail. The judge will have power to determine what measures can be taken against such crime for each individual case.

We must all fight to ensure the justice system sends the right message that hate crimes will not be tolerated in our society.



Neighborhood together is stronger. Police officer from the 62nd Precinct, Community Relations Director, Nancy Tong, CASS Sr. Consultant Dr. Tim Law, CASS Executive Director Angel Yan Shan Wu, and our wonderful volunteers, Mr. Li and friends.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON BRINGS THE COVID VACCINE TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The budget includes \$15 million to ensure that there is transparent communication, education, and public outreach to the communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some funds from this \$15 million will be used to directly award organizations and groups based in these communities. Special outreach is planned dedicated to increasing the Latino community's trust in vaccines. Remaining funds will be used for the development of a vaccine awareness media campaign.

The budget ensures that everyone in the state of New York will have their doses for vaccines and especially those who are elderly or at-risk for diseases. It is planned to cover 20 million residents at no cost.

Colton Arranges Neighborhood Vaccine Events

Assemblyman Colton knows all of this effort will not be effective if the vaccine is not accessible in our neighborhoods. That is why he has supported vaccine distribution through neighborhood pharmacies. The Assemblyman has arranged with pharmacies for vaccine distribution events at community organizations and religious institutions throughout our neighborhood.

Assemblyman William Colton, along with Founder of Health Essentials, Lina Chen and Rite Aid Staff, organized vaccinations

for the Bensonhurst neighborhood. We are extremely grateful for all the medical staff and community partners for spreading the word and helping our neighbors maintain good health.



Assemblyman Colton, along with Rite Aid staff, Community Relations Director, Nancy Tong, and constituents who received their vaccines at St. Simon and Jude Church Hall event.

BUDGET ACHIEVES HISTORIC SCHOOL FUNDING ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON HAS LONG SOUGHT

The 2021-2022 state budget provides \$29.5 billion in school aid, a \$3 billion increase compared to the last fiscal year. Additionally, there is \$13 billion in Federal Aid to public schools, \$500 million in Emergency Federal Assistance to nonpublic schools, and \$15 million to expand public education, communication, and outreach programs to the communities that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget funds community schools by \$250 million. The budget allocates \$629 million in funds to school districts to support students' activities, such as summer enrichment and comprehensive after-school programs. Cuts to libraries were restored and capital monies for libraries were increased by \$20 million.

Budget Finally Reimburses Shortchanging of Schools

Foundation Aid is increased by \$1.4 billion, which totaled to \$19.8 billion to be spent for the next three years, and 75 percent will be allocated to high-need school districts, like NYC. This budget is historic for reimbursement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) by \$1.4 billion.

The budget includes a multi-year investment in prekindergarten, including \$105 million for this year. In addition, the budget uses \$105 million of federal funds to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2021-22 school year.



Assemblyman Colton Applauds Gains Regarding Child Care

The budget provides \$2.4 billion in child care availability, affordability, and quality. This includes assisting essential workers with scholarships and grants for supplies and personal protective equipment. The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is increased by \$21.96 million. The child care subsidies increase will allow New Yorkers to expand access, co-pays would be lowered to less than 10% of family income above the poverty level, and essential workers would receive child care tuition support. The budget gives opportunity to employers for expanding their support to the employees who have children.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON WINS FIGHT FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

As a member of the Higher Education Budget Conference committee, Assemblyman Colton led and won the fight for the budget to include \$13.7 billion in funding for higher education. TAP's maximum amount has increased historically by \$500. In addition, the budget restores \$46.4 million in operating aid to SUNY and \$26.2 million to CUNY. Both CUNY and SUNY will receive \$100 million each to support advancements of arts on campuses and \$10 million for green and wind power. Many students do not have enough funds to continue and pursue their education in colleges and universities; therefore, the budget increased the TAP grant by \$500, bringing it from \$5,165 to \$5,665 per student. The budget includes \$180 million in all opportunity programs available for higher education.

The budget includes a historic \$247 million in state funding to provide academic and financial support to economically and educationally disadvantaged students through opportunity programs and training centers. The budget also adds \$30 million for a 20 percent increase in funding for higher education opportunity programs.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON PROMOTES PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Protecting the environment is an essential part of this budget. The budget invests approximately \$1.84 billion in funding for the environment, including the historic \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund. These funds will be spent on municipal parks, farmland protection, zoos and botanical gardens, municipal recycling, and landfill closure impact planning. The budget also includes \$47.5 million in funding for natural resources damages which include investing in clean water. In addition, this year's budget provides \$500 million to support New York's clean water infrastructure.

The budget also includes \$75 million for the Department of Environmental Conservation to address a variety of capital needs to improve access to state lands and rehabilitate campgrounds. Funding includes \$40 million for solid waste programs, \$90 million for parks and recreation, \$151 million for open space programs, and \$19 million for the climate change mitigation and adaptation program. This investment will provide funding for critical environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, enhanced recreational access, water quality improvement, and an aggressive environmental justice agenda.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST THE PROPOSED 2147 BATH AVENUE HOMELESS SHELTER

Assemblyman Colton has been a fierce advocate for our neighborhood. He has always prioritized people's interests over the special interests, such as the developer of the proposed 2147 Bath Avenue Homeless Shelter.



Assemblyman Colton Leading Fight Against Homeless Plan

Assemblyman Colton is leading a community fight against the proposed building of the 2147 Bath Avenue homeless shelter. On several occasions, the Assemblyman stated that he is not against helping homeless people, but building more homeless shelters is not a real solution to help homeless people. A corporation named Sandhu Builders purchased 2147 Bath Avenue to build the homeless shelter with small cubicles each housing 2 men, with common bathrooms on the floor. Residents will not be permitted inside the cubicles during the daytime. This developer has no specific plan to provide essential support in terms of psychological, physical, and career help. This provides no real help to homeless people but is an exploitative attempt to receive funds from the City by renting their rooms.

Meetings and Protests Held

Assemblyman Colton has organized multiple protests and meetings to bring awareness and actions towards this shelter. He strongly urges constituents to send emails to the Mayor's office, Building Department and Department of Homeless Services to fight together against this

shelter. This shelter also violates the city zoning. According to the NYC Buildings Information System website, they are reaping huge profits for developers with a record of fines and violations over \$100,000 on other projects. Assemblyman Colton will continue to fight against the building of the 2147 Bath Avenue homeless shelter.



Assemblyman Colton shown with numerous of his previous newsletter tear-offs opposing the proposed 2147 Bath Avenue homeless shelter which he received in response from his constituents.

Assemblyman Colton Supports Fair and Inclusive Help for Small Businesses

The budget includes a \$1 billion relief package for small businesses, arts, entertainment, and restaurant relief to help them recover from the effects of the pandemic. It includes \$865 million in grants and \$139 million in tax credits. Additionally, COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program provides \$800 million in grants for small businesses, including for-profit arts and cultural institutions affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$25 million in grants for restaurants to provide free meals to underrepresented and underserved communities. This allows small businesses to continue their operations across the state.

ONE OF THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON IS AN AFFORDABLE \$15 PER MONTH HIGH SPEED INTERNET PLAN FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

As a part of this year's budget, the initiative has been set in the agenda for promoting affordable \$15 per month high-speed internet plan for low-income households. People and households who are eligible to receive free or reduced-priced lunch and supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits will qualify for this program. Those receiving senior or disability rent increase exemptions or those on Medicaid will get an opportunity to have affordable and accessible internet plans. This law will take effect immediately and people will be able to apply through either an internet portal or on a paper form. The Assemblyman's district office will be available to assist applicants. Qualified households and individuals for this internet plan include:

- those who have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or take part in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;
- those who have experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers;
- those approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year. This piece of framework is essential for communities who are working from home and cannot afford high-speed internet.

ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON HELD THE ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED WOMEN AWARD EVENT BY ZOOM

Assemblyman Colton has always been determined to recognize Distinguished Women whose everyday activities benefit so many people but who are rarely recognized. These distinguished women volunteer in community organizations, work in schools, libraries, hospitals, retail stores, neighborhood businesses, police precincts, medical offices, as well as in their own homes helping so many people and families. Each year, he reaches out to identify dozens of these distinguished women and honor them with a New York Assembly Citation and a spotlight in front of family and friends. They are truly inspirations to all who may come in contact with them.



ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON WITH HIS SUPERSTAR STAFF HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD DURING COVID



“Thank you, Sarah, Joann, Declan, Inna, Annie, Nancy, Larisa, Paul, Lily, Shirley, and Deepa for all your hard work serving the people of my district.” Assemblyman Colton commended his superstar staff who continued to serve hundreds of constituents who visited his offices for help, and who will be helping thousands more during the rest of the year, applying for the many benefits contained in this year’s budget.

There are always a few disgruntled persons who show their ignorance, frustration, or extreme political agendas by failing to show proper respect and courtesy to these hard-working staff. However, the overwhelming number appreciate the dedicated help his staff offers, in many languages, and showed their appreciation and confidence by coming back time and time again. Over the years, my staff deals with some four thousand cases each year. Thank you to all of the superstar staff for all you do to help families in the community.

Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223



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**WILLIAM
COLTON**



**PROTECTING US
AND OUR COMMUNITY**

SUMMER 2021

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**155 Kings Highway (between West 12 and West 13 Streets)
718-236-1598 • Email: coltonw@nyassembly.gov**

Monday-Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm

Thursday Noon to 8 pm

Friday 10 am to Noon

We will help you with: Small Business Concerns + Housing Issues + STAR/E-STAR + SCRIE / DRIE + HEAP + HeartShare + Food Stamps + Health Insurance + State/City Agencies Problems + Quality of Life Issues, getting traffic safety measures, such as traffic lights, speed bumps, potholes and dangerous conditions fixed and much more.