



# Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein



Summer 2021  
Update

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## Dear Neighbor:

As the fall season is approaching, we have much to be grateful for. With the roll out of vaccines, we can only be hopeful that our toughest days are behind us. But that doesn't mean we can be complacent. My staff and I have been working tirelessly on your behalf to address the many challenges that face our state, our city, and our communities. Whether addressing the rise of disturbing hate crimes, advocating for small businesses in our state budget, or helping constituents resolve issues that come up in their personal and professional lives, we are always here to assist you.

New Yorkers are resilient and I believe that we will inevitably bounce back better than ever. I believe that we can accomplish our goals when we remain focused and united. And I believe that the democratic process will prevail if we work together for the common good. Together, we can achieve greatness.

As always, feel free to contact our office when you need assistance. You can send us an email at: EichensteinS@nyassembly.gov, or call us at: (718) 853-9616. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative, and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Assemblyman in the State Legislature and advocate on your behalf.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein  
48th District

When excessive flooding led to dangerous conditions in Midwood and Borough Park, Assemblyman Eichenstein joined forces with Senator Simcha Felder and Councilman Kalman Yeger demanding immediate repair of drainage throughout the district. An urgent letter was sent to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation stating that the flooding poses a significant safety hazard to our communities.

Just two weeks later, the issue was resolved! A team of workers from the Department of Transportation installed proper drainage systems. The streets are now much easier to navigate, no matter what the weather is. Thank you to the leadership of the Department of Transportation for the quick response!

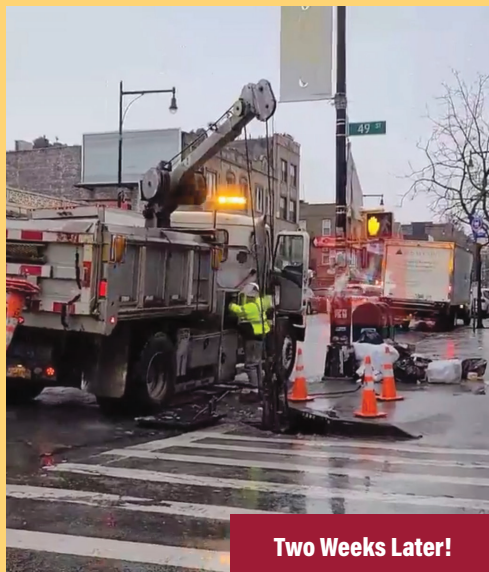


Before

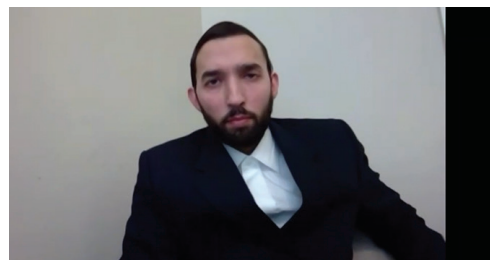
## Our Demand



December 3, 2020  
Vincent Suparna, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11375  
Polly Rabinowitz, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Dear Commissioners:  
We write to bring to your attention an ongoing issue plaguing our district for years, and growing more with time. On many streets throughout our districts, the drainage system does not work at all. Improperly pitched lanes and gaps of unimproved drainage lead to unacceptably flooding during even the slightest rain. The resultant mess is not only unpleasant and unsightly, it causes damage to homes and cars and poses a clear and present danger to pedestrians and drivers.  
Just this week, heavy rains led to massive flooding on numerous streets, making it impossible to navigate the area. The safety hazard this poses to children, seniors and individuals with disabilities is of great concern. The approaching winter weather will quickly turn rain and snow to dangerous black ice. While the drainage system throughout our districts is undeniably in dire need of updating, the most heavily affected areas must be addressed quickly.  
Community Boards 12 and 14 have repeatedly submitted lists of problem areas. Sewers and catch basins clogged with debris, litter and accumulated leaves and branches must be cleared to restore some level of proper function. Clearly, it would help to alleviate the flooding if storm drains and sewer grates were cleaned.  
These pooling and flooding issues require immediate attention. We are available to discuss the matter further and await your prompt response.  
Sincerely,  
Simcha Felder, NYS Senator  
Simcha Eichenstein, NYS Assemblyman  
Kalman Yeger, NYC Councilman  
Chad Deutch, NYC Councilman



Two Weeks Later!



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
\*A05967 RELATES TO THE TERMINATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE POWERS BY THE LEGISLATURE

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein delivered impassioned virtual remarks on the floor of the New York State Assembly. He argued that First Amendment freedoms must be safeguarded and that the Governor must be held accountable for excessive use of the Executive Powers granted to him in the early days of the Pandemic.

## Drivers License Can No Longer Be Suspended Due to Unpaid Fines

New York State drivers will no longer have to worry about suspended licenses due to unpaid traffic tickets and fines. New legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Eichenstein was signed into law by the Governor and will end traffic debt license suspension. Instead, an affordable payment plan would be available to drivers to ensure that their obligations are met. "Drivers no longer need to waste time with needless court appearances," said Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. "This new legislation represents a victory for all New York drivers."

## I'm fighting for you in Albany!

As your representative, my job is to fight for my constituents, especially when negotiating the annual state budget. I'm proud to say that I was able to secure funding for critical programs that will make a significant impact on our local communities.



State Senator  
**Simcha Felder**



Assemblyman  
**Simcha Eichenstein**

*New York recently passed its \$212 billion budget, the largest in state history.*

### As your local representatives in Albany, we've been fighting for **YOU!**

*Here are some of the highlights and achievements that we have been fighting for that are included in the new budget:*

Budget Highlight	How does this impact you?
<b>Transportation Reimbursement to Private Schools</b>	Private schools will be reimbursed for transportation expenses incurred during the pandemic lockdown. This allows parents to continue receiving free transportation for their children to and from school.
<b>Free Private School Busing Expanded</b>	Hundreds of families have recently moved to Staten Island but continue to send their children to non-public schools in Brooklyn. They will now be eligible for free school transportation. This additional service for Staten Island residents expands Senator Felder's historic school busing bill.
<b>Increase in TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)</b>	TAP helps New Yorkers pay tuition at approved schools. These educational grants have been increased by \$500 and now provide up to \$5,665 in tuition funding.
<b>\$1 Billion in Grants and Tax Credits for Small Businesses</b>	Small businesses that lost revenue due to the pandemic can apply for grants directly from NYS. Eligible small businesses are those who are unable to receive federal grants.
<b>\$2.3 Billion for Rent Relief to Tenants and Landlords</b>	This includes 12 months of back rent and utilities and three prospective months of rent assistance for tenants experiencing financial hardships. Tenants AND landlords may apply.
<b>Middle Class Tax Cuts</b>	Lower income tax rates for single filers who earn between \$21,400 and \$215,400, and joint filers who earn between \$43,000 and \$323,300
<b>\$2.5 Billion Increase in Child Care Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· \$2.4 billion in child care programming.</li> <li>· \$105 million expansion of full-day Pre-K programs, including at private school.</li> </ul>
<b>\$85 Million Towards Food Banks and Food Distribution Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· \$50 million for Nourish New York</li> <li>· \$35 million for Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program</li> </ul>
<b>\$40 Million in Safety and Security Grants for Nonpublic Schools and Nonprofits</b>	To keep you and your family safe, New York is offering grants designed to boost safety and security at non-public schools, day care centers, and other non-profit institutions which are at risk of being targeted by hate crimes.
<b>\$450 Million in Additional Funding for HEAP</b>	HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) helps low-income NYers heat their homes. This year, \$450 million in additional funding has been allocated for HEAP, bringing the total to \$950 million.
<b>Improving Maternal and Post-partum Health</b>	Extends Medicaid coverage for pregnant women from 60 days after pregnancy to one year

As more details emerge, we will continue to update you on how to take advantage of these new initiatives.

## Speed Bumps Have Returned to 21st Avenue!



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein and Councilman Kalman Yeger on site during installation of the speed bumps.

When repaving the length of 21st Avenue last year, the NYC Department of Transportation removed speed bumps that had been in place for many years. This caused hazardous conditions for pedestrians and motorists as speeding cars became a common occurrence.

Upon receiving countless complaints from neighbors residing off 21st Avenue, Assemblyman Eichenstein teamed up with City Councilman Kalman Yeger to pressure DOT to reinstall speed bumps immediately, for the sake of the community's safety.



April 8, 2021

Steve Dickson  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Rick Cotton  
Executive Director  
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
150 Greenwich Street, 22nd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Dickson and Mr. Cotton,

We are writing to voice our concern about a pair of incidents involving Spirit Airlines and Frontier Airlines over the last few weeks.

There have been several occurrences involving passengers being asked to deplane flights over non-mask compliance. The need for masks is a public health necessity, and we fully support enforcement of regulation designed to keep people safe. However, these recent incidents have shown airlines singling out passengers due to their apparent religion. Widely circulated video evidence has shown Jewish families being removed from flights for lack of mask usage from a toddler and a child under 2 years of age, despite being in full compliance with federal guidelines.

As antisemitic incidents and hate crimes continue to rise in our State, these occurrences are deeply troubling. Any action involving alleged discrimination requires an immediate remedy to ensure no further incidents occur. We ask the Federal Aviation Administration to fully investigate these incidents.

Further, as both Spirit and Frontier Airlines utilize New York based airports and service customers in New York, we request that the Port Authority promptly investigate whether these incidents violated Airport Rules and Regulations or any applicable lease or operating agreement between the airline and the Port Authority. New York State should not conduct business with organizations that deliberately discriminate against any group. As we work collectively to combat the pandemic, it is imperative to ensure that all Americans are given equal treatment under the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please inform us of your findings.

Sincerely,

Daniel Rosenthal  
Member of Assembly

Simcha Eichenstein  
Member of Assembly

Amy Paulin  
Member of Assembly

Simcha Felder  
NYS Senator

## Silence is Not an Option After Anti-Semitic Incidents on Airline Flights

In a series of anti-Semitic incidents on domestic flights, Jewish passengers were forced to deplane despite the fact that they were complying with mask policies.

Assemblyman Eichenstein joined forces with colleagues in both houses of the Legislature in expressing alarm over these incidents. In a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the elected officials demanded an immediate and prompt investigation.



## Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein to Small Businesses: Apply NOW for Recovery Grant Program

Small businesses that struggled through the pandemic can now apply for up to \$50K in grants through the Small Business Recovery Grant program included in the budget passed by the State Legislature. "This grant can help small business owners stay afloat during these difficult and challenging times," said Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. Small business owners who wish to apply for the funding should go to [NYSBusinessRecovery.ny.gov](https://www.nysbusinessrecovery.ny.gov).

## Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein Urges Eligible Tenants and Landlords to Apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program



### COVID-19 RELIEF: *Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)*

The **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**, passed as part of this year's state budget, eligible New Yorkers can now apply to help pay rent and utility costs. ERAP benefits are paid directly to the tenant's landlord or property owner or utility.

#### ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS MAY RECEIVE:

- up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rent accrued on or after March 13, 2020
- up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household spends 30% or more of their monthly income on rent
- up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for arrears accrued on or after March 13, 2020

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Household gross income is at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 on or after March 13, 2020
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which can be demonstrated by having rental arrears owed on or after March 13, 2020
- For the first 30 days of the program, priority will be given to households with the greatest need
- Both landlords and renters can apply and relief funds are sent directly to the landlord

Visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/Emergency-Rental-Assistance> to learn more and apply for the program beginning on June 1.

**Note:** Residents of Rochester, Monroe County, Yonkers, Onondaga County, Hempstead, Islip and Oyster Bay must apply for relief through local emergency rental assistance programs.



Assemblyman **Simcha Eichenstein** will be holding a

## FREE E-WASTE EVENT

What materials can be dropped off?



No appliances • No air conditioners, dehumidifiers or refrigerators • No tires

**DATE:**  
**Tuesday**  
**September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00am - 5:00pm**

**LOCATION:**  
Assemblyman  
Eichenstein's  
District Office  
1310 48<sup>th</sup> Street

For more information on this free event or any other community concern, please contact the office of **Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein** at **718-853-9616**.

## Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein Takes Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams on a Visit to Boro Park Yeshiva

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein brought Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams to Boro Park for a visit to a local yeshiva, highlighting the many quality features of the yeshiva education system. Borough President Adams recognized the excellent educational standards of the Yeshiva. Upon the conclusion of the visit the Borough President expressed that "I was really impressed by what I saw," adding that "watching those children understand grammar, understand English, saying they like writing and reading, it was amazing."





Assemblyman Eichenstein does his part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by getting vaccinated!



Assemblyman Eichenstein volunteers at the Chasdei Lev Passover Food Distribution.



Assemblyman Eichenstein joins Holocaust survivors at the Nachas Health Network Luncheon.



Assemblyman Eichenstein welcomes the new Executive Officer of the NYPD 70th Precinct in Midwood.



Assemblyman Eichenstein and Councilman Yeger join the students of Spinka Yeshiva at their creative and informative History Fair.

After a year of Covid lockdowns, Assemblyman Eichenstein was thrilled to join the special children as they boarded the buses to spend a great summer at 'The Happiest Place On Earth' - Camp HASC.



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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# Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein



Summer 2021 Update



On his last day in uniform, Senator Felder and Assemblyman Eichenstein were proud to present NYPD Chief Charles M. Scholl with proclamations celebrating his 41 years of service to our great city! Congrats on your retirement, Chief!

## Assemblymembers Simcha Eichenstein and Helene Weinstein Secure Funding for Private School Busing During Covid Lockdowns

Due to the pandemic, local school districts ceased providing funding to non-public schools for student transportation expenses, causing private schools to be responsible for shouldering these significant costs. Assemblyman Eichenstein and Assemblywoman Weinstein worked together and succeeded to secure a budget allocation that would reimburse private schools for up to \$17 million in transportation expenses. This provision of funding for busing during the pandemic is a welcome reprieve from the financial crisis that schools have been experiencing.