

Assemblyman

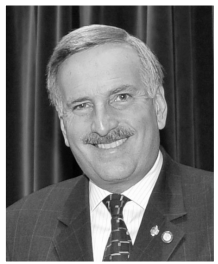
David I. Weprin



Reports to the Community

Summer 2015

A Message From DAVID I. WEPRIN



Dear Friend and Neighbor,

As we are approaching the end of yet another beautiful season that came and went far too quickly, I am reminded of how fortunate

we are to live in such a beautiful, serene Borough that proudly celebrates all aspects of cultural diversity unfound anywhere else. Truly, the World's Borough knows no boundaries. As always, it was an honor and a privilege to have been your representative during this past legislative session in Albany.

Outside of the session, the City's hard-working men and women from various agencies are on the front lines and my office staff is constantly and diligently handling constituent requests for relief assistance with due care and professionalism. To that end, I am proud to report that the 24th Assembly District has had a very productive summer, indeed.

Once again, as your local advocate in Albany, I will do everything I can to ensure that our district is more prosperous and resourceful than ever before. Together, we can further build and strengthen our community bonds. Please contact either of my offices to let me know how I can be of further service to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia



Legislative Session Recap

I am excited to announce that 2015 was another successful legislative session for the people of the State of New York. Many important bills were passed including an extension of rent control, an extension of 421a tax abatements, and sorely-needed regulations on nail salons. Governor Cuomo also signed into law "Enough is Enough" legislation that aggressively combats college campus sexual assault. I am also happy to report that I passed many priority bills such as the much-needed religious garb bill, which would end discrimination in the work place against religious attire; the MTA Disabled Riders' Council bill, which allows the disabled community to have input for accessible transportation; the NYC Biotech Tax Credit, which continues the growth of New York's vital high tech industry; and finally the Adoptee Bill of Rights, which, after over 20 years since its first inception, finally reached the Assembly Floor for a vote!



Richmond Hill Sikh Parade

August's Sikh Parade in Richmond Hill marked the occasion of the installation of Guru Granth Sahib for the first time at the Golden Temple. The event was organized by the Sikh Cultural Society. Assemblyman Weprin walked with the President, Gurdev Singh Kang; the board of trustees; and over 1000 participants in the parade. The parade started and ended at the beautiful and prominent Gurdwara on 118th Street.

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Our Richmond Hill breast cancer screening was a huge success with many participants. With the help of the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, mammograms were offered free of charge for women in the community. Mammograms are critical for early detection of cancer and greatly reduce deaths due to breast cancer.

Left, Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, Commanding Officer 102nd Precinct Edwin Martinez, Community Affairs Officer 102nd Precinct.



First Annual Disability Pride Parade

This past July saw New York City's first Disability Pride Parade. People with disabilities came from all over the five boroughs to celebrate 25 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Former Senator Tom Harkin (left) and many other advocates for the disabled participated to show their support. Assemblyman Weprin has been a champion for people with disabilities in Albany as Chair of the Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities for the second legislative session in a row. In May, the NYS Assembly unanimously passed Assemblyman Weprin's resolution making July 2015 Disability Pride Month in the State of New York.



Memorial Day at Queens Borough Hall

This past Memorial Day I was honored to remember those who served and meet with veterans at Queens Borough Hall at a ceremony hosted by Borough President Melinda Katz. It was great to see all of the veterans who received recognition and remember all of those in our Armed Forces who sacrificed themselves to preserve our liberties here at home.



100th Anniversary of Jewish-American Leo Frank's Tragic Death

August 17 marked the 100th anniversary of the tragic abduction and lynching of Jewish-American Leo Frank. Assemblyman Weprin joined QJCC Board Executive Director Cynthia Zalisky (left), Public Advocate Letitia James, Councilman Rory Lancman, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, decedents of Leo Frank, and members of the Anti-Defamation for Leo Frank's memorial service. Frank had been falsely convicted of murder and was sentenced to death in a trial plagued by anti-Semitism. After Frank's sentence was commuted to life in prison, he was kidnapped from prison and hanged from a tree. Although Frank was posthumously pardoned it does not undo the injustice that befell him. The memorial served as an important reminder that prejudice is still something we must deal with today and should never be tolerated. It is unfortunate that 70 years after the Holocaust and 100 years after Leo Frank's murder by lynching we still have hate and anti-Semitism right here in Queens.

Assemblyman Weprin in the Community



New Station Name in Briarwood

After many years of inaction from the MTA, the Briarwood-Van Wyck Boulevard Subway Station has finally been renamed to simply "Briarwood Subway Station." To commemorate the occasion, Assemblyman Weprin stood with Senator Avella (left) and Sey Schwartz, President Briarwood Community Association, as well as many other community members. Although Van Wyck Boulevard has not existed for decades, the station's name and subway maps did not reflect this change. The new name eliminates confusion at the station and serves as an important point of pride in the Briarwood community.



Towards the end of the legislative session, it was great to see Matilda Cuomo honored on the Assembly floor for her many accomplishments. On June 8th, Matilda received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.

Assemblyman Weprin and former First Lady Matilda Cuomo on Floor of the Assembly.



Summer Volunteer Street Clean-Ups

This summer saw a great outpouring of community service from our district's young people. On two occasions, young people joined Assemblyman Weprin for a thorough street cleaning in Richmond Hill and Bellerose (pictured). He was assisted by the Queens Metro Boys and Girls Club and the Chinese-American Parent-Student Council, respectively. Both street clean ups saw great turnouts with over 40 bags of litter removed from our streets in total.

It was a pleasure to join the Jamaica Muslim Center in their celebration of Eid al-Fitr at Jamaica High School. It was great to share this holiday with such a large congregation at the end of Ramadan.





Older Americans Act Walkathon

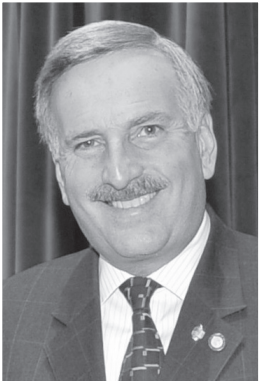
To honor the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act, a Walkathon was held in Cunningham Park sponsored by SNAP. For this year's event, the focus was centered on maintaining good health and staying engaged with the community. The event saw many participants who all made great strides for promoting healthy living.

Proposed Iran Nuclear Deal

Although we in the Assembly are not in a position to directly influence whether or not Congressional sanctions on Iran are lifted or whether the President's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran is approved, it is important that legitimate concerns on the Deal are heard. For this reason, I attended the midsummer protest against the proposed Iran Deal that took place in Times Square. The proposed deal, as it stands, puts Iran in a position where they will have the potential to develop nuclear weapons. Nuclear experts assert that under the provisions set forth in the Deal, inspectors will not be able to guarantee that Iran is not manufacturing uranium components for a nuclear weapon. The Deal also allows for Iran to maintain its nuclear infrastructure, which leads to the potential for Iran to pursue nuclear arms after portions of the Deal have expired in 10 years. Finally, immediate sanctions relief will allow for increased funding of terrorist organizations. For the aforementioned reasons, lifting sanctions is simply unacceptable and I have urged our representatives in Congress to vote against the Deal for the security of the United States and Israel, our only true ally and democracy in the Middle East.



Assembly members David Weprin and Michael Simanowitz at the Iran Nuclear Deal Protest in Times Square.



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DAVID I. WEPRIN

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SUMMER 2015



Weprin Rain Barrel Give Away

In the hot summer months, water consumption rises sharply due to warm weather related activities like lawn maintenance, car washes, and water recreational activities. With this in mind, it is important to save water when we can. With the help of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Assemblyman Weprin provided 250 rain barrels to Queens residents through a free rain barrel give away. Rain barrels store runoff by attaching to a building's downspout. The water can then be conserved and pumped from the barrel for later use.