

# Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

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#### Dear Neighbor:

The first six months of 2015 were quite exciting! I'm proud to report that I sponsored eight bills passed by the Assembly this legislative session and supported many others that will positively impact our community.

I was proud this session to be named by Speaker Carl E. Heastie as a member of the Assembly Transportation Budget Conference Committee, which was tasked with negotiating transportation issues in the state budget. I advocated for increased MTA funding, supported statewide transit infrastructure, and fought to improve New York City streets and highways.

I was also honored to serve as Chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Workforce. In this role, I will champion the needs of new workforce sectors and help strengthen New York's high-quality, skill-based employment.

As always, please be in touch about ideas for our community or ways my office can be helpful at 718-820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



# Supporting Immigrant Communities



#### **Fulfilling the Lunar New Year Promise**

As a community, we advocated for an official Lunar New Year School Holiday. I am happy to say that starting next year, students will no longer worry about missing school to be with their families on this celebrated cultural holiday. 恭喜! 축하드립니다!



#### **Securing Multilingual Services for Seniors**

When low-income seniors found themselves without the Lifeline program, an affordable phone service run by the Federal Communications Commission, I pushed for changes. Since then, the FCC has agreed to change their recertification process to better serve consumers with limited English proficiency. I will continue urging the FCC to deliver on these changes to ensure that language is not a barrier to quality service. If you are still experiencing issues with Lifeline, please call my office.

## Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I hosted a celebration at the Bayside Senior Center that included cultural performances and an award ceremony to recognize the achievements of community leaders from The Hindu Temple Society of North America, Selfhelp Benjamin Rosenthal Senior Center, Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Korean American Community Center of New York, and the Key Luck Club.



### **Advancing Women's Rights**



### Inspiring the Next Generation of Women

Throughout the last few months, I participated in multiple panels and rallies focusing on the role of women in political leadership and government. While we have come far in breaking barriers, there is more to accomplish to secure our seat at the table. I am always thrilled to share my experiences in public service, advocate for issues impacting women, and encourage young women to strive for leadership positions in all fields!

### Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence

To combat the growing epidemic of domestic violence, the Assembly moved two of my bills to strengthen protections for victims

- One would allow victims of domestic violence who share a phone contract with their abuser to opt out of their plan without penalty.
- The second would allow victims sharing a cable contract with their abuser the option to opt out without penalty.

Through my legislation, we will help victims eliminate one of the numerous challenges they face when trying to rebuild their lives.





#### Protecting Pregnant Inmates from Solitary Confinement

This year, I drafted and passed legislation that would ban the use of solitary confinement for pregnant women. New York's disciplinary practices are in need of reforms that address the excessive use of punishment that can lead to emotional, physical, and psychological harm. While prisoners must pay their debt to society, we need to ensure that treatment is humane, and that pregnant women get the critical care and nutrition a healthy pregnancy requires.



#### **Calling Out the BDS Movement**

To show its support for Israel, the New York State Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that aims to delegitimize Israel as a sovereign, democratic and Jewish state. *Pictured with Deputy Consul General of Israel Amir Sagie.* 

### **Helping Homeowners and Tenants**

### **Ensuring Utility Consumers Are Heard**

To better represent utility consumers at the state and federal level, I voted for legislation that would create the New York State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA). The UCA would provide consumers with an independent representative to voice their concerns during regulatory proceedings involving companies that offer electric, natural gas, internet, cable television, telephone and wireless communication services. This is an important step in ensuring quality of service for ratepayers throughout the State.



With thousands of rent-regulated units in my district, I fought resolutely to renew and strengthen the rent regulation system for tenants. The bill that ultimately passed extends the law for four years, with no anti-tenant amendments and some modest improvements, including raising the deregulation threshold to \$2,700; reducing charges for new MCIs; reducing landlords' use of vacancy bonuses and preferential rents to ratchet up rents rapidly; and increasing penalties landlords face when they harass tenants. These measures help ensure that working families and seniors can continue calling Queens home for years to come.



# **Connecting Residents to Affordable Housing Opportunities**

Together with Congresswoman Grace Meng, State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Assemblymember Ron Kim, and Council Member Peter Koo, I hosted a public housing workshop at Selfhelp Rosenthal Senior Center in Flushing where NYC Housing Authority representatives were available to assist local residents with their applications. If you would like to sign up for a future info session, call my office.



#### Fixing the Broken Property Tax System

To begin taking the necessary steps to make New York's property tax system clear and equitable, the State Legislature approved a four year property tax rebate program that gives City residents a rebate check averaging \$130. This measure will provide some of the relief that Queens families deserve. In keeping with the push to reform the system, I requested that a public hearing be convened to examine the current state of the City's property tax system and complicated tax filing laws. If you would like to participate in the hearing, please call my office!



#### **Expanding SCRIE/DRIE**

The Assembly passed legislation earlier this year strengthening the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs. The legislation includes measures that would require heads of households under SCRIE to receive a notice of required renewal 30 days prior to the application renewal date and require translation of necessary documents into the six most common non-English languages.

Additionally, the legislation allows certain tenants to be grandfathered into the program at their current frozen rent. To learn more or find out if you qualify for either program, please call my office!



#### **Providing for New York's Veterans**

I authored and passed legislation that would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a study on homeless veterans and the services they need. As part of the study, recommendations would be provided to combat this growing epidemic and protect those who sacrifice so much to defend our nation.



#### **Improving Mass Transit**

Current transit in Eastern Queens does not support growing ridership or keep our community connected. I passed two bills in response to growing ridership and infrastructure improvements in our mass transit system. One bill streamlines the Metropolitan Transit Authority's adjudication cases and fight fare evasion. The other creates a more effective Select Bus Service by enhancing bus lanes across the City. Both pieces of legislation promote public safety and transit improvements for both drivers and riders alike.

After months of planning, the Flushing-Jamaica corridor will officially become a Bus Rapid Transit route. With the help of neighborhood advocacy, the improved route will preserve the parking lane for access to small businesses, allow for off-board fare collection, and help Queens boom.

#### **Keeping Residents Involved**

I wrote and passed a bill that requires the State Liquor Authority to notify local Community Boards when an establishment applies for an "all night" permit that extends business hours to 8:00 a.m. Once signed into law, residents affected will be able to voice their concerns. Thanks to Community Board 8 for their input that inspired the bill!



New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



Summer 2015

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### Team Nily at Work

Let us know how we can help! My office can assist you with any question or concern. We speak multiple languages including: Mandarin, Korean, Hebrew, and Spanish.

My office is always looking for interns or volunteers to help out around the office and assist in special projects. Interning here can help students gain valuable experience working in public service. If you are interested in applying to be an intern or volunteer, please contact us!

From left to right: Meagan Molina, Legislative Director; Erin Rogers, District Director; Assemblywoman Nily Rozic; Kevin Cho, Community Liaison; Marilla Li, Community Liaison.