

Dear Neighbor:

This newsletter highlights the actions I have been taking in our district and in Albany on behalf of our community. If you would like to sign up for my email list to receive more frequent updates, please email me at braunsteine@assembly.state.ny.us

As always, my office is available to assist you. If you are having trouble with state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. My staff and I are always here to help you obtain benefits, provide information on government programs, and develop legislative solutions to community problems.



*Edward C. Braunstein
Member of Assembly, 26th District*



Assemblyman
**Edward C.
Braunstein**
Reports to the People

Summer 2015



Assemblyman Braunstein was honored by Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc. with the Board of Directors' Award at their 34th Anniversary Celebration.



Assemblyman Braunstein received donations from Sacred Heart Girl Scout Troop 4000 for our community's 19th Annual Valentines for Vets Gift Drive.

Airplane Noise

In 2014, Governor Cuomo directed the Port Authority to establish aviation community roundtables, as well as conduct a Part 150 environmental noise study to determine the impact new flight paths are having on our neighborhoods. Assemblyman Braunstein is continuing to fight airplane noise in Northeast Queens, and was chosen by Speaker Carl Heastie to serve as one of only four Assemblymembers on the New York Airports Community Roundtable.

The Roundtable provides the community, FAA, and Port Authority with opportunities to communicate with each other regarding noise concerns. The Roundtable also distributes information and ongoing updates to its members in impacted areas during the Part 150 noise studies, and allows these members to offer their input.

Assemblyman Braunstein's Annual Blood Drive

On **August 13, 2015**, from **2:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**, Assemblyman Braunstein will be hosting a blood drive at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center. All donors will receive a pair of Mets tickets by mail courtesy of the New York Blood Center, and the first 60 donors will receive a coupon for a pint of soup from Ben's Kosher Deli! Donors will also receive pastries courtesy of Panera Bread. For more information, please call Assemblyman Braunstein's office at 718-357-3588.



Rent Regulation & Co-op and Condo Tax Abatement Extended

There are more than one million rent-regulated apartments in New York City, which provide affordable housing for hundreds of thousands of middle- and low-income families. The legislation passed by the Assembly will extend existing rent laws for four years, helping to prevent families from being priced out of their homes. The legislation also protects tenants by extending the Major Capital Improvement (MCI) repayment period to limit the financial impact of building improvements on rents.

“Too many hardworking New Yorkers are struggling to afford housing for their families as rents and property taxes continue to skyrocket,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “These measures will help ensure that families can continue to call Northeast Queens home.”

In addition to the rent regulation laws, the property tax abatement program for homeowners in New York City cooperatives and condominiums was also extended for four years. In 2013, Assemblyman Braunstein introduced legislation that was signed into law that made property taxes more equitable for co-op and condo owners in New York City. The law raised the partial tax

abatement from 17.5% to 28% for a vast majority of middle-income co-op and condo owners.

“Throughout my tenure in the Assembly, I have fought to reduce the outrageously high and inequitable property tax assessments levied on middle-class co-ops in the outer boroughs,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “The extension of the property tax abatement program will ensure that co-op owners in Northeast Queens, including thousands of senior citizens on fixed incomes, can continue to afford to stay in their homes.”

Assemblyman Braunstein, in partnership with Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc., is offering benefits and entitlements counseling to persons 60 years of age and older, including Food Stamps, Medicaid, Medicare Part D and SCRIE. Please call Assemblyman Braunstein's office at 718-357-3588 to schedule an appointment with a case worker.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the 109th Precinct's Family Fun Day.



Assemblyman Braunstein donated a new Israeli flag to the Clearview Jewish Center.

Assemblyman Braunstein's Legislative Update

Governor Signs Assemblyman Braunstein's Campus Safety Act

In December 2014, Governor Cuomo signed Assemblyman Braunstein's Campus Safety Act into law, which requires colleges and universities to notify local authorities of all violent felonies and missing persons within 24 hours, as long as the victim does not object to the notification. "The number of violent crimes reported on campuses, and not investigated by local authorities, is disturbing and simply inexcusable," Assemblyman Braunstein said. "This law will lead to an increase in the prosecution of criminals by ensuring that these assaults are reported to local law enforcement agencies, which are more properly trained to investigate serious criminal issues."

Legislation Passed Regulating Clothing Bins

Assemblyman Braunstein's legislation regulating clothing bins passed the Assembly and Senate in June, and awaits the Governor's signature. This legislation prohibits the placement of collection bins on public property. The bill also imposes maintenance requirements and strengthens the disclosures that must be placed on bins on private property, including whether or not a bin is operated by a non-profit organization or a for-profit business. "Some of these bins become eyesores because they are not maintained by their operators, and serve as trash receptacles and graffiti magnets. It is time we remove these bins and ensure that fake charities no longer benefit from their deceptive actions."

Assemblyman Braunstein Fights Sex Offenders

Assemblyman Braunstein re-introduced legislation that would ban all sex offenders from residing within 1,000 feet of a school, following a court ruling that state law on sex offenders supersedes all local regulations, effectively rendering over one hundred such local laws unconstitutional. "It is clear that the state must step in and act now to ensure the safety of students throughout New York," said Assemblyman Braunstein. Assemblyman Braunstein has also introduced legislation that would prohibit sex offenders from residing within 1,500 feet of the residence of a victim of their abuse.



Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein with civic leaders outside the Lawrence Cemetery in Bayside announcing legislation to combat the proliferation of clothing bins placed by fake charities.

Hospital Privacy Legislation Introduced

Assemblyman Braunstein introduced legislation that would protect patients from having their medical treatment filmed or broadcast without their permission after learning of an incident involving a reality show on ABC, called "NY Med." The show broadcast the story of Mark Chanko, who passed away during the course of the filming after he was hit by a sanitation truck. Mr. Chanko's widow watched the show, heard her husband asking for her while in his hospital bed, and viewed his eventual death on television. The hospital and NY Med did not seek permission from either the victim or his family before broadcasting the show. "Patients have an expectation and a right to privacy when being treated in a medical facility, and to film and broadcast this treatment without permission is an outrageous violation," said Assemblyman Braunstein. This legislation would ban the filming and broadcasting of medical treatment without consent, and would create a private right of action allowing victims to sue for damages.



Assemblyman Braunstein joined the Korean American Family Service Center at its 17th Annual March Against Domestic Violence.



Assemblyman Braunstein delivered donations from his annual Veterans' Gift Drive to the NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans and the St. Albans VA Community Living Center with Benjamin N. Cardozo High School students.

Around the Community



Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with the winners of his Mother's Day Essay and Poetry Contest: 2nd Grade Grand Prize Winner Francesca Argenzio, 3rd Grade Grand Prize Winner Anthony Ng, 5th Grade Grand Prize Winner Christian Silvestri, and 4th Grade Grand Prize Winner Ethan Wu.



Assemblyman Braunstein received donations for his Annual Toy Drive from PS 209 students and staff.



Assemblyman Braunstein attended the Key Luck Club's Lunar New Year Celebration.



Assemblyman Braunstein is pictured with the winners of his Halloween Essay and Drawing Contest: 3rd Grade Grand Prize Winner Ashley Cho, 5th Grade Grand Prize Winner Angela Chen, 4th Grade Grand Prize Winner Elicia Chau, and 2nd Grade Grand Prize Winner Adriana St. Clair.

Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein

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