



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Reports to the Community



Dear Neighbor,

In late June, my colleagues and I concluded a legislative session marked by significant victories for New Yorkers.

We passed the third consecutive on-time budget that extends middle-class tax cuts and raises the minimum wage to \$9 an hour in 2015. We invested nearly \$1 billion in our local schools and restored cuts to programs for the developmentally disabled. When Sandy devastated our communities, we helped residents and businesses rebuild. We won an important fight to keep casino gambling out of New York City, avoiding the potential pitfalls for our neighborhoods.

Our work is never really done, but I believe that we have come a long way in taking care of the most vulnerable, addressing the needs of our often-neglected middle class and creating an environment that continues to inspire people to want to live and do business here. We've already proven that we're stronger than the storm, and this strength will get us through any challenge ahead.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, which spotlights some of the things I've been doing to help the community. I'm always interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to visit my district office – we're back home at 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road – any Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., and Fridays until 5 p.m. (until 3 p.m. during the summer). You can reach me at (718) 743-4078 or email cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us. If you're on Facebook, please "like" my page.

Have a great summer –

Steven H. Cymbrowitz
Member of Assembly

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Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Insurance Committee hold roundtable discussion on insurance coverage in event of disaster

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, a member of the Assembly's Insurance Committee, joined committee chair Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein for a roundtable discussion at the Shorefront Y to discuss insurance issues in Sheepshead Bay, Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach that occurred in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

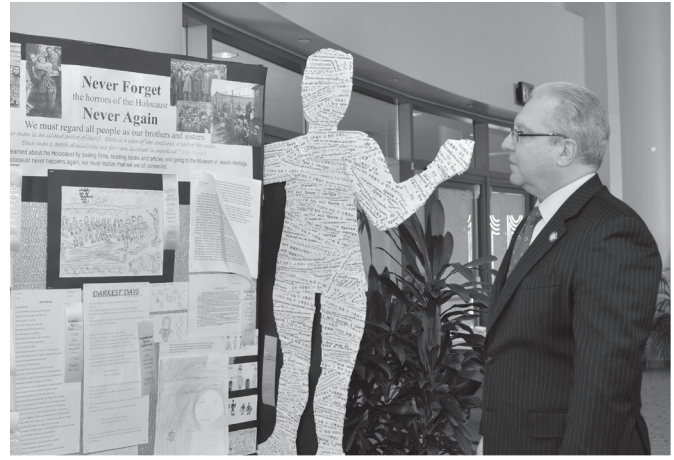
"Many businesses and homeowners in my district are still struggling to rebuild and recoup their financial losses from the storm, often because of issues relating to the processing and payment of insurance claims or inadequate settlements," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "This situation is simply unacceptable for those who have faithfully paid high premiums for their insurance coverage. As we move forward, it is critical that we make sure that insurance companies do a better job of coming through with the assistance they are paid to provide."

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Assemblyman Cymbrowitz honors student winners of Holocaust Essay, Poetry, Performance & Art Contest

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz held his annual Holocaust Essay, Poetry, Performance and Art Contest ceremony at Kingsborough Community College, showcasing more than 600 submissions that revealed the students' understanding of civilization's darkest era. Luba Abramovich, a 93-year-old survivor, spoke of her experiences as a Jewish partisan. A candle-lighting ceremony paid tribute to the six million Jewish people who perished. The three first-place schools each received a computer and \$200 in prize money. Second- and third-place winners received \$100 and \$50.

A candle-lighting ceremony paid tribute to the six million Jewish people who perished.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz takes the lead in problem gambling legislation

As Chairman of the Assembly's Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz took the lead in crafting initiatives aimed at problem gambling, an issue that affects about a million New Yorkers.

His Compulsive Gambling Assistance bill (A.2243-A), which passed the Assembly, requires the commissioner of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to create educational materials on compulsive gambling that would be given to individuals on a voluntary self-exclusion list.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz also sponsored legislation (A.7836) authorizing and directing the commissioner of the NYS Office of Mental Health to assign a statewide evaluation regarding the extent of legal and illegal gambling by New York state residents.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Awareness of Problem Gambling bill (A.2270-A), which passed both houses, would require gaming facilities to post prominent signs near every exit and entrance of a gambling facility. The signs will provide information on how to access problem gambling supports and services.

Throughout the year, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has also presided over public hearings that examined programs and services for the prevention and treatment of compulsive gambling as well as the potential impact of increased gambling on local communities.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz praises plan to keep casino gambling out of Coney Island

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz praised a legislative plan to keep casino gambling upstate and out of New York City, avoiding the potential ramifications for communities like Coney Island.

"This is great news for New York State, which would benefit from the more than \$1 billion in economic activity that could be generated by casino gambling, and for our residential communities here in the city that dreaded the potential negative impact of gaming venues on our neighborhoods," he said.

In early June, Assemblymembers Cymbrowitz, Peter Abbate, Helene Weinstein, Rhoda Jacobs and William Colton sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo expressing "strong opposition to Coney Island as a gaming venue in any phase of the State's casino plan."

The letter noted that "southern Brooklyn as a whole -- a community of intertwined neighborhoods located a few subway stops from Coney Island -- would feel the negative effects."

"The allure and easy access of a casino would fuel the hopes not just of low-income residents desperate to improve their fortune, but of middle- and working-class residents and young adults who already demonstrate a high risk for other addictions like alcoholism and prescription drugs," the assemblymembers wrote.

"In Coney Island, an historic amusement area in the midst of a long-awaited rebirth, the stakes are way too high and the potential losses just too great."

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz slams 'mishandling' of Brighton Beach comfort stations

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz came to the aid of frustrated residents when he criticized the city for its "serious and continued mishandling" of the new comfort stations in Brighton Beach.

"Given the Parks Department's failure to study the original location and the reality that the bathrooms are unwelcome near Oceana, the only sensible thing to do is move them further west."

Early this spring, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz appealed to the Parks Department to build the new elevated comfort stations further west on the Boardwalk "to avoid placing them directly in front of the windows of Oceana condominium residents and to situate them instead in a location where they would be used by the greatest number of beach-goers."

"With beach season underway and your self-imposed deadline of May 25 come and gone, the new comfort stations are still no closer to completion," he said in a letter to Mayor Bloomberg. "Given the Parks Department's obvious lack of forethought in studying the feasibility of the original location, and the added reality that the comfort stations are unwelcome near Oceana, the only sensible thing to do is to move them further west."

At press time, the Parks Department had agreed to install temporary comfort stations at Brighton Beach and Coney Island avenues.

New trees planted on Emmons Avenue as part of beautification project funded by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz

There are new trees blooming on Emmons Avenue, part of a much-anticipated Sheepshead Bay beautification project funded by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz.

The project, which Assemblyman Cymbrowitz announced at a news conference in Aug. 2012 with Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey, is sprucing up the west end of Emmons Ave. from Ocean Ave. to East 14th St. In addition to the newly planted trees, the initiative will repair broken sidewalks and add covered trash receptacles and granite pavers. Benches will be installed later.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz provided multi-modal funding for the \$460,000 project back in 2008. Six years ago he funded a similar spruce-up project on Emmons Ave. east of Ocean Ave. While the funding was already allocated for the new initiative, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said the devastation caused by Sandy gave the project a "new urgency" and symbolizes hope for a community eager to blossom again. Emmons Avenue bore the brunt of the destruction.

"Beautifying Emmons Avenue is part of the larger mechanism of long-term recovery," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "Trees represent new life. They're meant to last, and so is Sheepshead Bay."



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Community Board 15 Chair Theresa Scavo visit the beautification project on Emmons Avenue.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz honors volunteer ambulance corps for service during Superstorm Sandy

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presents a Citation to the NYC Community EMS Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (CEMSVAC). Based in Midwood, the new organization (founded in June 2012) proved its mettle during Superstorm Sandy.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz sponsors annual health fair on Emmons Avenue

Hundreds of residents took advantage of free screenings, giveaways, health-related information and family-friendly entertainment during Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz' tenth annual Lena Cymbrowitz Community Health Fair, held on Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay. The event was sponsored by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, along with Maimonides Medical Center, Beth Israel – Brooklyn, and Kiwanis International.



Free Health Screenings/Flu Shots at Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' District Office

All dates are by appointment only. Please call (718) 743-4078 to schedule.

Osteoporosis	Thursday, September 12	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Flu Shots	Monday, October 7	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Flu Shots	Wednesday, October 16	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Flu Shots	Monday, October 21	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Flu Shots	Wednesday, October 30	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Stress Reduction (Breathing Exercises)	Tuesday, November 5	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cholesterol, Glucose & Blood Pressure	Thursday, December 12	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz

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Assemblyman Cymbrowitz celebrates Read Across America Day at Homecrest Library



In honor of National Read Across America Day, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz paid a visit to the Homecrest branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, where he read Maurice Sendak's Caldecott Medal-winning "In The Night Kitchen" to the children of the Sunny Skies Preschool.