



# Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Reports to the Community

1800 Sheepshead Bay Road • Brooklyn, NY 11235 • 718-743-4078  
cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us



Dear Neighbor,

With fall here, it's time to start reflecting on the past year and looking ahead at the challenges that we face as New Yorkers and as residents of the 45th Assembly District.

During the last legislative session, we successfully restored much-needed funding for our schools, funded economic development projects to create more jobs, implemented protections for rent-regulated tenants, and held spending growth to less than two percent for the fifth consecutive year. We stood up for the programs that make a difference in people's lives and secured needed investments that will make New York a stronger place to live, work, and do business.

In the 15 years I've been in the Assembly, I've been privileged to represent people who do not hesitate to let me know what they think about our community, especially when it comes to quality-of-life issues such as trash, parking, and graffiti. I encourage you to keep your thoughts and ideas coming. When we work on solving problems together, it unites us in our mission to improve the community we all share.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, which contains important information on legislative accomplishments, things I've been doing in our community, and upcoming events that may interest you and your family.

My district office is located at 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road and my staff and I are here to serve you. Note our new hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can reach me at (718) 743-4078, or email [cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us). If you're on social media, please "like" my page on Facebook and visit me on Twitter @stevecym.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Cymbrowitz  
Member of Assembly

## 2015-16 State Budget Makes Strides in Putting Families First, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Says

The 2015-16 state budget restores much-needed funding for our schools, funds economic development projects to create more jobs, and holds spending growth to less than two percent for the fifth consecutive year, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

"Enacting a good budget means making sure that the priorities important to New York's families are put first," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "We stood up for the programs that make a difference in people's lives and secured needed investments that will make New York a stronger place to live, work, and do business."

Among its highlights, the \$150.3 billion spending plan secures a \$1.6 billion increase in education aid over last year, for a total of \$23 billion. To help students attending non-public schools, the final budget adds \$7.9 million in Comprehensive Attendance Policy funding. Total non-public aid in the budget is \$171.4 million.

Additionally, the budget includes a \$30 million increase in pre-K funding for three- and four-year-olds, while protecting last year's pre-K investment in New York City.

In an effort to ensure the buildings and classrooms students learn in are world-class, the budget provides \$605 million in capital funding for SUNY and \$181 million in capital funding for CUNY.

The budget restores \$78.9 million to Medicaid, and \$10.7 million to preserve spousal refusal, which protects couples from losing their life savings in the event that a spouse requires long-term care, said Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, who chairs the Aging Committee. Further, the final budget rejects the governor's proposal to greatly reduce pharmacy reimbursements, which would have resulted in severe consequences for providers that care for the neediest individuals in our state.

The budget acknowledges the importance of combating the heroin and opioid epidemic devastating communities across our state by including an additional \$1 million—on top of the \$7.8 million in the governor's budget—to support opiate abuse prevention and treatment services, as well as an additional \$2 million to be used to hire additional substance abuse prevention and intervention specialists. As the former chairman of the Assembly's Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz fought for the additional funding.

The spending plan includes nearly \$34 million to ensure that more families have access to affordable child care, provides \$1.6 million for the Displaced Homemakers program to provide counseling and job training to homemakers to help them secure employment and \$1 million for the Kinship Caregiver program to help caregivers access health, education, financial, and legal services for children in their care.

*Continued on page 4*



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz co-sponsored the Sheepshead Summer Stroll with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. One highlight was the hero sandwich-eating contest sponsored by Victor Spadaro (center) of Jimmy's Famous Heros.

## Governor Cuomo Signs Cymbrowitz Bill Banning Sale of Powdered Alcohol in New York State

A bill introduced by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz to ban the sale of powdered alcohol in New York State has been signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

Known commercially as Palcohol, the product—which is mixed with water and comes in flavors such as vodka, rum, and cosmopolitan—was approved earlier this year by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, part of the U.S. Treasury Department, and is set to hit the market shortly.

In addition to New York, 21 other states have already banned the sale of powdered or crystalline alcohol products and at least 19 other states have similar legislation pending, citing health concerns.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz cautioned that the product is a “disaster in the making” because it can be easily hidden and used by underage drinkers. It also presents a greater likelihood of overdose due to improper mixing and can be concealed and brought to venues where alcohol is prohibited, he said.

“Kids can stash Palcohol in their pocket when they leave the house for a party and their parents would never know the difference,” said Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, former Chairman of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee.

On its website, Palcohol’s parent company Lipsmark calls it a boon to outdoor enthusiasts and claims airlines will save millions of dollars on fuel costs thanks to the lighter load of powdered alcohol. The company also touts the product’s possible uses as an antiseptic and an ingredient in windshield wiper fluid.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer has sought to ban the product on a federal level.

“Powdered alcohol is a product with no legitimate reason for being. I’m pleased that New York has joined the growing number of states to ban the sale of this potentially dangerous product,” Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

Sen. Joseph Griffo was the bill’s Senate sponsor.

### Free Rain Barrels

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz is partnering with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to give away over 150 rain barrels. Supplies are limited. Please call our district office at (718) 743-4078 to reserve one today and you will be contacted when they are available.

### 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’ 12th annual Lena Cymbrowitz Community Health Fair on Emmons Avenue. The event was sponsored in conjunction with Maimonides Medical Center and Kiwanis International and raised funds for Dynamic Youth Community, a local drug rehabilitation organization.



# Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Still Fighting To Save New York's Mute Swans

A bill introduced by Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz to save the state's 2,200 mute swans from a state-mandated death sentence passed both houses of the Legislature for the second year in a row.

The legislation (A.3675) would establish a moratorium on the Department of Environmental Conservation's plan to declare Sheepshead Bay's iconic bird a "prohibited invasive species" and eliminate the state's entire population by 2025. Tony Avella is the Senate sponsor.

The bill also requires DEC to hold at least two public hearings and respond to all public comments before finalizing any management plan for mute swans. In addition, DEC would be required to prioritize non-lethal management techniques and include scientific evidence

of projected and current environmental damage caused by the mute swan population.

Last year, the Governor vetoed the bill.

Earlier this year, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz had sharp criticism for DEC's revised swan management plan, saying that it continues to call for eliminating most of the mute swan population and shifts fiscal responsibility for non-lethal swan management methods to overburdened localities.

Once the bill is delivered to Governor Cuomo, he has 10 business days to act on it.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Thanks Teen For Donating Contest Winnings to ADL

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Brooklyn) paid a special visit to John Dewey High School student Eve Driggers, who earned second-place honors in the high school division of the Assemblyman's Annual Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest.

Driggers, who is starting her sophomore year, donated half of her contest winnings to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wanted to personally thank her for her thoughtful donation.

Under the guidance of teacher Philip Luchun, Driggers submitted a DVD of herself portraying a Jewish grandmother and Holocaust survivor.

"Eve Driggers' thoughtful donation to the ADL, and the spirit behind it, is exactly what my Annual Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest is about," he said.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Luchun both pledged to match Driggers' donation.



## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Honors Student Winners of Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest



Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Brooklyn) honored the student winners of his Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest during a ceremony at Kingsborough Community College. Ruth Lichtenstein, the daughter of Holocaust survivors and founder of Project Witness, a Brooklyn-based Holocaust resource center, and Dr. Richard Tomback, a history professor and director of the Holocaust Studies Program at Kingsborough, were the featured speakers.

In his opening remarks, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, the son of Holocaust survivors, spoke about the rise in anti-Semitism and the importance of Holocaust education. He said he hopes the lessons the children learned will "stay with them throughout their entire lives, tucked away in their memory, and passed on to their own children and their children's children."

"As the Holocaust taught us, if you fail to act, and fail to speak out, the consequences can be irreparable. There are wounds that time won't heal," he said.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz sponsors the annual contest with the Holocaust Memorial Committee, Manhattan Beach Jewish Center, and Lena Cymbrowitz Foundation.



## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Enhances Quality of Life For Seniors in Our Community

As Chairman of the Aging Committee, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz advocates for issues that affect older New Yorkers—such as Alzheimer’s disease, elder abuse, and health care—and is committed to making sure that seniors receive the priority they need and deserve.

During the last legislative session, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz sponsored a number of bills designed to improve the lives of seniors. Several of these bills passed both houses of the Legislature and are awaiting Governor Cuomo’s signature.

**A. 7914A** – Will help about 5,000 seniors and disabled residents who were wrongly disqualified from the city’s Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs.

**A. 5318** – Would require the NYS Office for the Aging (SOFA), in conjunction with the Department of Health, to establish a statewide database of successful programs serving people with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. The information in the database would be made available to the public on the Office for the Aging’s website.

**A. 7612** – Would require SOFA, in consultation with the Office of Children and Family Services, to conduct a public education campaign to raise awareness about elder abuse. This multi-media campaign would provide information on the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, where people can report suspected elder abuse, and contact information for relevant programs and services.

**A. 5352** – Would ensure that all social adult day programs operating in New York State comply with the rules and regulations established by the State Office for the Aging.



### Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Welcomes New 61st Precinct Captain

In late July, I welcomed the new commanding officer of the 61st Precinct, Captain Winston Faison, who visited my district office with some of the hardworking crime fighters under his command. Pictured with me (l. to r.) are Police Officer Andrey Vishnevskiy, Police Officer Sammy Shaya, Commanding Officer Captain Winston Faison, Sgt. Richie Taylor, and Police Officer Lauren Au. I look forward to working with Captain Faison and everyone at the 61st to keep our neighborhood safe.

### Putting Families First *Continued from page 1*

The budget provides \$415.6 million for housing and community development programs, allotting \$225 million for repair and rehabilitation programs, including \$100 million for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) capital repairs, and \$25 million for Mitchell-Lama Repair and Revitalization. It also provides \$34.7 million for community development programs and \$155.5 million for affordable housing programs, and restores \$742,000 in funding to the New York City Housing Authority Tenant Watch Program.



## Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz

### Reports to the Community

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz to Host Free Flu Shots for the Community

Continuing a long tradition of helping residents to be proactive about their health, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz will once again provide free flu shots for the community in partnership with Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Brooklyn.

The flu shots will be administered at his district office, 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road, on three separate dates:

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Please note that appointments are required.**

To schedule an appointment, call Assemblyman Cymbrowitz’ office at (718) 743-4078.