



Assemblyman

N. NICK PERRY

Season's Greetings



Dear Constituent:

Season's Greetings to you and your loved ones. 2013 is rolling by, and we're all getting ready to celebrate the dawn of 2014. Hopefully for you 2013 has been a successful year, which should make this holiday season one of happiness and joy. Joy which you can share, not only with your family and friends, but even with someone in need of some charity.

Representing you in Albany is a job I enjoy and a commitment I'm dedicated to do to the best of my ability. Thank you for your trust in me, and for allowing me the privilege and honor to be your voice in the "People's House" during this critical and remarkable time in our history.

Under the leadership of President Obama, our nation is surely on the pathway to recovery from the devastating economic collapse of 2008. Notwithstanding the turmoil in Albany, our state is also on the recovery path, and we could really see New York rise, but only with more progressive leadership that addresses the issue of income inequality that's stalling our economic growth.

Like most of you, I'm quite optimistic about the new mayor who will take office on New Year's Day. However, Mayor-elect de Blasio will need tremendous help from Albany to be able to deliver on the big promises in his agenda for New York City. As a member of the city's delegation of Assembly Members, I'd like you to know that I'm committed to working with Mayor-elect de Blasio to achieve the agenda you approved with your overwhelming mandate at the polls.

Although much uncertainty remains about the state of our economic recovery, we expect a budget surplus which will surely allow for us to direct more spending on education, saving our financially stressed hospitals, and creating job opportunities for our youth. Please be assured that on your behalf, I will be leading the charge to focus on moving these issues to the forefront.

Finally, there is never enough space to write all I have to say and so I'm sure you'll have an interest that wasn't mentioned. I appreciate you taking the time to read this report and encourage you to call, write or visit me at the district office if you have a question or concern that needs my attention. I close with my sincere thanks to you, for this opportunity to keep working for you in Albany, and also with my best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy holiday season and a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Working for You!

*N. Nick Perry
Member of Assembly*

Assemblyman Nick Perry Pressures City and State Leaders to Include Canarsie in All Sandy Recovery and Relief Funding Plans

Just over a year has passed since Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc over the entire tri-state area, including parts of the 58th Assembly District in Canarsie. Since Sandy made landfall during her unwelcome and destructive visit Assemblyman Perry has been tirelessly working to ensure that Canarsie residents who were victims of unexpected flooding receive their fair share of city, state and federal relief funds, to help them recover and offset repair costs.

"It is inexcusable and would be a total outrage if current plans that exclude Canarsie were allowed to be implemented unchanged and I intend to bring pressure from every angle to make sure that my constituents are not victims again," said Assemblyman Perry. When plans were announced earlier this year, a thorough review by Assemblyman Perry's staff assigned to monitor the development of these relief plans, revealed the shocking decision that policy makers, in charge of both City and State Sandy relief planning, intended to go ahead and spend hundreds of millions of dollars of federal

Sandy relief funds in all the affected areas, except Canarsie. "I can't stand by and let this happen," announced Assemblyman Perry, who immediately launched an initiative to force changes in the plans to provide Canarsie neighborhoods their fair share of funds they had a right to receive.

Assemblyman Perry has been strongly advocating for Canarsie's inclusion in the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program.

Thanks to Assemblyman Perry's initiative the trip to a FEMA Disaster Relief Center was made easy when Assemblyman Perry got FEMA to set up at Holy Family RC Church, and Assemblyman Perry's efforts have so far been successful in postponing the implementation of the plan, there is expectation that an amended plan will include Canarsie.

"I will continue to keep a laser-sharp monitor on progress as we wait for this announcement," said Assemblyman Perry.

District Office of Assemblyman N. Nick Perry
903 Utica Avenue (between Church and Snyder)
718-385-3336 ■ Email: perryn@assembly.state.ny.us

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Assemblyman Perry Leads Fight to Save SUNY Downstate Hospital, and Win Continued Funding for Brookdale Hospital



As budget negotiations reached its climatic hour, Assemblyman Nick Perry was diligently engaged with supporting colleagues in the Brooklyn Assembly Delegation, united in a fight to stop the closure of more Brooklyn hospitals, that would threaten the quality and access to healthcare in Brooklyn. Two of the four hospitals threatened with closure directly serve the people of the 58th Assembly District, which made both SUNY Downstate and Brookdale hospitals number one on Assemblyman Perry's budget priority list.

As a result of this year's budget agreements, of which negotiations are continuing, SUNY Downstate, while facing some restructuring, will be preserved as a hospital and remain a vital part of SUNY's doctor-training program. Due to Assemblyman Perry's persistence, language was adopted in the 2013 State Budget to ensure that SUNY Downstate would remain a public hospital, and not face a future privatization.

Brookdale Hospital Center, although not directly negotiated as part of the budget, was allowed to continue restructuring while having access to a considerable amount of state funding to help it through the restructuring period. With the help received, Brookdale Hospital has been improving its position after cutting ties with the Medisys Health Network.

The survival of SUNY Downstate and Brookdale Hospital remain at the top of Assemblyman Perry's agenda for the upcoming 2014 Legislative Session. So while he deals with the many other issues confronting New York's families, Assemblyman Perry pledges to continue to live up to his commitment to his constituents to help our two local hospitals in their efforts to achieve financial stability to allow them to remain as quality health care providers, and a source of continued employment for the people of the surrounding communities.

Assemblyman Perry Champions Raise in State's Minimum Wage

Following a long and often frustrating struggle, New York's minimum wage earners will begin to get the pay raises they deserve. Unfortunately, these New Yorkers, who often do the hardest and least enjoyable work, will still be underpaid, even with gradual increases over the next three years.

Thanks to the unrelenting efforts by Assemblyman Perry and a huge majority of his colleagues, the 2013-14 state budget increases the state's minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016. The wage will gradually increase over the next three years from \$7.25 to \$8.00 per hour on Dec. 31, 2013; to \$8.75 on Dec. 31, 2014; and then to \$9.00 per hour on Dec. 31, 2015.

"The raise to nine dollars an hour in 2015 will still not bring these New Yorkers up to what can be considered a living wage. However, the hike in the minimum wage was the right thing to do morally, and it will help jumpstart our economy," said Assemblyman Perry. "Along with my Assembly colleagues, I was so proud to be engaged in this fight to raise the wage. But this is a short victory on the road to making New York a state that pays a living wage, which is about \$15 an hour, to all New Yorkers."

Perry Drafts New Legislation for Introduction During 2014 Session

The 2014 Legislative Session is due to begin on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. The highlight of opening day is the State of the State address by the Governor. Traditionally, this message was presented in the Assembly Chamber, but since taking office Governor Cuomo has chosen to deliver the message in the State Convention Center. It is also the first day when new legislation can be brought before the Legislature and be acted on. In preparation for the new session, Assemblyman Perry will appreciate your comments on the following bills which will be introduced, and be considered to become law during the 2014 session.

Employee Payment Choice Act - prohibits businesses from passing on debit card fees to employees when a business chooses to pay employees with debit cards rather than checks.

Community Driveway Maintenance and Responsibility Act - Authorizes the option for the formation of community driveway co-op boards where three or more properties share a common driveway or access way. Also authorizes the city to establish a community property co-op board if necessary to provide for maintenance of shared private property. These boards shall be established for the sole purpose of establishing rules and imposing fees for the maintenance and repair of common driveways and access ways.

Assemblyman Perry Co-Sponsor of Landmark Gun Control Law to Make New York's Streets Safer

Along with his Assembly colleagues Assemblyman Nick Perry co-sponsored and passed into law the New York SAFE Act. Assemblyman Perry hailed the New York SAFE Act as a necessary step in "removing weapons of mass destruction from our streets."

New York's new tougher anti-gun laws met strong resistance and consistent opposition from well-organized gun rights advocates and owners from across the state. But in the wake of the Newtown school massacre, the pressure to enact common sense, reasonable reforms to take guns off our streets prevailed. The law will help make New York a safer place to live, while toughening criminal penalties for those who possess and use illegal guns.

The NY SAFE Act:

- bans military-style assault weapons;
- ensures all gun purchases are subject to background checks;
- keeps guns away from convicted felons and out of the hands of those who pose a danger due to mental illness;
- stiffens penalties for drug dealers and violent criminals involved in gun crimes;
- increases penalties for having a gun on school grounds and for injuring a child with a gun;
- ensures that those who kill first responders face life in prison without parole;
- allows schools to qualify for financial reimbursement if they install electronic systems and hardened doors to increase safety;
- revokes or suspends the gun license of an individual served with an order of protection; and
- establishes a statewide database of handgun licenses and requires background checks on all individuals who purchase ammunition.



The Big Apple RX Card can save you over 50% on prescription costs

Assemblyman Perry urges you to sign up today!

The free Big Apple RX card provides discounts on all prescriptions including brand-name and generic medications as well as some over-the-counter medications, such as smoking-cessation aids and diabetes supplies. Average discounts are 15% on brand-name and 53% on generic drugs.

- Discounts are also available on over-the-counter medications, like smoking cessation aids and diabetic supplies.
- Available to everyone living in, working in, and visiting New York City
- Accepted at more than 2,000 NYC pharmacies
- Save every time you use! No forms to fill out!

The card can be printed online at BigAppleRx.com. The BigAppleRx card's iPhone application allows consumers to present the prescription discount card right from their phones at the local pharmacy, as well as locate the nearest pharmacy.

Assemblyman Perry Warns Constituents to Watch Out for Scams Involving Superstorm Sandy Damaged Cars

The New York State Governor's office recently issued a consumer alert warning used car buyers to stay away from purchasing cars damaged by floods during Super Storm Sandy. A link on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website www.nicb.org allows consumers to immediately determine whether a used vehicle is a "flood car" from Super Storm Sandy, or flood damaged during other storms or circumstances. Approximately 400,000 vehicles were flooded following Hurricane Sandy.

"I urge my constituents to who are in the market for a used car to use the website above to make certain they are not purchasing a flood car," said Assemblyman Perry.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau's VIN Check permits anyone to enter the vehicle identification number (VIN) to determine the status of the vehicle. If the vehicle had been declared as salvage by a VIN Check-participating NICB member insurance company, the NICB site reports both the date of loss and the cause of the damage.

Assemblyman Perry Alerts Constituents of New and Increased Penalties for Distracted Driving

Put down your phone while driving and avoid increased fines and potential injury

The popularity of cell phones has had some unintended and even dangerous consequences. We now know that mobile phones are linked to a significant increase in distracted driving, resulting in injury and loss of life. A driver using their cell phone is 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash than a non-distracted driver.

A 2010 experiment with Car and Driver magazine showed that texting while driving had a greater impact on safety than driving drunk. Texting while driving is a crisis in New York state, particularly among young drivers. According to most recent statistics 3,000 teens die each year, 300,000 are injured, and almost half of teens admit they text behind the wheel.

For these reasons, New York State is cracking down on texting while driving, particularly by teenage drivers. Tougher penalties were recently put into effect, including fines ranging from \$50-\$400 depending on number of offenses and five points on your license. Teen drivers face suspension- Those caught texting or using a hand-held cell phone on the road now face a 60-day suspension for a first offense. A second offense within six months will revoke a probationary license for six months and a junior license for 60 days.

ASSEMBLYMAN PERRY SALUTES CENTENARIANS OF THE 58th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

"It certainly takes good living and endurance to make it to 100 years old. For all my blessed constituents who endure to reach the extraordinary age of 100 or more, I welcome the opportunity to celebrate the occasion with each centenarian and their family," said Assemblyman Perry. "If you know of any neighbor or relative turning 100 or older, please contact me, so I can recognize them with an Assembly Proclamation."



Winston Simon, 100 Years Old - April 13, 2013



Walter Smalls, Sr. 100 Years Old - December 5, 2013

SUPERSTORM SANDY SURVEY

In order to continue my fight to have Canarsie included in all of the state's Superstorm Sandy relief efforts, I am asking all residents whose home/property was damaged during Sandy to complete this brief survey and return it to me. –Assemblyman Perry

HOW WOULD YOU RATE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE FOLLOWING THE STORM?

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

WHAT SERVICES HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

FEMA _____ NYC Rapid Repair _____ Other _____

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF A BARRIER BEING ERECTED ALONG FRESH CREEK ON EAST 108TH STREET?

YES
 NO

Your Proposal? _____

DAMAGE SURVEY

As a result of Sandy (please circle all that apply):

FLOOD DAMAGE

Basement 1st Floor Car(s) Damaged: 1 2 3 Totaled: 1 2 3 Boiler

Damaged/Lost amount _____

INSURANCE: Dropped By Carrier / Rates Raised
 PAYMENT: Received Denied Unresolved

Total cost to make home repairs? \$ _____ Total Estimate of Damage to Home & Property? \$ _____

Any outstanding complaints/issues? _____

Would you like a call from Assemblyman Perry?
 Yes Tel.# _____
 No



Peer leaders from MS 588 School of Art & Philosophy visited Assemblyman Perry at the District Office and were recognized for their leadership with NYS Assembly Certificate of Merit.



Assemblyman Perry visited PS 398 and officiated the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the student government.