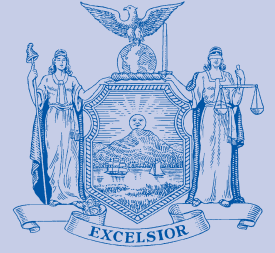




Assemblymember
DAN QUART
Reports to the People

Winter 2016



PROTECTING WORKERS FROM UNFAIR PROSECUTION

The fight to end the unfair arrests of those in possession of gravity knives is far from over. These knives, banned under a vague and easily-misinterpreted 1956 law meant to outlaw weapons (foot-long World War II era knives), are used daily by many law-abiding members of the community for work. The definition of a “gravity knife” is unclear under the current law; common folding knives, used by union workers, restaurant servers and artists, can lead to

an arrest. Furthermore, with normal use, folding knives that were legally purchased may become a so-called gravity knife, leading to confusion and possible arrest. This is a worker’s rights issue that affects New Yorkers from all walks of life, from artists to electricians to building supervisors. In 2016, I will reintroduce a bill to prevent hardworking New Yorkers from being unfairly targeted for carrying these knives for legitimate purposes.

FIFTH ANNUAL SENIOR HEALTH FAIR



Assemblymember Quart speaking to constituents at the Senior Health Fair at Knickerbocker Plaza.

The flu is the eighth leading cause of death across the nation. It is important to ensure that every person, and especially those considered at risk, are able to get vaccinated against this illness every year. For the fifth year, I was proud to host my Senior Health Fair at Knickerbocker Plaza, which featured flu shots from a local Duane Reade pharmacy, as well as resources from a variety of other healthcare providers. We were joined by representatives from North Shore LIJ, the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Visions, the Hearing Loss Association of America, Search and Care, Metropolitan Hospital Center, Lennox Hill Hospital, Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, the FDNY, and the New York State Comptroller’s Office. In addition to flu shots, attendees were able to reclaim unclaimed funds, get their hearing and vision tested, learn invaluable health information, and benefit from important health screenings. I am already looking forward to planning next year’s fair and continuing to provide access to vaccines to all my constituents.

CROSTOWN BICYCLE LANES ON THE EAST SIDE

With the rapid advance of climate change, precipitated by use of fossil fuels, finding greener methods of transportation is essential. New Yorkers are already ahead of the game, compared to less transit-friendly cities. Since the East Side is currently served by only one subway line, walking and biking are great ways to supplement transit options, save energy, and make healthy choices. Protecting both pedestrians and bicyclists is a priority for me, and one of the best ways to make sure both groups are safe are protected bike lanes. Streets with bike lanes have about 40 percent fewer serious crashes, and that is for all people using the street and sidewalks—not

just bicyclists. Additionally, bike lanes help to reduce biking on the sidewalks—again, protecting pedestrians along with bicyclists. While the city is improving access to bike lanes on avenues, crosstown bike lanes are an area where further growth is necessary and possible. Near the end of 2015, Community Board 8 called for protected bike lanes on the Upper East Side—a move that will improve the commutes of all who live in the neighborhood: bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers alike. I look forward to spending 2016 making the city streets and safer for everyone who uses them—whether on foot, by car, or via bicycle.



Assemblymember Quart and Senator Squadron.

FUNDING THE SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

This year, conversations about funding the MTA Capital Program were inescapable. As a representative and resident of the East Side of Manhattan, I understand the importance of properly funding the MTA. The construction of the long-awaited Second Avenue Subway is one of our neighborhood’s highest priorities. In addition to this large and important project, infrastructure repairs, upkeep of the transit system, and even keeping the buses running punctually depend on reliable and expanded funding. Without proper funding, construction sites and repairs take much longer than necessary, blocking sidewalks and subway stations for months at a time. It is long past the time to start funding the MTA Capital Program with a statutory, dedicated, un-sweepable revenue stream, and leave the political arguments and distractions in the past. The East Side, and New York City, deserve it.

DISTRICT OFFICE: 353 Lexington Ave, Suite 704 • New York, NY 10016 • Tel: 212-605-0937
ALBANY OFFICE: 530 Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • Tel: 518-455-4794
quartd@assembly.state.ny.us

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

As an outspoken advocate for improving air quality throughout the city, I was excited for the autumn launch of the mayor's NYC Retrofit Accelerator, which provides advice and assistance to building owners trying to make their properties more energy efficient. For years, I have called for the city to make boiler conversion easier and more accessible for building owners still burning #4 oil, and the NYC Retrofit Accelerator is a strong step in the direction outlined in my report on air pollution. Number 4 oil, while cleaner than #6, is harmful to the environment and the health of New Yorkers. With the successful phase-out of #6 oil, New Yorkers proved that

clean air is an important issue for building owners, lawmakers, and families alike. This new program, which is expected to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by almost one million metric tons per year by 2025, despite being non-mandatory, is further proof that New Yorkers are ready to do their part in improving air quality and reducing our city's carbon footprint. I am proud to continue to sponsor legislation that will improve both the environment of the district and the health of my constituents, and to continue to advocate for heating solutions that are healthy, safe, and sustainable.

CELEBRATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

I was happy to celebrate the holidays with constituents and friends at a joint party with Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney on December 14, at PS 527. Over a delicious spread, we were able to strengthen our ties as a community, celebrate the past year, and enjoy a pleasant evening. Thanks to the help of PS 527 staff and administration, residents from the East Side were able to meet new neighbors and reconnect with old friends, as well as celebrate the season with local elected officials. I am excited to continue these events and celebrations in the coming year as we strengthen our bonds as a community in 2016.

*Assemblymember
Quart serves
constituents at a
holiday gathering.*



Assemblymember

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MUSEUM VISITS ACROSS NEW YORK CITY

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions, as well as a representative for some of the city's greatest art and culture spots on the East Side, I am in a unique position to visit many of these institutions that make our city truly special. Throughout the fall, I toured a number of museums, visiting with staff as well as seeing the art and culture that make these establishments such cherished members of our community. The experience was exciting as well as informative, and a great reminder of the institutions, both large and small, which enrich the lives of New Yorkers. Below are just some of these museums, and though this list is by no means exhaustive, I believe it is a great jumping off point for constituents looking to broaden their cultural knowledge.

At the Anne Frank Center, USA, I was able to learn about

programs available to public school students to connect the study of important events in history to the current world. At the American Museum of Natural History, I learned about expansions that will bring their unique science education to thousands of children and adults alike. El Museo del Barrio provided an interesting look at the recent past, and the contribution of Latino artists and activists to the East Side. The Intrepid served as an important view into the realities of military service, as well as an inspiring view into space travel. While visiting the Cloisters, I saw the importance of remembering the past, and the uplifting power of art. Many of these institutions are offering free memberships to New Yorkers who sign up for the new IDNYC card, and I would encourage all of my constituents to visit one of the museums or cultural institutions that make our city great.