



Dear Neighbors,

I hope you and your loved ones are well this holiday season!

Below are some end-of-year updates from my office. I greatly appreciate your continued partnership throughout our communities, and very much look forward to keeping in touch in the new year.

All the best,

Andy

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Andrew Hevesi

Assembly District 28

Legislative Update: Hevesi Bills Signed Into Law

A.66: Creating Confidential Reporting in New York

For years, New York's child protection system has allowed anonymous reports to trigger Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations. Each year, approximately 150,000 families are reported to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) – and while anonymous reports make up only about 7% of total calls, they account for a disproportionate share of reports that are ultimately deemed unfounded.

A.66 addresses this problem by replacing anonymous reporting with confidential reporting. Individuals can still report concerns safely and without fear of retaliation, but reports must now include identifying information that remains protected from public disclosure. This ensures resources are focused on situations where children are genuinely at risk, while reducing unnecessary harm to families.

The signing of this bill into law reflects years of coordinated and sustained work to address a long-recognized flaw in New York's child protection system, and represents one of the most significant updates to SCR reporting in decades.

Signed into law on December 19, 2025.



Assemblyman Hevesi debates on the legislature floor

A.612: Ensuring Adequate Staffing Across New York’s Child Care System

As New York works to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care, Assemblymember Hevesi has focused on advancing legislation to address outdated staffing rules that limit child care capacity across the state.

Currently, child care providers outside New York City are subject to more restrictive standards than those in the city, creating unnecessary barriers to sustainability and growth. A.612 updates the framework how New York sets staff-to-child ratios, eliminating outdated bureaucratic standards and making sure that more children will have accessible and affordable child care.

Signed into law on December 19, 2025.

A.5434: Ensuring Dignity for Youth in Foster Care

For too long, children in foster care have been forced to carry their belongings in plastic trash bags – a practice widely criticized by advocates and child welfare professionals as degrading and harmful.

A.5434 puts an end to this practice by requiring that appropriate luggage be provided to youth in foster care. These belongings are not disposable – they represent a child’s identity, history, and sense of stability during moments of transition.

Signed into law on December 19, 2025.



A.8028: Expanding Child Care Access Through Property Tax Relief

A 2022 law created a property tax abatement to support child care centers, helping 47 providers create more than 3,500 child care seats and delivering approximately \$1 million in tax relief to child care providers.

Specifically, this bill:

- Doubles the existing child care center property tax abatement, increasing baseline supports for providers.
- Adds an additional financial incentive to develop facilities in “child care deserts,” or areas where care is currently not as readily accessible.

Signed into law on December 5, 2025.

Q23 Concerns and Updates

As the office has continued to hear concerns from residents and riders about the relocated Q23 bus stop on 108th Street – including pedestrian congestion, accessibility challenges, and safety issues – Assemblymember Hevesi coordinated with local partners to formally escalate these concerns and request a relocation of the stop.

As the office remains engaged with the MTA, those with concerns about this stop, or other general transit related concerns are encouraged to reach out.

Full letter:



December 3, 2025

Janno Lieber
Chair and CEO
Metropolitan Transit Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Thank you to you and the entire Queens MTA Team for your partnership throughout the planning, rollout, and implementation of the Queens Bus Network Redesign. We write today regarding ongoing concerns with the new **Q23 bus stop located at 70-31 108th Street** which has created significant problems for neighbors and Q23 commuters. **We respectfully request the relocation of this stop.**

This new location has transformed a narrow sidewalk on 108th Street (between 70th Road and 71st Avenue) into an unsafe, overcrowded area. Issues that have been reported to us include: **1)** significant obstruction of pedestrian movement; **2)** restriction of access to residential buildings for tenants, building staff and deliveries; **3)** heavy vehicular traffic as a result of the congestion; **4)** multiple reported instances of altercations and threats to the safety of riders, building workers and tenants; **5)** serious accessibility issues to the ADA compliant MTA street elevator on the south side of Queens and **6)** access difficulties to the Austin Street business district.

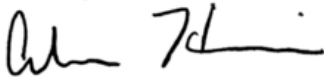
This last point is **particularly concerning for seniors, mobility-impaired riders, and parents with children** – as Q23 commuters utilizing this stop must **first** navigate the congested area on foot, **and then** cross Queens Boulevard to visit the commercial corridor. As you are aware, Austin Street is a primary service point of the Q23 and lifeline of our community, offering access to numerous urgent care facilities, grocery stores, restaurants and businesses, all centrally located in the heart of Forest Hills.

While we remain sincerely grateful for the continued attention and responsiveness of your MTA intergovernmental affairs representatives, particularly their recent efforts to implement curb extensions to accommodate additional buses and alleviate congestion at this location, we have concluded that these efforts simply fall short of remediation of the issue.

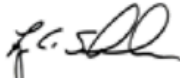
In light of this unacceptable and untenable situation for our friends and neighbors, we believe that the relocation of this bus stop is necessary. **We therefore recommend that the MTA, which receives federal funding, return the stop to its prior location at 108th Street and 70th Road, where a bus shelter already exists and sidewalk conditions are wider.**

Our offices remain readily available to provide support in identifying alternative placements that balance resident/pedestrian safety and achieve the relocation of this stop. Thank you as always for your partnership, and we look forward to our continued work together to prioritize safety and accessibility for Forest Hills residents and riders across our MTA systems.

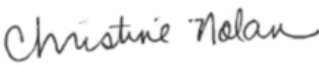
Sincerely,



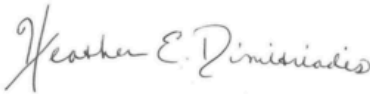
Andrew Hevesi
28th Assembly District



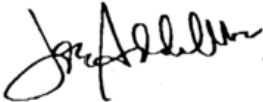
Lynn Schulman
29th Council District



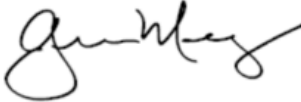
Christine Nolan, District Manager
Queens Community Board 6



Heather Dimitriadis, Chair
Queens Community Board 6



Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
15th Senate District



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District

Keeping Our Neighborhoods Clean This Year

2025 culminated the first year of partnership between Assemblyman Hevesi and ACE Programs for the homeless, following \$100,000 Assemblyman Hevesi had secured in the state budget for this program.



Over the course of the year, ACE crews logged more than 200 hours of work per month and removed approximately 9,000 pounds of trash from sidewalks, streets, bus stops, and corner garbage cans throughout the community.



As colder weather sets in, our office remains in communication with ACE to continue service and ensure that areas in need of attention are properly addressed.

Many thanks again to ACE for everything they do on behalf of our neighborhoods!

Thank you! 2025 Community Cleanup Series Wrap-up

Thank you to all who participated in this year’s 2025 community cleanup series! Events spanned our district, and saw more than 100 volunteers join in the efforts.





Keep safe this winter, and please stay tuned for announcements regarding next year’s series and other opportunities to get involved!

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank the community partners, volunteers, and neighbors who joined us for Thanksgiving turkey distributions, community cleanups, small business walkthroughs, food pantry distributions, and other events throughout the district! It was an honor to collaborate in all these efforts, and we look forward to continuing to do so in 2026.

Wishing all a very happy, healthy holiday season.

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