



Assemblyman

David I. Weprin

Reports to the Community

Winter 2014

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that you and your family have had a joyful and safe holiday season.

As your local advocate in Albany, my duty is to ensure that our neighborhoods are constantly improving, in terms of our families' quality of life, and the future of our great State of New York. Since the last legislative session in Albany, I have been able to devote singular focus to issues that affect us right here in the 24th Assembly District.

Looking to the upcoming legislative session, I intend to hit the ground running to ensure that our district and our state remain bright and prosperous.

As always, please contact either of my offices with any issues you may have concerning government agencies and the local community.

I wish you and your family well as we enter a new year.

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly



ASSEMBLYMAN WEPRIN'S TOY DRIVE

Assemblyman Weprin's annual Holiday Toy Drive was a great success. Members of the community wholeheartedly donated over 230 toys and gifts at both of the Assemblyman's district offices. The donations well exceeded the goal of one toy per child at the Governor Mario & Matilda Raffa Cuomo HeartShare First Step Early Childhood Center in Richmond Hill. Thanks to the generosity of the community, every special needs child at Heartshare received a gift they are not likely to forget.

ASSEMBLYMAN WEPRIN'S JOB FAIR

The Job Fair that was organized and sponsored by Assemblyman Weprin was a success! The Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens in Richmond Hill graciously provided the space for our free community Job Fair. With over twenty vendors, including government agencies, private businesses, and human service organizations, our crowd of roughly a hundred job seekers were able to network constructively. Thanks to all those who came out for a successful event.



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JUSTICE FOR RASHEEN ROSE: Assemblyman Weprin's Legislation to Protect the Developmentally Disabled



On November 16th, Assemblyman David Weprin, joined by autism and disability advocacy groups and by the family and lawyers for Rasheen Rose, held a press conference on the death of the severely autistic and nonverbal Mr. Rose. Mr. Rose died on August 6th, 2012, at the Bernard Fineson Developmental Center (BFDC) in Assemblyman Weprin's district. Rasheen died in the course of the development center's staff employing a restraining hold.

This tragedy is one that could have been avoided. In response to this incident, and to prevent such atrocities occurring in the future, Assemblyman Weprin will introduce a bill to be called "Rasheen's Law."

Assemblyman Weprin's bill, in cases of injury or abuse, would require personnel to report the incident to the OPWDD. Any and all instances in which the development centers, and other such long-term care facilities for the developmentally disabled, fail to comply with laws and regulations shall be referred in writing to the Attorney General. Any potential investigation will be at the discretion of the Attorney General.

During the legislative session, Assemblyman Weprin will make this bill a top priority.

If passed, Rasheen's Law would:

- 1. Require care providers to notify next of kin in the event of injury or death, within twenty-four hours of the incident;*
- 2. Require CCTV surveillance in common areas, such as hallways and activity rooms, so that recordings may be reviewed by the appropriate authorities in case of an investigation;*
Surveillance cameras would also act as a deterrent against any staff conduct that is at all outside regulations.
- 3. Strengthen the enforcement of staff training inspections conducted by the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).*



GHANDI PEACE WALK

In Assemblyman Weprin's district in Richmond Hill, residents annually celebrate Gandhi's life and efforts for peace by walking down Liberty Avenue on his birthday. Following the walk, the Assemblyman gave remarks on the importance of promoting peace in times of conflict and strife.



COLUMBUS DAY PARADE

Assemblyman Weprin with Governor Cuomo, City Comptroller Stringer, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney marched in the Columbus Day Parade down 5th Avenue.

UPDATE: HATE CRIME IN RICHMOND HILL

On July 30th, Sandeep Singh, a Sikh businessman and father, was mowed down and dragged beneath a pickup truck in a hate motivated attack. Mr. Singh survived and was treated at Jamaica Hospital for his serious injuries. The incident took place in Richmond Hill, home to an established and thriving Sikh community. Within the following week, the attack was labeled a hate crime, and the NYPD arrested and charged a suspect with attempted murder as a hate crime and assault as a hate crime.

Assemblyman Weprin held a press conference with Mr. Singh's brother and members of the Sikh community to speak out against hate. Remarkably, the Sikh community leaders who spoke preached forgiveness and healing, and denounced responding with



anger and hate. In such emotionally charged circumstances, it was remarkable to witness a community adhere so strongly to these beliefs.

In the months since, Mr. Singh has made an incredible recovery with the support of his family and his community. He is back on his feet and working again.



REPAIRING DAMAGE DONE BY HURRICANE SANDY

Assemblyman Weprin, with (left to right) Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Borough President Melinda Katz, and State Senator James Sanders, Jr. participated in a discussion about the recovery and restoration efforts the city has undertaken, as well as future plans for hurricane preparedness.



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Serving the partial or entire communities of Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia



VETERAN'S DAY AT ST. JOHNS UNIVERSITY

St. John's University honors the brave men and women who served our nation and kept us safe. Assemblyman Weprin participated in saluting our veterans, and extends his office's assistance for issues pertaining to the veteran community.