



## Reports to the Community

Winter 2017

*Serving the partial or entire communities of:*

Briarwood, Bellerose, Bellerose Manor, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia

### Assembly Hearing on Healthcare in New York's Correctional Facilities

Assemblyman David Weprin, Chair of the New York State Assembly Committee on Correction, hosted a joint hearing with Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried to examine the range of healthcare challenges facing the state and local correctional facilities, including the adequacy of care, treatment for communicable diseases, and women's healthcare and long-term care in October.

Chairs Weprin and Gottfried joined their Assembly colleagues for an eight hour hearing in Albany, accepting testimony from New York State Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker MD, JD, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci, New York City Department of Correction Commissioner Cynthia Brann, AFSCME Council 82, the Correctional Association of NY, the Legal Aid Society, the Prisoners Legal Services of NY, and Justice & Unity for the Southern Tier, among others.

The hearing focused on such healthcare concerns as availability of medical care, the administration of medications, the use of for-profit healthcare contractors in correctional institutions, the state of aging inmates at corrections facilities and staffing and quality control concerns. There are approximately 50,000 people incarcerated in New York State prisons and 25,000 in local jails, many of whom are



*Assemblyman John T. McDonald III, Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried, Assemblyman David I. Weprin, and Assemblyman Phil Steck.*

at high risk for illnesses related to poverty and addiction.

"It is well established that the failure to provide health care for prisoners with serious medical needs amounts to cruel and unusual treatment under the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution," Weprin said. "One of the purposes of this hearing is to look at the provision of medical services to incarcerated people in New York State and to consider whether New York should meet community standards, or something like community standards in its medical care."

### Assemblyman Weprin: Homeowners Getting Kicked to the Curb with Sidewalk Repair Costs and Curb Repair Delays

"Queens' homeowners are getting kicked to the curb with curb repair costs" exclaimed Assemblyman David I. Weprin as he joined Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik, Jerry Wind of the Bellerose Hillside Civic Association and local homeowners Arlene and Paul Krasanoff to call for the passage of legislation that would provide homeowners with a tax credit for curb repair costs.

Current law stipulates that owners of one, two, or three family homes in New York City are responsible for the maintenance and repair of sidewalks in front of or adjacent to their properties, with the New York City Department of Transportation retaining responsibility for maintenance and repair of adjoining curbs and roads. However, despite NYC DOT's efforts to expedite repairs, DOT has acknowledged that 'requests to address curb conditions outpace available resources' and have noted that curb repairs often take an extended period of time to complete. Defective or broken curbs that are not repaired in a reasonable period of time can lead to a damaged sidewalk, leaving homeowners with the responsibility and costs of new sidewalk repairs.

Legislation introduced by Weprin (A5324 – Weprin) and supported by the New York City Council, as indicated by a Grodenchik-spon-



*Assemblyman David Weprin, alongside Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Jerry Wind of the Bellerose Hillside Civic Association and local homeowners Arlene and Paul Krasanoff at press conference on curb repair.*

sored resolution introduced in the New York City Council (Res 1353 – Grodenchik), would allow curb repairs to be expedited by permitting homeowners to have curb repair work, not completed by the City of New York, to be completed by a licensed contractor within 90 days of the request. Homeowners would then be able to apply for and receive a property tax credit for the reasonable cost of these repairs.

### Boxing Legend Evander Holyfield Visits the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens

Assemblyman David Weprin had the pleasure of welcoming former heavyweight boxing champion and boxing legend Evander Holyfield to the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens this September. A member of the Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame, Holyfield visited the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens in Richmond Hill as part of a community meet and greet in conjunction with Resorts World Casino New York City.



*Assemblyman David Weprin, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens Chief Executive Officer John DeCristoforo, Evander Holyfield and others.*

# Assemblyman Weprin in the Community

## Town Hall with Mayor Bill de Blasio

The 23rd Council District's elected officials joined together to co-host a town hall with Mayor Bill de Blasio this fall. Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, and Senator Leroy Comrie came together with the Mayor of New York, at Martin Van Buren High School this fall to engage in a three hour town hall with Queens residents. Topics addressed at the town hall included discussion of the mayor's plan to close Rikers Island, Vision Zero traffic enforcement, the push to include halal and kosher foods in public schools as well as, announcements detailing plans to pave the length of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway bike path in Eastern Queens; and investments to renovate playground equipment, basketball courts and exercise equipment in Cunningham Park.



Assemblyman David Weprin speaks at Martin Van Buren High School Town Hall.

## Fighting for Kosher and Halal Meals in Public Schools

A broad-based coalition of New York advocates, faith-based groups, parents and students rallied in support of Weprin sponsored legislation to provide halal and kosher meals in New York City public schools in November. Assembly legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Weprin (A7231) requires New York City public schools to provide students who have religious dietary restrictions with appropriate meal options upon request of the student.

"If kosher and halal meals are already provided in prisons, they absolutely should be provided in our schools" said Assemblyman David Weprin. "Our state is one of incredible religious and ethnic diversity, and it is our duty to provide for all of those living in New York. The students of our state should not have to choose between a nutritious meal and their religion."



Rabbi Yeruchim Silber of Agudath Israel of America, Jake Adler of the Orthodox Union, Assemblyman David Weprin, Mazeda Uddin of SAFEST and Shaik Tahmeed Taheem.

## Fighting for a Fair Wage with Jane Fonda

Assemblyman David Weprin, longtime activist Jane Fonda and Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) joined in support of the One Fair Wage campaign which seeks to combat wage inequity, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and other forms of workplace inequality by eliminating the tipped minimum wage in New York and replacing it with a fair wage for restaurant and other tipped workers.



Assemblyman David Weprin and One Fair Wage advocate Jane Fonda.

## Khan's Tutorial Awards Ceremony

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" said Assemblyman David Weprin, quoting Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the nonviolent Indian Independence movement, at the Khan's Tutorial Annual Achievement Awards Ceremony this fall. At the event, Weprin addressed an audience of over a thousand students, parents, and teachers to speak about the importance of education, family and community.



Assemblyman David Weprin accepts award from Khan's Tutorial Chairperson Nayeema Khan & Khan's Tutorial CEO & President Dr. Ivan Khan. Weprin joined fellow awardees (seated at right) Consul General of Bangladesh in New York Shameem Ahsan and Public Information Officer at United Nations Department of Public Information Hawa M. Diallo.

## Hindu New Year at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

Assemblyman David Weprin visited the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Flushing for the Hindu New Year. The Hindu New Year is one of the widely celebrated festivals in India and is based on the Hindu lunar calendar.



Dr. Hari Shukla, Community Leader Martha Flores-Vasquez, President of Vaishnav Youth Organization Dr. Sheetal Desai, Assemblyman David Weprin, Ruchika Chauhan, Nitu Shah, Kokila Desai, and Nassau County Deputy Comptroller of Minority Affairs Dilip Chauhan.

## Rally to Remove Convicted Nazi War Criminal Jaciw Palij

"Queens is no place for a Nazi" was the message Assemblyman David Weprin delivered to former concentration camp guard and convicted Nazi war criminal Jaciw Palij outside his Jackson Heights home this November. Weprin joined Principal Rabbi Zev Friedman and students of the Rambam Mesivta High School on the Anniversary of Kristallnacht or the 'Night of Broken Glass' to demand that Palij be deported to Germany to face charges for war crimes perpetrated against thousands of innocent Jewish people and other civilians during World War II.

"It's so ironic that this convicted Nazi is living right here in Queens — the most diverse county in the world, where we have people from so many different religions," said Assemblyman Weprin.



Assemblyman David Weprin speaks at rally outside home of former Nazi Jaciw Palij.



Assemblyman David Weprin speaks outside German Mission to the UN with Rabbi Zev Friedman and Town of Hempstead Councilman Bruce Blakeman.

## PS 115 Student Council Installation Ceremony

Assemblyman David Weprin was pleased to join Principal Danielle Laporte and the dedicated teachers of PS 115Q at their Student Council Inauguration Program in November. Assemblyman Weprin, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and Councilman Barry Grodenchik welcomed the incoming student council to public service by swearing in the new candidates and presenting an Assembly Certificate of Merit as well as City Council certificate to each of the newly installed student officers.



Assemblyman David Weprin, Student Council President January Jernigan, Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, 5th Grade Vice President Gabriela Crespo, 3rd Grade Vice President Aden Omar, 4th Grade Vice President Zoya Eastwood, and PS 115Q Principal Danielle Laporte.

## Veteran's Day at Borough Hall and St. John's University

In observance of Veteran's Day, Assemblyman David Weprin joined veterans from all over the borough for Queens' annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall. At the event, Weprin joined with elected officials, including event host Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, to honor fallen soldiers and thank the resident veterans of Queens. Weprin also addressed a diverse group of former armed services personnel at a Veterans Day Celebration at St. John's University later in the month, thanking each for their sacrifice and commitment to our city, state and country.



Weprin speaks at St. John's University Veteran's Day Celebration alongside St. John's Vice President for Community Relations Joseph Sciamè.



Weprin addresses Queens veterans at Queens Borough Hall.

## Queens Library at Hollis Chartering Ceremony

Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilman Barry Grodenchik and Queens Library CEO Dennis Walcott came together for the Friends of the Queens Library at Hollis' Chartering Ceremony in August. At the ceremony, Weprin and Grodenchik swore in the Friends of the Library officers, who serve to support the Hollis Community Library through advocacy, program planning and community awareness.



Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilman Barry Grodenchik and Queens Library CEO Dennis Walcott along with officers of the Friends of the Library at Hollis.

# Assemblyman Weprin in the Community

## Rallying Against Trump Tax Plan

Assemblyman David Weprin, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, Councilman Corey Johnson, and NYC Department of the Aging Commissioner Donna M. Corrado, Ph.D. joined the New York State Nurses Association, United Federation of Teachers, the Alliance for Retired Americans and other New Yorkers at Trump Tower to stand against the proposed tax plan supported by Trump and the House majority. Noting the plan's proposal to cut deductions for state and local property tax payments, out-of-pocket medical expenses and student loan interest payments Weprin said "This plan is really a redistribution of wealth. It's bad for seniors, but it's also bad for the middle class."

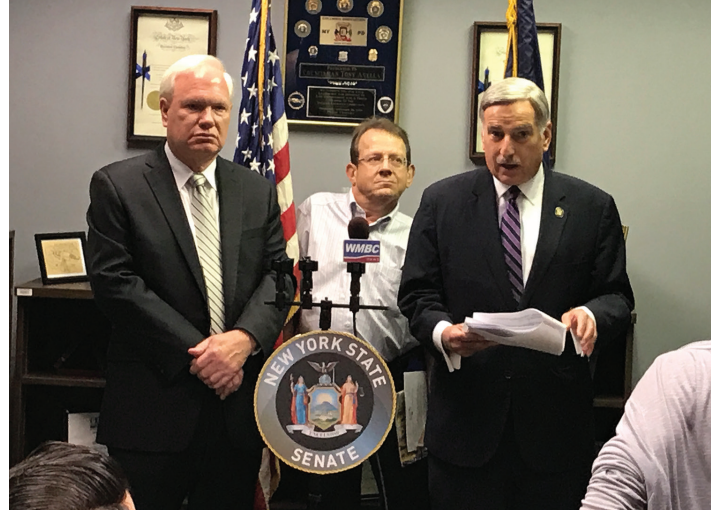


Assemblyman David Weprin speaks at protest opposing Trump tax plan alongside Mayor Bill de Blasio, Councilman Corey Johnson, and NYC Department of the Aging Commissioner Donna M. Corrado, Ph.D.

## Launching the Bayside Smokefree Housing Alliance

As a dedicated anti-smoking advocate, Assemblyman David Weprin joined with Founder Phil Konigsburg and Senator Tony Avella to announce the launching of the Bayside Smokefree Housing Alliance. The trio addressed a group of civic leaders, medical and dental professionals, residents and fellow anti-smoking advocates who will work with landlords to improve air quality in non-NYCHA and rental buildings in Eastern Queens.

"New Yorkers have known the dangers of second-hand smoke for sometime now," Weprin said. "While we protect ourselves at stadiums, parks and on public transportation, we continually expose ourselves and our loved ones to second-hand smoke at home. We have a responsibility to protect our loved ones from this threat."



Senator Tony Avella, Phil Konigsburg of the Bayside Smokefree Housing Alliance and Assemblyman David Weprin.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblymember  
**DAVID I. WEPRIN**  
Reports to the  
Community

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## Assemblyman David I. Weprin

and the  
Students and Faculty of Irwin Altman Middle School 172  
are sponsoring a

**HOLIDAY  
TOY DRIVE**

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JASON MARK WEINSTEIN

Former Staff Member of Councilman Rory Lancman, and  
Son of the Honorable Jeremy S. Weinstein of the Supreme Court of Queens County, and  
Grandson of Former Assembly Speaker and Judge, Moses Weinstein

**TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF HEARTSHARE HUMAN SERVICES OF NEW YORK, AS  
WELL AS ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT RICHMOND HILL**

PLEASE BRING A NEW OR GENTLY USED  
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OR

**RICHMOND HILL DISTRICT OFFICE**  
111-12 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 5  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
(718) 805-2381

For more information about this or any other local issue, please contact Assemblyman Weprin's office at (718) 454-3027 or (718) 805-2381.