

Assemblymember

# DAVID I. WEPRIN



## Reports to the Community

Spring 2022

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

### A Message From DAVID I. WEPRIN



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2022 Legislative Session, which began in-person up in Albany on January 5th, is well underway. As Chair of the Committee on Correction and a member of the Judiciary, Codes, Banks, and Ways and Means Committees, my office and I have been busy reading through and considering hundreds of bills. My colleagues and I have transitioned from hybrid virtual structure, to fully in-person meetings in which we discuss and debate the best course for our fellow New Yorkers. This year we undertook the arduous task of redistricting Congressional, State Senate, and Assembly district lines. Starting next year, there will be new maps for all 150 Assembly, 63 State Senate, and 26 Congressional districts. You can review the new 2022 Redistricting Maps online from the New York State Board of Elections "home page."

The 2022-2023 State Budget has been completed after many weeks of long (and often late night) debate, and I am proud of the historic deliverables that this budget includes. Many New Yorkers are struggling to make ends meet, and this budget tackles inflation head-on by allocating \$585 million to suspend the state gas tax, \$250 million to offset utility bills, an additional \$800 million in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), \$125 million for the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP) to assist landlords whose tenants did not opt to participate in ERAP, \$35 million for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), and nearly \$3 billion in child care funding. These efforts and more will help to ease the lingering burdens of the COVID19 pandemic and offset the economic instability that we are all navigating.

While I am hopeful that we will have a healthy start to Spring, we must remain vigilant to the threat of COVID19. My office and I are doing everything in our power to help you protect yourself so that we can finally declare victory over this virus! Both of my District Offices are open 5 days a week from 9am to 5pm and are stocked with hand sanitizer, KN95 masks, and at-home COVID19 testing kits. Please stop by either of my District Offices, located at 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows and 111-12 Atlantic Avenue #5 in Richmond Hill, to pick up these crucial PPE supplies to protect yourself, your family, and our community. You can reach my Fresh Meadows District Office at 718-454-3027 and my Richmond Hill District Office at 718-805-2381. Or email me at [weprind@nyassembly.gov](mailto:weprind@nyassembly.gov) for assistance.

It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 24th Assembly District.

Sincerely yours,

David I. Weprin  
Member  
New York State Assembly

## Denouncing Hate with Community Leaders at the Sikh Cultural Society

In response to a series of unprovoked attacks against members of the Sikh community in Richmond Hill, I partnered with Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar to organize a public gathering on the steps of the Sikh Cultural Society. We were joined by community leaders and elected officials, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Borough President Donovan Richards, Congresswoman Grace Meng, and representatives from the Gurudwara to stand together and denounce hate and violence toward our Sikh neighbors. I am deeply troubled by these despicable incidents and I am pleased to report that the authorities have apprehended the suspects linked to the incidents, which are being prosecuted as hate crimes. The Sikh community has endured targeted discrimination for years, and these attacks are a reminder that we must act to ensure justice and security in our communities.



(from left: Gurdev Singh Kang, Jatinder Boparai, Harpreet Singh Toor, Assemblyman Weprin, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Rajwinder Kaur, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, former City Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, and Raghbir Singh)



(Congresswoman Grace Meng, Borough President Donovan Richards, Mohinder Singh, Raghbir Singh, Assemblyman David Weprin, Harpreet Singh Toor, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Rajwinder Kaur, Michael Nussbaum President of the Queens Jewish Community Council, and former City Council Member Elizabeth Crowley)

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## The Road to Recovery with State Comptroller DiNapoli

I joined State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli in downtown Flushing for an update on our City and State's continued recovery from the COVID19 pandemic. All our neighborhoods in Queens - and the Greater Flushing area in particular - were at the forefront of the devastation wrought by the pandemic. Our neighbors fell ill, many died, our businesses were shuttered, and our daily lives were fundamentally changed. This year's budget lays out a plan to invest in small businesses and cut costs for working people so that we can confidently rebuild. I will continue to do all that I can in Albany to advocate for additional relief funding and investment in our neighborhoods, especially the places that were hit hardest by the pandemic and subsequent disasters like Hurricane Ida.



Assemblyman Weprin joins State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to speak about the crucial role that Flushing's recovery will play in the revitalization of Queens and New York City at large.

## Presenting a Proclamation to Yuhán's Way

Drug addiction, overdoses, and deaths of despair are on the rise nationally, and unfortunately this is a trend impacting many throughout our city and state. My colleagues and I in government are actively taking steps to address the myriad causes leading so many down this dark path. Fortunately we also have the support of community advocacy groups that are stepping up to assist in combating drug usage among young people. Yuhán's Way, founded by Yukhan Binaminov, is a new organization aiming to combat drug usage among young people and provide positive alternatives. I was honored to attend their inaugural gala and present a proclamation honoring them for their ambitious goals. My colleague in the Assembly, Member Andrew Hevesi, whose district borders mine, joined me on stage to honor Yukhan for his commitment to securing the future of our next generation.



David Aronov, Assemblyman Weprin, Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, and Yukhan Binaminov

## Renaming Ceremony for Little Bangladesh Street

I was honored to participate in the ceremony renaming a portion of Hillside Avenue by Homelawn Street as "Little Bangladesh Avenue." Our Bangladeshi community has grown throughout my years representing the area, both in the City Council and now in the State Assembly. As we welcome people of Bangladeshi heritage into important roles of political power, it is fitting to acknowledge this important constituency in our great city. The ceremony was held on International Mother Language Day, a Bangladeshi national holiday celebrating multilingualism that is internationally recognized by UNESCO. Council Member Jim Gennaro led the event, which I attended with many local leaders like Community Board 8 Chair Martha Taylor.



Community Board 8 Chair Martha Taylor, Assemblyman Weprin, and Council Member Jim Gennaro

## Distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The COVID19 pandemic put all of us through such a difficult time, forcing us to social distance, shelter in place, and miss out on so many important occasions. Despite the downsides of pandemic isolation, we united to keep ourselves and the community safe. My office has received many shipments of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that we've distributed to the community, including KN95 masks, hand sanitizer, face shields, and at-home COVID testing kits. We are committed to providing everyone in the community with the necessary PPE to keep our families, friends, and ourselves safe. Despite waves of COVID variants like Delta, Omicron, and BA.2, I know that we will get through this crisis together. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for PPE supplies - we are here to serve!



Assemblyman Weprin distributing PPE supplies to the community.

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

I was pleased to march in the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Midtown Manhattan. The COVID19 pandemic disrupted so many fundamental parts of everyday life, including the festivals and celebrations that give New York so much of its character. This year was the first full march of the St. Patrick's Day Parade since 2019 and it was a great opportunity to connect with many of my friends and colleagues in government. The parade marches up Fifth Avenue beginning at W 44th Street and ending at W 79th Street.



*NYPD Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell, Mayor Eric Adams, and Assemblyman Weprin*



*Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, David Weprin, Assemblyman Kenny Burgos, and State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli*

## Passover and Ramadan Food Distributions with QJCC and APAG

The Queens Jewish Community Council (QJCC) and American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) have been phenomenal partners in our community outreach efforts before, during, and after the COVID19 pandemic. Both organizations provide direct assistance to the elderly, as well as cultural programming and take a leadership role in fighting food insecurity. I joined QJCC volunteers and staff for a food prep and distribution shortly before the start of Passover. Before the start of Ramadan, I partnered with APAG to distribute food to the community. Our 2022-2023 State Budget invests \$22 million for hunger prevention nutrition assistance programs and \$4.2 million for the Nutritional Outreach and Education Programs (NOEP).



*MET Council Agency Relations Manager Benjamin Zaienz, QJCC Vice President Dr. Judith Friedman-Rosen, Assemblyman Weprin, Rabbi Mayer Waxman, QJCC Assistant to Executive Director Fred Fleisher*



*Ali Rashid, Assemblyman Weprin, and Naveed Chaudhry distribute food to the community.*

## Celebrating the Life of Uma SenGupta

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to the legendary Uma SenGupta, a trailblazer for the Indian community in New York. After immigrating to the United States 60 years ago, she made history as the first Indian-American woman elected to be a Party District Leader. A mother, grandmother, and community leader, she embodied the spirit of Queens – the World's Borough. It was my honor to gather with her family and friends in late March to honor her legacy before she passed away. Uma was a staunch advocate for greater representation and participation in politics. Her lifelong service to the community was a gift and her legacy of service lives on. I wish to express my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones. Her memory is a blessing.



*Council Member Jim Genaro, Wendy Phaff Gennaro, Dr. Sumita SenGupta, Borough President Donovan Richards, Assemblyman Weprin, and District Leader Dr. Neeta Jain*

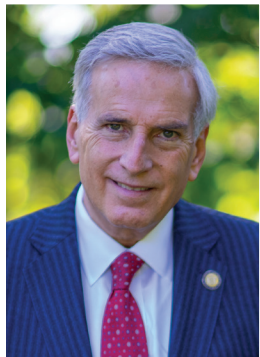
## Welcoming Rabbi Shmuel Butman to Albany

I was honored to once again welcome and introduce Rabbi Shmuel Butman, Director of Lubavitch Youth Organization, to the NYS Assembly. Rabbi Butman joined us in Albany on April 5th and delivered the daily invocation. I sponsored and the Assembly passed a Resolution commemorating the 120th anniversary of the birth of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Rabbi Schneerson was born on April 5, 1902, in modern-day Ukraine and immigrated to the United States. His contributions to Jewish teachings are immeasurable and he is rightfully lauded as one of the great thinkers of the 20th Century. This year marked an historic commemoration in many ways, particularly as the number 120 has deep significance. Rabbi Schneerson would have been 120 years old this year, and it is customary to wish people “good health and long life until 120,” as this was the age of Moses at his death. I am deeply grateful to Rabbi Butman for his friendship and advocacy throughout the years, and I look forward to welcoming him to Albany for many years to come.



*Assemblyman Weprin, Rabbi Shmuel Butman, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.*

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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## Unveiling the Tom Seaver Statue



I was honored to participate in the formal unveiling ceremony for the new Tom Seaver statue at Citi Field on Opening Day 2022. “Tom Terrific” was a legend and a true team player, and his statue looks fantastic. Mike Piazza joined the crowd and gave moving remarks about “The Franchise.” We were also joined by the Seaver family, Steven Cohen, and hundreds of Mets fans to honor Tom Seaver’s legacy. To add to the celebratory atmosphere, the Mets put up an impressive Opening Day win, defeating the Arizona Diamondbacks 10-3. It was a special occasion and a great opportunity to chant: Let’s Go Mets!

## Honoring NYPD Officers Rivera and Mora

On January 28th, I gathered with thousands of officers at St. Patrick’s Cathedral to honor the life of Officer Jason Rivera, who, after only 14 months of service, was fatally wounded while responding to a domestic disturbance in Harlem. His partner, Officer Wilbert Mora, succumbed days later to injuries sustained in the incident as well. We gathered at the Hindu Center Temple in Flushing for an interfaith vigil to honor their sacrifices in the line of duty. I am deeply saddened by these young lives taken too soon and my deepest condolences go out to their families and loved ones. I believe that it is our solemn duty to carry on in service to the community in their memory.



*NYPD Officers salute their fallen comrade; a memorial to Officers Rivera and Mora at the Hindu Center Temple*