



# Assemblywoman **Nily Rozic**

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Dear Neighbor:

From the budget process to the legislative session to neighborhood events, 2016 is off to a great start! I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights and updates of the past six months and thank you again for your support this year!

As you may know, this year's budget included a long-awaited paid family leave program, more funding for CUNY and SUNY, a historic minimum wage increase, and unprecedented education dollars for our schools.

The progress made in Albany did not stop there. I am proud to report that I authored a bill that passed both chambers to expand flexible working arrangements to increase work-life balance while providing personal and family-related flexibility in the workplace. Additionally, the Assembly passed bills I wrote to combat domestic violence, improve rehabilitative programs for women, ban solitary confinement for pregnant women, and increase efficiency at the Department of Corrections. The push for these continues in the Senate.

The work is never done, though. While the Legislature succeeded in passing a resolution that would pave the way for revoking public pensions from officials convicted of a felony, we still need to pass real ethics reform. I will always advocate for policies that build a more equitable, just New York for all of us.

For now, I look forward to spending more time in Queens and hearing directly from community members about our priorities. You can always reach me at 718-820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us or visit my office at 159-16 Union Turnpike, Flushing, NY with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



## Passing Historic and Unprecedented Paid Family Leave Laws

This budget season, I am happy to say that the New York State Legislature was able to pass long awaited paid family leave legislation for both men and women. This budget was an important opportunity to put families first so that they no longer have to risk economic security to care for their loved ones. New York will be the fifth state in the country to mandate paid leave when the program goes into effect in January 2018. A gradual phase-in will allow both men and women to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave starting in 2021 that will be funded through a payroll tax.



## Bringing Up the Next Generation of Women

Every year I look forward to taking the time to speak on a variety of panels to women of all ages encouraging them to get involved. Recently, I was invited to speak as a panelist at the New American Leaders Project: Ready to Lead Conference. I was honored to discuss with women of immigrant heritage the importance of women in elected office.

## Eliminating Taxes on Health Products

As you may know the issue of access to feminine hygiene products is being taken up in legislatures across the country. At the state level, we are building on that momentum with a bill currently awaiting the Governor's signature that would exempt feminine hygiene products from sales and use tax. By eliminating the sales tax for these items, we are taking a significant step forward in removing a costly burden that adds up over the course of women's lives.

## Advocating for Transparency of Taxpayer Funded Spending

Unlike the MTA, the State Department of Transportation is not required to submit a capital plan for review. This has led to an opaque process in which plans and accompanying project lists are released months after the budget has been voted on.

To ensure a fiscally-responsible use of tax dollars and transparency in the planning process, I authored and introduced legislation that would require the agency to submit five-year capital plans with defined projects that are subject to public review and scrutiny. This bill passed in the Senate and I am confident it will pass next year in the Assembly.

## Want to intern or volunteer?

To apply, please contact us at 718-820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us

# Fighting for Our Quality of Life



## Hosting a Queensboro Hill Town Hall

To bring government services directly to the community, I hosted a town hall at the Lowell School with city agencies available to answer residents' questions. The evening concluded with a free smoke detector giveaway facilitated by the Fire Department. Please let my office know if you are interested in attending a future town hall in your neighborhood.



## Hosting My Fourth Annual Rain Barrel Giveaway

I was happy to partner with the Department of Environmental Protection to host my fourth free rain barrel giveaway for local residents! Together we have distributed almost 1,000 barrels across the district along with installation kits, instructions, and the DEP Homeowner's Guide to Flood Preparedness. Residents who were unable to register can call my office any time and sign up for next year's giveaway.

## Expanding Safe and Effective Transportation in Queens



Earlier this spring, I stood with community members and advocates to call on the City's Transportation Department to implement traffic calming measures in front of our Neighborhood WIC Center. To ensure that it does not neglect the needs of the community, we are urging the agency to revisit the issue and deliver results that will maximize pedestrian safety and regulate traffic. If you have a transportation or traffic concern in your neighborhood, please call our office so we can follow up.

## Beautifying Our Neighborhood

Last year, I wrote to Department of Sanitation of New York City Commissioner Kathryn Garcia about unsolicited ads popping up across Fresh Meadows and surrounding neighborhoods. During my time in session, the Commissioner and I met to discuss this issue and many others affecting our community. We have removed hundreds of ads to this point. As we continue our vigilance, if you see unsolicited ads on public property please report the ad to 311 and call my office so we can follow up with the complaint number.

## Urging Repeal of STAR Program Changes

This year in the budget process, there was an unfortunate policy change that converted STAR from a property tax deduction to a personal income tax credit. While the program remains the same for existing homeowners, changes were enacted in this year's budget that place additional financial burdens on first-time homeowners and those looking to move. At the beginning of session I sent a letter to Speaker Heastie asking him to reject these changes. Now, I am sponsoring legislation to repeal the transition into a personal income tax credit so that future applicants can receive the same benefits and immediate savings as those currently enrolled.



## Working to Clean Up Parks

Queens has more trees than the other four boroughs combined. In our district, we are lucky to have access to beautiful parks such as Kissena Corridor Park, Peck Park, Kissena Park, Cunningham Park and Alley Pond Park. This spring, Department of Parks and Recreation Queens Borough Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski and I walked through our neighborhoods and parks to see where improvements could be made. I am working tirelessly to ensure that Queens receives its fair share of attention and funding so that we may ensure our trees remain healthy and our parks remain accessible.



## Teaming up with the New York Cosmos in Flushing

In order to combat budget cuts continuing to strain programming in our schools, I paired up with the NY Cosmos to bring free soccer clinics to P.S. 120 to further students' learning and development outside the classroom. The clinics were a huge success and served students of all grade levels. It is important to invest in these alternatives that make vital resources available to our local communities.

## Serving Seniors

On May 10, the State Assembly celebrated Senior Citizens Awareness Day as part of National Older Americans Month. I was happy to honor these contributions and celebrate the legacy of our seniors by presenting an official state resolution to both the CCBQ Bayside Senior Center and the SelfHelp Benjamin Rosenthal Senior Center in Flushing.



### Informing Constituents

Captain Paul Valerga of the 107th Precinct and I visited local senior centers to speak to seniors about scam prevention tips. We are urging everyone in the community to use caution and to be suspicious of callers looking for immediate payment. As always, my office is available to assist if you or someone you know has any questions about scam prevention.

### Recognizing Valuable Volunteers

In June, I had the privilege of visiting multiple locations of Selfhelp Community Services to recognize the contributions of their volunteers. The daily work that these seniors do is both inspiring and integral to our success. It was my great pleasure to honor them by issuing certificates recognizing their efforts.

## Honoring Our Heritage and Vibrant Community



### Denouncing BDS

As the first Israeli-born member of the state legislature, I support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish, democratic state and I currently sponsor a bill in the Assembly to keep in place the state's existing sanctions against Iranian nuclear ambitions and terrorist campaigns. I was happy to join fellow elected officials and leaders of New York's Jewish community for Governor Andrew Cuomo's signing of Executive Order 157 directing state agencies to divest all public funds from institutions supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. The historic measure makes New York the first state in the nation to stand up against the hateful divestment movement.



### Launching the IDNYC Pop-Up in Bayside

This winter, I sponsored an IDNYC Pop-Up enrollment center at the Bayside Library along with Council Member Paul Vallone, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Korean American Association of Queens. The creation of the enrollment center made it easier for Northeast Queens residents to apply for their free municipal identification card, along with all the fun benefits it comes with throughout our city.



### Launching a New Community Health Center

This June, I joined my colleagues State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblyman Ron Kim for a ceremony marking the grand opening of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC) in Flushing. I routinely meet with CBWCHC staff in Queens and Albany to discuss partnerships that improve the health and well-being of our community. I look forward to continuing these efforts!



### Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

In May at the Fresh Meadows Library, I hosted my Fourth Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration! Together with my colleagues, we honored community members whose contributions help shape our growing, vibrant borough and enjoyed multiple performances by the YWCA of Queens and the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades' Herald Youth Orchestra.

# Supporting High Quality Education for All Ages



## Promoting Pre-K for All

On the last day of round two Pre-K applications, New York City Deputy Mayor Richard Buery and I visited Jack'n Jill School II's Pre-K For All program in Fresh Meadows. It is always great to see programs support community needs and positive classrooms!



## Fighting for CUNY Funding

This year, I fought to ensure that the City University of New York's funding was not decimated. Queens College faculty and administrators traveled to Albany to advocate for our students. Our work and all those calls worked; as the representative for Queens' largest group of CUNY students, faculty, administrators and staff, I am happy to say that we successfully closed the \$435 million budget gap that would have been a huge detriment to our community.

## Hosting Queens Regent Judith Chin

It was an honor hosting a meet and greet for Queens Regent Judith Chin this spring so that community members could learn more about her role in shaping current and future education proposals. Home to the best schools in the City, I want our district to include all voices and ensure our schools' continued excellence. Special thanks to District 25 Superintendent Danielle DiMango and District 26 Superintendent Danielle Giunta for their support and assistance with bringing school faculty and parents together.



Assemblywoman  
**Nily  
Rozic**

Summer 2016



## Team Nily at Work

Let us know how we can help! My office can assist you with any question or concern.

We speak multiple languages in my office including: Mandarin, Korean, Hebrew, and Spanish. We also are happy to locate translation services for any other language needs you may have.

My office is always looking for interns or volunteers to help out around the office and assist in special projects. Interning here can help students gain valuable experience working in public service. If you are interested in applying to be an intern or volunteer, please contact us!

*Kevin Cho (Community Liaison), Marilla Li (Director of Constituent Services), Meagan Molina (Legislative and Communications Director), Erin Rogers (Chief of Staff), Assemblywoman Nily Rozic*