



Assemblyman **William COLTON**

Fall 2012

PROTECTING US AND OUR COMMUNITY

Community Celebrates B64 Restoration Victory!



Community Coalition Delivers B64 Victory

Citing nearly two years worth of community events, phone calls, letter writing campaigns, and petition circulation, Assemblyman Colton hailed the restoration of the B64 line to Harway Avenue as a community victory. “This coalition of community people, seniors, people with disabilities, parents and their children, small businesses and TWU Local 100 fought to ensure that the MTA allocated the money and resources needed to restore these devastating cuts.” He added, “The MTA, local citizens, and the unions should work together to ensure proper funding for needed public transit services in the future.”

Colton: A New Era in Public Transit Has Dawned

Assemblyman Colton believes the restoration is a victory for the entire community and the mobilization of this broad coalition should be a model for future community relations with the MTA and other government entities. “I want to challenge the MTA to join our partnership, which comprises many community organizations, the hard-working men and women of the Transit Workers Union Local 100, local small businesses, and other dedicated individuals. Together we can prevent future hardships and change the approach to budget shortfalls by leveraging the power of the community to advocate for the resources needed by individuals and families,” stated Assemblyman Colton.

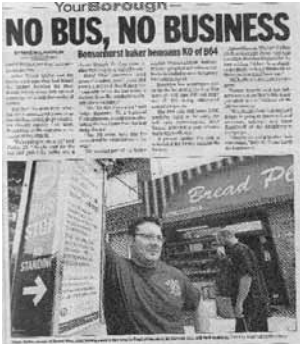
Assemblyman Colton is pictured above between B64 Campaign Coordinator and Special Assistant Priscilla Consolo (left) and concerned resident Ann Marie Walsh (right). When the B64 bus was cut in 2010, Ms. Walsh took her concerns to Colton. Being a disabled resident who depended heavily on the route, Ms. Walsh provided immense inspiration for the creation of the “Bring Back the B64” campaign. Colton’s Special Assistant, Priscilla Consolo, was put in charge of bringing together a coalition of community organizations, small businesses, and the TWU Local 100 to fight for the restorations. The coalition that she helped assemble with Colton was successful in getting the B64 line restored, effective January 2013.

The Road To Victory Was Paved By YOU!

No Bus, No Business, No More

Whether it was stories of hardship caused by the B64 cut being told by our local business owners, or concerned residents rallying on Harway Avenue to protest the cuts, or community residents traveling with Assemblyman Colton to MTA board meetings to demand restoration, there isn’t any doubt that the effort involved the entire community.

“Residents of Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Gravesend, and other surrounding communities should be proud of what they helped to accomplish. If this type of cooperation can work for change in mass transit, then it can work for numerous other pressing issues in the community,” said Colton.



Colton Sues to Stop Harmful Bensonhurst Garbage Station



Assemblyman Colton is seen here asking DEC Commissioner Joe Martens questions at an environment budget hearing in Albany.

Takes Fight to the Courtroom

Last fall Assemblyman Colton promised to file a lawsuit against the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) if the agency ruled against the community by issuing a permit to the city for the construction of a garbage station at Shore Parkway & Bay 41 Street. A recent decision handed down by DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens granted the city a permit, and Colton followed through on his promise.

Colton personally gathered the research necessary to develop the suit, and walked down to the DEC while in Albany on June 19th to serve the papers. Assemblyman Colton is determined to win in court to stop this plan just like he did in the early 1990's when he led a successful lawsuit to shut down the hazardous Southwest Brooklyn incinerator on the same site.

Colton Rallies Neighborhood Against Garbage Station

Community Residents Join Fight

On Sunday, August 5th Assemblyman Colton held a rally at the Bay Parkway promenade to protest the city's plan to build a dangerous garbage transfer station on the site of the former Southwest Brooklyn incinerator. Colton believes the DEC failed to take into account the dumping of decades' worth of toxic ash into Gravesend Bay and failed to weigh the years of environmental injustice that the community has already been exposed to.

"The residents of the community raised their voices together, and we told the state and city that we will not be subjected to another environmental hazard. We cannot allow another dangerous plan to move forward and wreak further havoc on Southwest Brooklyn," stated Colton.



Assemblyman Colton is shown here with neighborhood residents rallying against the proposed garbage transfer station.

Colton Lauds Transit and Parking Victories

Colton's Efforts End Muni-Meter Deception

Assemblyman Colton is claiming victory in the fight to end the city's vague policy regarding the transferable use of a muni-meter receipt from one parking spot to another. Residents in the community were outraged for being ticketed in different parking locations, despite having remaining time on their receipt.

Colton's advocacy sparked city-wide media coverage of the issue, which caught the attention of Councilman James Vacca. The City Council passed a bill this past spring allowing motorists to use their unexpired receipt at another muni-meter regulated block with similar rates.

"I applaud the City Council for doing what is right for motorists in the city. Parking rules should be uniform and easy to understand for every motorist. Nobody should be burdened with unnecessary and avoidable tickets in these tough economic times," said Colton.

Access-A-Ride Success Story

Earlier this year Assemblyman Colton sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of a disabled constituent who was having her Access-A-Ride service cancelled by the MTA. Assemblyman Colton cited a violation of this senior's rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and a serious disregard for her documented medical conditions. The attention that Assemblyman Colton helped draw to the case caught the eye of an anonymous donor, who has offered to pay for door-to-door transport from her home to her doctor's office.

The 2010 cuts forced many seniors and relatively mobile disabled residents into seeking Access-A-Ride service because the



Photo courtesy of brooklynpaper.com



Photo courtesy of the Staten Island Advance

distance they had to travel to use transit increased exponentially. Assemblyman Colton is hopeful that restorations of bus lines will help the MTA focus on providing Access-A-Ride service to those who really need it.

2012 Legislative Session A Success

Cut Taxes for 4.4 Million New Yorkers

The State Legislature created new tax brackets, providing middle-class families with the lowest tax rate in 58 years. Assemblyman Colton was also involved in crafting a package which included a 4% sales tax exemption on clothing under \$110. The tax relief package also eliminated or reduced the MTA Mobility Tax for some 290,000 small businesses.

“Tax fairness is one of my top priorities as your legislator, and I am glad the state is starting to reduce regressive taxation. I am looking forward to the creation of the governor’s Tax Reform and Fairness Commission, so we can put long-term solutions in place,” said Colton.

Investing in Education

“As a former educator and perennial fighter for education funding, I am proud to say that I voted for an increase in state aid by some \$805 million. We were also able to give state and city community colleges their first increase in aid in five years. I will continue to work with my colleagues and the governor to prioritize the investment in our schools and children,” said Colton.

... “I will continue to work with my colleagues and the governor to prioritize the investment in our schools and children.”



\$3.5 Billion State Deficit Wiped Away

Over the past two years the State Legislature has balanced the budget, finding \$13.5 billion in savings without raising taxes on working families, proposing new fees or any gimmicks.

“This past March I helped pass the second consecutive on-time budget which closed a \$3.5 billion gap, while including measures to boost the economy, create jobs, and fund a promised increase in education,” said Colton.

Consecutive On-time Budgets

The NYS Legislature partnered with the governor to deliver two consecutive on-time budgets in a bi-partisan manner.

Assemblyman Colton is looking forward to maintaining the progress and working with all of his colleagues to rein in wasteful spending, while providing New Yorkers an increased commitment to our education and healthcare systems.

Colton Gets Tough on Crime

Expanding the DNA Database

Assemblyman Colton voted in favor of expanding the DNA database by increasing the list of offenses that require a DNA sample from convicted offenders. This law will help law enforcement catch criminals, solve crimes, and help ensure that innocent people are not incarcerated.

Cracking Down on Domestic Abuse

Repeat domestic abuse offenders will face harsher penalties under a bill Assemblyman Colton helped pass this year. Colton can also be credited for pushing for the federal reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and other initiatives that will help protect victims and punish abusers.

Fighting Illegal Prescription Drug Sales

Colton voted in favor of the I-STOP bill, which will fight the illegal trafficking of addictive painkillers that are destroying families and causing violence in our neighborhood pharmacies. This law will establish a real-time controlled substance database that will be shared between doctors and pharmacists to track and identify

Colton Protecting the Vulnerable

Creation of the Justice Center

The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs will be tasked with tracking the treatment of people with disabilities and ensuring that reports of abuse are investigated and punished. This new watchdog will ensure that abuse and neglect are not tolerated in this state.

Closing Child Pornography Loopholes

A recent court case exposed a loophole in the law against possession of child pornography. The court found that it was not illegal to view child pornography on the Internet, only to download it, print it, or disseminate it. Assemblyman Colton co-sponsored a bill which closes the loophole and makes viewing child pornography a class E felony.

Stopping Cyberbullying

Assemblyman Colton sponsored a groundbreaking piece of legislation to help stop the bullying of children over the Internet by peers and strangers. The law requires prompt reporting procedures

Colton’s Jobs & Trade Bill Passes Assembly

Colton Fights for Trade Transparency

Assemblyman Colton was successful in passing his Jobs & Trade bill this past June in the State Assembly. The bill would require the Department of Economic Development to release a report on the impact an international trade deal would have on the state’s job market and economy.

“The public has the right to know how a trade deal could impact their livelihoods. NAFTA and other trade agreements have severely impacted our state’s manufacturing base and cost countless jobs. We need to keep good-paying jobs here in New York. This begins by shedding sunlight on these trade agreements,” said Colton.



NYS No. 10 for Economic Growth

Recently, the United States Chamber of Commerce released a report that ranks New York in the top 10 for economic performance. New York jumped eleven places since last year to land at number ten. The big leap is attributed to job growth, expanding gross state product, productivity and productivity growth among workers, personal income growth, and livability.

“We still have a long road to travel, but at least we know we are on the right road to recovery. Our middle-class tax cuts, combined with significant investments in regional economic development programs and high-tech innovation, are helping drive the recovery. We all must be committed to working together to make this state one of the best in the country, and I am committed to working with all of my colleagues to achieve that goal,” said Assemblyman Colton.

Colton's Clean Sweep Campaign Continues

Assemblyman Colton's "Clean Sweep" Campaign continued to roll through various neighborhoods in the community on June 30th. Special Assistant Priscilla Consolo led Division 9 High School Key Club to clean Bensonhurst Park (at Cropsey Ave. & Bay Parkway), 86th St. from 19th Ave. to 23rd Ave., Bath Ave. from 20th Ave. to Bay Parkway, and Bay Parkway from 86th St. to Shore Parkway.

As always, the tools and materials were provided by the NYC Department of Sanitation and The Home Depot. Please call Assemblyman Colton's district office to report any problem areas that need cleaning at 718-236-1598.



If You Steal from Medicaid You Steal from Children and Seniors!

Approximately \$40 billion is spent on the state's Medicaid program each year. The vast majority of that money is used to provide vital healthcare to children, seniors and people with severe disabilities.

Recent crackdowns broke up multi-million dollar fraud rings in the state. With 18% of the state budget being dedicated to the Medicaid program, Assemblyman Colton wants you to know that if you steal from Medicaid, you are stealing it from children, the elderly, the disabled, and the taxpayer!

Assemblyman Colton Wants You to Know Your Rights if You Suspect Medicaid Fraud

Medicaid Whistleblower Protections

- Employers cannot retaliate against an employee for reporting fraud
- Whistleblower eligible to recover 30% of government's recoveries for bringing a lawsuit on behalf of the state
- Whistleblower can remain anonymous

To report Medicaid fraud call:
 Office of the Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Unit
 212-417-5397
www.ag.ny.gov
 Office of the Medicaid Inspector General
 877-873-7283
www.omig.ny.gov

Colton Offers Reduced-Fare MetroCards

MetroCard Mobile Sales Staff will assist those who are eligible every month at Assemblyman Colton's community office:

Seniors 65+

Senior citizens 65 years of age and older can apply for an MTA Reduced-Fare MetroCard and can receive a temporary card the same day. Proper proof of age, such as a Medicare Card, is required.

Seniors with Disabilities

People with qualifying disabilities **with a Medicare card** and a valid photo I.D., such as a driver's license, can apply for a Reduced-Fare MetroCard and receive a temporary card the same day.

People with Disabilities

People with qualifying disabilities **without a Medicare card** can also apply. No temporary card will be issued and the applicant must first meet all qualifying criteria. Please note that the application processing may take up to 8 weeks.

Dates	Time	Location
Friday, September 28th		Assemblyman Colton's Community Office
Friday, October 26th	10 AM to 12 Noon	155 Kings Highway (between West 12th and West 13th Streets)
Friday, November 30th		Brooklyn, NY 11223-1026 (718) 236-1598
Friday, December 28th		

Save Money On Your Car Insurance Through the AARP Driver Safety Program

DATE:

Sunday, November 25, 2012

TIME:

8:30 AM-5:00 PM

SPONSOR:

AARP & Assemblyman William Colton

PLACE:

29 Bay 25th Street
 (Between 86th St. and Benson Ave.)
 Brooklyn, NY 11214

To Register Please Call:

718-236-1598 and ask for Paul S. Lipton. Please give your name and telephone number for pre-registration and you will be given full information about the class. After regular office hours, please leave your information and we will return your phone call.

COLTON'S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVING YOU

155 Kings Highway (Between West 12th and West 13th Streets) • **718-236-1598**
Email: coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us

Monday-Wednesday 10 AM to 4 PM
 Thursday Noon to 8 PM
 Friday 10 AM to Noon

**Veterans' Benefits + EPIC + STAR Rebates + SCRIE + DRIE + HEAP + HeartShare
 Food Stamps + Housing Issues + Family Tax Credits + Small Business Tax Credits
 Health Insurance + State/City Agencies + Legal Assistance And Much More!**