



Assemblyman William Colton

PROTECTING US
AND OUR COMMUNITY

Spring 2013

Fight Against Garbage Station Enters Homestretch

Gravesend Bay Study Reveals Carcinogenic Toxins

This past October, the Army Corps of Engineers demanded the NYC Department of Sanitation (DOS) to conduct a sediment sampling of Gravesend Bay as part of the permit process to build a garbage station at Shore Parkway & Bay 41st St. in Bensonhurst. The sediment sample was then sent to Assemblyman Colton, revealing the presence of toxic Class-C carcinogens.

“This sediment sample vindicates a prior study commissioned by my office,” said Assemblyman Colton. “It confirms a heavy concentration of mercury, mirex, arsenic, lead, and dioxins along the shore line where the old incinerator was located. If the bay is dredged to accommodate these trash barges, it will wreak havoc on the quality of our water and our beaches.”

Colton Moves Forward with Lawsuit

Acting as pro-bono attorney for the community, Assemblyman Colton forged ahead with the back-and-forth legal battle with the DOS and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Subsequent hearings involving the suit reveal that the DOS is failing to take the proper safeguards found in environmental reviews. The hearings also reveal a desire to fast track the project



Assemblyman Colton and community activist Mark Treyger, organized a rally to “Dump the Dump” on April 28th at the Bay Parkway Promenade. Several hundred concerned residents came out in force to voice their opposition to the city’s failure to protect the neighborhood’s quality-of-life.

against the community’s wishes. Assemblyman Colton will continue to engage the city and state to ensure that the well-being of the community is given the highest priority.

Colton Fighting for Our Veterans



Assemblyman Colton is seen here flanked by members of the NYS Assembly and Senate to announce the introduction of a bill to end a burdensome tax for our veterans. Assemblyman Colton teamed up with Senator DeFrancisco (R-Syracuse) to unite bi-partisan support for the bill. The bill currently has 55 sponsors in the Assembly, where it awaits legislative action.

Hire a Vet Tax Credit

In an effort to expand employment opportunities for our newly discharged veterans, this year’s budget includes the “Hire a Vet” tax credit. Employers who hire a post-9/11 veteran will be able to claim the credit to cover 10% of a veteran’s annual wage, and 15% of a disabled veteran’s wage.

Establishment of NYS Veterans Cemetery

This year’s budget authorized the creation of the first Veterans Cemetery in the state of New York. “The devoted service and sacrifice of veterans preserves the liberty, freedom, and prosperity enjoyed by all New Yorkers,” said Assemblyman Colton. “Their service and sacrifice deserve unique and eternal recognition by the state of New York.”

Individuals filing their income tax returns will also be able to contribute to the newly-created Veterans Remembrance and Cemetery Maintenance Fund to support this new initiative.

Colton Fights to End Vehicle Tax for Veterans

Assemblyman Colton introduced a bill that would exempt members of the military from having to pay the sales and use tax on a vehicle they purchased while on active duty in another state. Veterans are coming home to find out they owe taxes on a vehicle that they already paid taxes for.

“Members of the military shouldn’t have to pay a tax on their vehicle twice, especially when it prevents them from registering their car and finding employment after being discharged,” said Colton.

Colton Launches Speak-Up Clean-Up Campaign 2013

The coming of spring marks the beginning of Assemblyman Colton’s Speak-Up Clean-Up campaign. This year’s campaign kicked off on Saturday, April 20th, just in time to honor Earth Day! Young volunteers from various neighborhood and scholastic organizations came out in droves to contribute to the clean-up effort. The young volunteers were led by Priscilla Consolo, Albert Tong, and local educator and community activist, Mark Treyger. The volunteers focused on streets at Kings Highway, from McDonald Ave. to Stillwell Ave., and Ave. U., from McDonald Ave. and Stillwell Ave. The Department of Sanitation and Home Depot were very generous in supplying the clean-up effort with the necessary tools.



Colton Fighting to Make Us Stronger After Sandy



Assemblyman Colton and community activist Mark Treyger are seen here with a constituent (middle) who lost three cars as a result of Sandy. Colton organized a bi-partisan coalition of lawmakers to call on the governor to issue an executive order to waive state registration fees for people who lost a car in the storm. Colton continues to pursue the matter with the governor's office with hope that these fees can be waived and retroactively recouped.

Disaster Recovery Aid Approved

Assemblyman Colton voted in favor of the Community Reconstruction Zone (CRZ) program included in this year's budget that will help empower communities to rebuild their homes and businesses. Brooklyn communities will have the opportunity to apply for \$150 million in CRZ aid to develop a comprehensive, innovative rebuilding plan, which considers current damage, future threats, and the community's economic opportunities. In addition to the CRZ program, the federal government will be providing \$1.3 billion to assist housing and business recovery.

SANDY ACTION PLAN



Housing

- **Single Family Housing**—\$233 million in grants for homeowners to cover the difference in the cost of home repairs not already covered by FEMA and insurance. An additional \$259 million will be used to support projects to make homes less vulnerable to future storms.
- **Multi-Family Housing**—\$124 million in grants will be made to small and large multi-family housing units for repairs and mitigation measures to protect against future storms.



Business

- **Small Business Grants**—\$232 million will be divvied up into grants of up to \$50,000 to cover uncompensated losses caused by the storm.
- **Small Business Loans**—\$130 million in low-interest loans will be made available to businesses and non-profits to help repair and rebuild facilities that were damaged in the storm.
- **Legal Assistance**—\$3 million will go to support legal assistance for small businesses. Services will include financial management, real estate, marketing, legal, and industry-specific assistance.

Visit www.NYSandyHelp.ny.gov or call: 1-855-NYS-SANDY for eligibility information, program details, and to fill out an application.

Colton Working on Relief Measures for Sandy Victims

Colton to Governor: Waive Fees for Sandy Victims

Some 200,000 plus vehicles were destroyed as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Some families lost multiple cars in the wake of the storm and had to reach into their pockets to pay registration fees and taxes for the replacements.

Assemblyman Colton thought it was highly unfair for the state to charge Sandy victims with registration fees on cars that were lost in the storm. In response, he assembled a bi-partisan coalition of lawmakers from hard-hit areas of the state to call on the governor to waive the fees for Sandy victims.

"As a government body, we must make the road to recovery and normalcy the least burdensome as possible. New York State should not reap benefits from victims who, absent these acts of God, would not have to go out and replace their vehicle," said Assemblyman Colton.

Colton Introduces Home Safety and Loss Prevention Bill

Assemblyman Colton re-introduced legislation that would give homeowners a reduction on their homeowner's insurance premium if they complete a state-certified home safety and loss prevention course. These courses would include instruction on a variety of home security topics ranging from theft prevention to natural disaster safeguards.

"Individuals and families should have incentives to invest in disaster training so they're prepared to protect their loved ones and property," said Colton. "Our communities will be better prepared to handle the next disaster if more people are trained to execute the necessary precautions."



Colton Fighting to Include Co-ops in Sandy Aid

Assemblyman Colton is calling on Congress to amend the eligibility criteria for receiving federal disaster aid to include cooperative housing buildings. Under current federal law, co-ops are ineligible to receive federal disaster relief aid because they're considered businesses.

"Current federal guidelines related to disaster aid are out of touch with the housing needs of large cities that rely on co-op housing for a significant portion of the population," said Assemblyman Colton. "We shouldn't erect arbitrary barriers to assistance for some people because they choose to call a co-op building home. A home is a home, and these people need our help."

Colton's Budget Priorities Help Working Families



Assemblyman Colton is seen here debating on the floor of the NYS Assembly.

Colton Delivers Consecutive Education Aid Increases

Assemblyman Colton's fight to increase aid for neighborhood schools proved victorious for the second year in a row. Under this year's budget, NYC schools will see an increase of \$363.9 million over last year, bringing state aid for NYC schools to \$8.28 billion. Despite the city's failure to strike a teacher evaluation deal, the state legislature made sure that students wouldn't be hurt by the loss in aid tied to the agreement.

The state budget also includes an additional \$150 per full-time equivalent SUNY and CUNY community college student, a \$17 million increase to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and a 3% across the board increase in academic and supportive services for disadvantaged students.

Fighting to Make Our Schools Safer

This year's budget includes a 10% increase in building aid for the purpose of purchasing metal detectors, security cameras, reinforced doors, and other security devices. "The senseless tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook must not play out in our schools," said Assemblyman Colton. "We must strengthen our resolve against violence and provide a safe learning environment for our children."

Colton Wins Minimum Wage Hike

Assemblyman Colton has been a long-standing proponent in the fight to raise the minimum wage. This year's compromise deal will gradually raise the minimum wage from its current rate of \$7.25 to \$9 by 2016. "This compromise strikes a balance between improving the quality of life for working class families, while providing tax relief for our small businesses, which are the engines of our local economy," said Colton.

Minimum Wage Scale

2013 → \$7.25
 2014 → \$8.00
 2015 → \$8.75
 2016 → \$9.00

Colton Hosts Senior Scam Awareness Forum

Scam Artists Targeting Seniors in Bensonhurst

Assemblyman Colton hosted a forum on senior scams with Deputy Inspector James Rooney of the 62nd Precinct. The forum was called to draw attention to the increase in scams being committed against the elderly, specifically, "Blessing Scams."

Criminals involved in these scams approach seniors on the street, gain their trust, and then offer health and wellness blessings for the victim and their families. The scheme is meant to get seniors to bring valuable items to be blessed, only to have their valuables stolen and replaced with false items. These scams have cost seniors an estimated \$1.3 million across the city.



Assemblyman Colton is seen here with Deputy Inspector James Rooney from the 62nd Precinct speaking to a group of concerned residents at a forum on senior scams. The forum was hosted at his Community Office located at 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Colton Fought to Make Senior Scams a Felony

Assemblyman Colton sponsored a bill that was signed into law in 2008 to slap thugs with a felony offense if they scam more than one elderly person. "Criminals preying on the elderly should know that they will be caught and they will go to jail," said Colton. "Taking advantage of vulnerable people is despicable and perpetrators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

TIPS FOR AVOIDING SCAMS

- ✓ Don't give personal information to strangers calling you over the phone
- ✓ Don't open your door for strangers
- ✓ Shred financial documents to prevent identity theft
- ✓ Keep your Medicare, Medicaid, or other medical cards in a safe place
- ✓ Beware of scare tactics and false emergencies used to obtain quick money
- ✓ Only give to trusted charities
- ✓ Change online banking passwords frequently

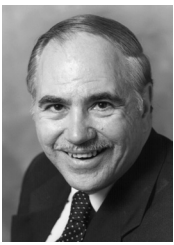
RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

If you have been a victim of a scam or identify theft it is vital that you report it to the authorities!

60th Precinct 2951 West 8th St. Brooklyn, NY 11224 (718) 946-3311	61st Precinct 2575 Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 627-6611	62nd Precinct 1925 Bath Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11214 (718) 236-2611
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NYS Office of the Attorney General
 5 Hanson Place, Suite 1080
 Brooklyn, NY 11217 • (718) 722-3949

Kings County District Attorney's Office
 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
 (718) 250-2340



A Message to New Constituents

From

Assemblyman

William Colton, 47th A.D.

Dear Neighbor:

I wanted to take the time to welcome all new constituents who were redistricted into the 47th Assembly District, which encompasses the neighborhoods of Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Gravesend, and Dyker Heights. I am a proud life-long resident of the district, which gives me a homegrown perspective of the challenges, needs, and path to prosperity for our community.

Before my election to the Assembly in 1996, I was a school teacher for eleven years and received my Masters in Education from Brooklyn College. I then went on to achieve a J.D. from St. John's School of Law. These experiences vastly shaped my interests and ushered me into a life of public service. Long-active in civic affairs, I co-founded numerous organizations such as the Bensonhurst Tenants Council and the Bensonhurst Straphangers Committee. I also worked as a pro-bono attorney on behalf of the community to shut down the Southwest Brooklyn Incinerator, which operated at the site of the proposed garbage transfer station that I am working vigorously to stop.

I love our community and will work with everybody to make sure that our quality of life is protected and enhanced. My Community Office, located at 155 Kings Highway, is here to help solve problems, big and small, for you and your loved ones. My dedicated staffers are your neighbors too, and truly care about the people that visit my office on a daily basis.

Again, I welcome you to the 47th A.D., and look forward to serving you honorably and judiciously, just as I have for the past sixteen years.

Very truly yours,

William Colton

William Colton

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.

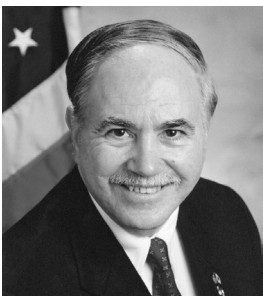
People with Disabilities

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
Friday, May 31st	10 a.m.
Friday, June 28th	to 12 Noon

Location
Assemblyman Colton's Community Office 155 Kings Highway (between West 12th and West 13th Streets) Brooklyn, NY 11223-1026 (718) 236-1598

Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223



Assemblyman

William COLTON

Spring 2013

PROTECTING US AND OUR COMMUNITY

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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	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. 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!**