

# Assemblyman William Colton

**PROTECTING US  
AND OUR COMMUNITY**

Spring 2014

## Colton Budget Priorities Helping Families

As New York State passed its fourth consecutive on-time budget, Assemblyman Colton has been a strong voice for demanding the budgets meet the needs of our families. Assemblyman Colton believes state government must work to protect our families by reducing the stress on families and promoting services which improve family quality of life.

### Reducing Taxes for Families

Assemblyman Colton, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, fought to include in this year's budget an acceleration of the repeal of the 18-a energy tax surcharge on utility bills. With the increasing energy costs, the state should help ease this burden on families from this added assessment on energy bills.

Also, Assemblyman Colton helped obtain tax relief for all families earning below \$200,000 by providing a tax credit of \$50 to \$550, based upon a sliding income scale to all family households, whether they are homeowners, tenants, co-op, or condo owners.

### Helping College Students

Colton, as a member of the Joint Budget Conference committee on Higher Education, fought to raise the maximum annual grant under the Tuition Assistance Program to \$5,165, while increasing state funding to CUNY and SUNY Community Colleges by \$75 dollars per full-time equivalent student. Colton supported and helped pass an innovative proposal to eliminate a student's loan for the top 10% of high school graduates, who major in high-technology areas, such as Math and Science in SUNY or CUNY colleges, and who agree to work in New York for 5 years after graduation.



## Colton Joined by New Councilman Treyger Continues Fight Against Dangerous Garbage Station

Southern Brooklyn continues to be threatened by the City's plan to put a dangerous garbage station on Shore Parkway and Bay 41 Street on the site of the former Southwest Brooklyn incinerator that Assemblyman Colton successfully brought a lawsuit to stop in 1991. Studies have revealed a heavy concentration of mercury, mirex, lead, arsenic, and dioxins buried deep below the shoreline from the old incinerator. Now the City wants to dig up these waters releasing these toxic substances into the waters of southern Brooklyn, including Bensonhurst, Coney Island, Gravesend, and Seagate.



### Fight Continues in Court and in the Community

Since the plan was announced in 2005, Assemblyman Colton together with then Community leader Mark Treyger and many other leaders and community organizations, has been fighting to stop the plan. Rallies have been held, and thousands of petition signatures have been collected. In 2012, Assemblyman Colton, as a pro bono attorney, brought a lawsuit on behalf of the community against a permit granted by the DEC Commissioner for the garbage station. The legal fight continues.

### Colton Schedules June 1 Rally

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Colton, joined by new City Councilman Mark Treyger is organizing the community and lining up public officials to fight in the court of public opinion. Colton and Treyger are calling on all of Southern Brooklyn to rally at end of Bay Parkway near the Promenade adjacent to Caesar's Bay Shopping Center on Sunday, June 1 at 1:00 p.m. The residents of Southern Brooklyn will speak out to the City and the State in one voice that we will not be subjected to another environmental hazard wreaking havoc on all of Southern Brooklyn.



## Assemblyman William Colton Honors Women of the Community with “Women of Distinction” Awards Ceremony



On Wednesday, April 23, Assemblyman Colton hosted the “Women of Distinction” Awards Ceremony. The event honored women who made significant contributions to their community. These women are role models to future leaders who wish to continue to improve our neighborhood. Shown in photo, are Nancy Sottile and Dilyora Rahimova, two of the forty women recognized at the ceremony.



## Colton Protecting Quality of Life



Protecting the quality of life in the neighborhood is one of the most important priorities for Assemblyman Colton and his Community Office. Assemblyman Colton responds to concerns raised by families and always does his best to address such neighborhood needs. Prodding government agencies to act to protect the quality of life is not easy. But Assemblyman Colton and his office staff look for ways to achieve this.

### Transit Improvements

For example, for years the Assemblyman has been fighting to force the MTA to make much needed repairs to the deteriorated stations on the “N” and the “D” lines. Last year, the MTA completed renovations of the “D” line stations and installed an elevator in the Bay Parkway “D” station. Now the MTA will start renovations to the dilapidated “N” line stations from 8th Avenue to Avenue U toward the end of this year. Also, after a long fight led by Assemblyman Colton, mobilizing community leaders and organizations, the B-64 bus service has been restored to Coney Island, and Colton continues to fight for other transit restorations such as a “F” express service and the restoration of the X28 and B82 bus service among others.

### Street and Transportation Improvements

Assemblyman Colton, working together with new Councilman Mark Treyger, have been addressing neighborhood concerns about the terrible cracks and potholes on 86 Street. Finally, plans are now in the works to repave this busy street. The parents of P.S. 95 expressed concern over the safety of the school children crossing the street next to the school. After obtaining installation of a speed bump last year, Assemblyman Colton and Councilman Treyger, together with Vincent Sampieri, a veteran, who has been mobilizing the neighborhood for the safety of our children are continuing discussions with DOT Brooklyn Commissioner Joseph Palmieri to further improve and protect the safety of our children.



## Colton Champions our Schools

### Colton Leads the Fight for School Funding

Assemblyman Colton has dedicated his life to fighting for education. Starting out his career as a public school teacher, Assemblyman Colton leads the fight to improve the quality of education in our local schools.

### Colton Helps Win the Battle for Universal Pre-K

This year, history has been made in education with the passing of Universal Pre-Kindergarten. Assemblyman Colton has pushed for Universal Pre-K during his entire time as a state legislator. With his persistence, working alongside fellow legislators, he helped champion this major accomplishment. Now more 4-year-olds will have access to Universal Pre-Kindergarten education for this upcoming 2014-15 school year. Studies have shown that the most formative years of human brain development occur during ages 3-5. This new, free, full-day Pre-K program will change the face of public education, increasing students' potential for success over a lifetime.

### Funding Increase for NYC and NYS Schools

Assemblyman Colton helped to champion historic investments in education that have been made with a total 2014-15 state budget increase of \$1.1 billion, the largest investment in more than five years. Assemblyman Colton and his colleagues successfully passed the 2014-15 state budget which provides more than \$8.6 billion to New York City schools, which is a \$435 million increase from last year. The budget dedicates \$300 million per year for two years to New York City schools to establish the first ever state funded full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. Total state funding for Universal Pre-K and Afterschool Programs comes to \$1.5 billion as part of a five-year implementation and expansion plan.



## Colton Promotes Our Veterans



Assemblyman Colton believes we should always respect our veterans, not only for their great personal sacrifice in keeping America strong, but also for their great community service and civic-mindedness back in our neighborhood.

Every year, Assemblyman Colton sponsors a Veterans Day Program at which numerous veterans are acknowledged for their dedication and service. Also, Assemblyman Colton supports the annual Memorial Day Parade to keep awareness and appreciation for our veterans alive.

In Albany, Colton has supported legislation to make it easier for veterans to obtain benefits, such as a law to permit veterans to have their status printed on their Driver License, as well as a law giving employers a tax incentive for employing a veteran, among other pro-veteran legislation.

Shown in the photo is Assemblyman Colton with a group of veterans including Vincent Sampieri, Joseph Tirolongo, Mark Johnson, and Harold Purnell, who volunteered their time as a color guard to lead the Parkville Youth Organization Opening Day Baseball Parade.

## Colton Continues Clean-up Campaign

Assemblyman Colton has continued his "Speak-Up & Clean-Up" grassroots campaign, which aims to keep our neighborhood clean with the help of youth volunteers. High school and college students from neighborhood schools and the local area are recruited as volunteers to clean-up streets, empty lots, and parks in the community.

### Cleaning Up our Neighborhood

The campaign has had over twenty clean-up events over the past three years. Hundreds of streets, as well as our local parks have been cleaned, and more than one thousand volunteers have participated in the events. The following streets and parks have been cleaned: Kings Highway, McDonald Avenue, Avenue U, Bay Parkway, Bath Avenue, 86th Street, 18th Avenue, and the local parks such as Seth Low Park, Bensonhurst Park, and the park at 18 Avenue and 83 Street, and the Bay Parkway promenade, among others. In addition to cleaning the streets, volunteers also spread the word about keeping the neighborhood clean.



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## Creating Awareness for a Clean Neighborhood

These clean-ups also seek to create an awareness of keeping the neighborhood clean. Our young people not only provide an example by picking up garbage, but volunteers pass out flyers in various languages containing sanitation guidelines and penalties to encourage people and businesses to maintain cleanliness in the community. Volunteers, in return, are awarded community service hours for their work.

Assemblyman Colton kicked off his 2014 "Speak-Up & Clean-Up" campaign on Saturday, May 17. Hundreds of volunteers cleaned 86th Street from 16th Avenue to 25th Avenue, 18th Avenue from Benson Avenue to 82nd Street, and Bensonhurst Park and the Bay Parkway underpass.

## ANNUAL FREE FLU SHOTS

Each year, Assemblyman Colton sponsors free flu shots for seniors at his community office. Last year, the vaccines were administered by the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and by Coney Island Hospital. Appointments were made for some two hundred seniors to receive their vaccinations. This year, the program will be held in October or November. Those who wish to receive flu shots should call the office at 718-236-1598 and they will be notified of their appointment and time.



## Colton Offers Reduced-Fare MetroCards

*MTA Mobile Sales Staff are available at Assemblyman Colton's Community Office monthly:*

### **Seniors 65+**

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

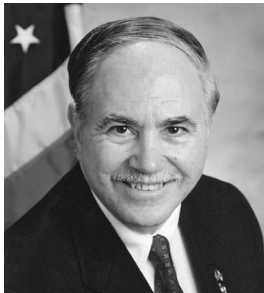
### **Seniors with Disabilities**

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
TBA	10 a.m. to 12 Noon
Location	
Assemblyman Colton's Community Office 155 Kings Highway (between West 12th and West 13th Streets) Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 236-1598	



**Assemblyman**  
**William**  
**COLTON**

Spring 2014

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AND OUR COMMUNITY**

## 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](mailto: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 12 Noon

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