



# Assemblyman **William Colton**



*Fighting for Us  
and Our Community*

Fall 2018

## **ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON SEEKS SOLUTIONS FOR PARKING CRISIS**

### **COLTON TO ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP TO TACKLE PARKING DILEMMA**

Over the years we have seen a major decline in on-street, residential parking space availability. Many factors may be at play including illegal curb cuts, new construction of developments of three or more families, and many households with larger families and more than one vehicle. Many residents have complained that it takes too much time to find a spot or that one car takes up a space that can accommodate two vehicles. Also, some have complained of commercial vehicles illegally parking overnight on residential streets.

### **POSSIBLE PARKING REMEDIES**

Ideas have been proposed in municipalities throughout the nation and some constituents have shared their solutions, such as utilizing permits to allow parking only of local residents' vehicles in designated areas or marking the pavement to designate the boundaries of spaces on the street.

Nevertheless, our neighborhood needs to develop a strategy and implement a plan that will ease this dilemma. Therefore, I am reaching out to my constituents and requesting feedback from the concerned residents of each block.

Please take a few moments to voice your concerns, solutions and comments, in the space provided below, regarding this troublesome issue of parking in our residential neighborhoods.

----- Tear - Off -----

**Please Check One:**

- Do you believe there is a parking crisis in your neighborhood? .....  Yes or  No
- Do you believe residential parking permits will help resolve this issue? .....  Yes or  No
- Do you believe pavement markings delineating spots will help resolve this issue? .....  Yes or  No
- Do you believe requiring more onsite spaces for new buildings will help resolve this issue? .....  Yes or  No
- Do you believe reducing alternate side parking hours will help resolve this issue? .....  Yes or  No
- Do you have any other ideas or suggestions to help resolve the parking crisis? .....  Yes or  No

**Please make your suggestions below:**

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**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Apt#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return To: **Assemblyman Colton's District Office – 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223**

## COLTON MOBILIZES NEIGHBORHOOD TO OPPOSE ELIMINATION OF THE SHSAT



Assemblyman Colton is leading a neighborhood fight against the city plan to eliminate the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) as the criteria for admission to the specialized high schools.

### **SHSAT HAS WORKED FOR DECADES**

For decades the SHSAT has successfully selected students for our specialized high schools, making them nationally renowned for their high academic standards. Many students from Districts 20 and 21 have earned seats in Stuyvesant, Brooklyn Tech, Staten Island Tech and the other specialized high schools. The mayor's proposal would eliminate the SHSAT and instead consider other factors, such as being in the highest 7% of their class in middle school, and other subjective criteria.

### **ELIMINATING SHSAT CONCEALS REAL PROBLEM**

The real cause of a serious lack of diversity in NYC schools is the failure of the DOE to offer gifted and talented classes in lower grades and middle schools in underserved school districts. The reason so many District 20 and 21 students have earned admission to our specialized high schools is that these school districts have strong gifted and talented programs to challenge and enrich their brightest students. The DOE continues to cut back and deny the brightest students in underserved districts access to such programs. Students who study hard in gifted and talented programs should not be penalized for the failure of the DOE to provide such programs to other districts.

### **REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OFFER GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS**

All school districts should be required to have gifted and talented programs to challenge their brightest students so they can earn seats in the schools by scoring high on the SHSAT. Instead of eliminating the SHSAT, which is an objective selection criterion, Colton proposes allocating more money to all neighborhoods to offer gifted and talented programs in early grades and middle schools. Rather than denying students who earn their way into specialized high schools, let's assist more students to do well and then increase the number of seats in specialized high schools to meet the needs of their success.

### **COLTON FORMS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP TO SUPPORT SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS**

Colton has helped setup a new neighborhood group, the South Brooklyn Coalition for Quality Education (SBCQE), to work with other groups in supporting our specialized high schools and to expand gifted and talented programs in all neighborhoods, including underserved ones. At their first meeting on August 8, the group discussed plans to participate in a September 9 citywide rally in lower Manhattan at Foley Square at 1 p.m. to make their demands known. Colton also presented legislation he is introducing in the Assembly to require all school districts provide gifted and talented classes.

Anyone who is interested in joining this fight or seeking more information should call the Assemblyman's Community Office at 718-236-1598.

## COLTON CONVINCES MTA TO RETHINK PLAN FOR SBS SERVICE ON B82

### COLTON'S PETITIONS, LETTERS AND COMPLAINTS GET RESULTS

Assemblyman Colton pressured the MTA to revisit their plan to create a Bus-Only lane along Kings Highway between Bay Parkway and Ocean Avenue, introducing Select Bus Service (SBS) to the B82 route. He sent a letter detailing the community's opposition and the disastrous consequences it would have had for the neighborhood including numerous petitions collected throughout his district.



### MTA RETURNED WITH SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The MTA has now responded with a revised plan significantly reducing the number of bus-only lanes from 28 to 9. This new change will restore almost 100 of the 169 parking spaces that the original plan threatened to take away. Adjacent to transit hubs (transfer points to subway lines) the bus-only lanes will be in effect seven days a week from 7am-7pm. Pedestrian plazas and additional parking spaces will be created on Kings Highway where Quentin Road merges, eastbound at West 11th Street & westbound at West 10th Street.

### COLTON SEEKS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FROM MTA

Calling on the MTA to continue reaching out to the community for their input, Assemblyman Colton has asked that the implementation of the plan be delayed until community boards reconvene after the summer recess and after there is further response from the community.

## COLTON CONTINUES NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS



Assemblyman Colton (center) shown with group of volunteers at start of cleanup along commercial streets, such as Kings Highway and Bay Parkway, among others. Over the years, Colton has conducted numerous cleanups and stressed to the people that clean streets are an important way to maintain a high quality of life in the neighborhood.

## COLTON: A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR SUPPORTING OUR POLICE OFFICERS



Assemblyman Colton believes supporting and recognizing our NYC police officers is the best way to keep our streets safe. He has been a counterforce to those who attack and undermine our law enforcement. Several years ago, he started a neighborhood blue ribbon campaign to show community support to our police officers. He distributed thousands of blue ribbons in the community.

# COLTON'S OFFICE OFFERS REDUCED-FARE METROCARD SERVICES

MetroCard Mobile Sales Staff assists those who are eligible each month at Assemblyman Colton's Community Office located at 155 Kings Highway (between West 12th and West 13th Streets)

## Seniors 65+

Senior Citizens 65 years 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 with a valid photo ID, such as a driver's license, can apply for a Reduced-Fare MetroCard and receive a temporary card the same day.

UPCOMING DATES	TIME
Friday, September 28, 2018	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, October 26, 2018	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, November 30, 2018	10AM to 12 Noon
Friday, December 28, 2018	10AM to 12 Noon

## People with Disabilities

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

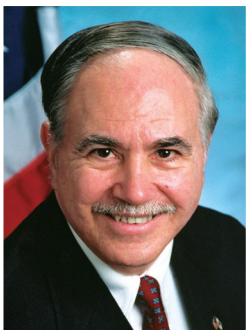
Assemblyman Colton and his Community Relations Director, Nancy Tong, shown with Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Brooklyn Board members, Jack Spatola and Carlo Scissura at the grand opening of Il Centro. Colton has long been a supporter of and obtained over \$600,000 in grants for the project.

The Center will serve all in the community and will provide a strong foundation for improving the quality of life in our neighborhood.



Community Office, 155 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223

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ASSEMBLYMAN  
**WILLIAM  
COLTON**

**Fighting for Us and  
Our Community**

Fall 2018

## COLTON'S COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVES YOU

155 Kings Highway (between West 12 and West 13 Streets)  
Telephone: 718-236-1598 • Email: coltonw@nyassembly.gov



Monday-Wednesday ..... 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursday ..... 12 Noon to 8 p.m.  
Friday ..... 10 a.m. to Noon



We will help you with: Small Business Concerns + College Aid Info + Veterans' Benefits + EPIC + STAR Rebates + Senior Homeowner Tax Abatements + SCRIE + DRIE + Heartshare + Housing Issues + Health Insurance Concerns + State/City Agencies Problems + Quality of Life Issues and Much More