



Assemblyman **Simcha Eichenstein**



**Spring 2020
Update**

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Dear Neighbor:

With the 2020 legislative session under way, we in the New York State Legislature are hard at work addressing the many issues that affect all New Yorkers. Every new session represents an opportunity for us to work together addressing the needs of our constituents. While we've accomplished much in the last session, there is still much to be done.

I am humbled by the feedback and support I've received from many of you and I thank you for reaching out to me with your comments. This is a vibrant and thriving community and it's an honor and a privilege to be representing you in the State Assembly.

My dedicated staff and I are here to serve you and are always willing to help you. Our office is located at 1310 48th Street, 2nd Floor. We can also be reached at district48@nyassembly.gov, or you can always feel free to call us at (718) 853-9616.

I look forward to continuing to serve you with honor and integrity.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, 48th District

Are you frustrated with a bureaucratic agency? Our district office is here to help you.

Here are a few examples of how we recently helped constituents overcome bureaucratic red tape:

Social Workers' Religious Observance Defended

When four Orthodox Jewish social workers were being forced to work on Yom Kippur at a NYC hospital, they reached out to us for help.

Assemblyman Eichenstein was livid, recognizing that it was his duty to intervene and protect their basic constitutional rights. He immediately reached out to the president of the hospital, expressing his outrage and shock that these employees were denied the opportunity to take off on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Following Assemblyman Eichenstein's engagement with the hospital's president, the hospital reversed its decision, and the four social workers were permitted to spend Yom Kippur in fasting and prayer. The hospital president apologized for this gross violation of the workers' basic religious rights and assured Assemblyman Eichenstein that this will never happen again and that workers' religious rights will be respected.

Special Needs Children's Unforgettable Trip to Florida

Students from a local school for special children were all set and ready to go on a class trip to Florida which would give their parents a much needed break and the children a most memorable experience.

As they prepared to leave, the school experienced a major bureaucratic nightmare - permission for the trip was needed from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), and that consent often involves a process that takes several weeks.

After realizing the serious predicament they were in, the school called Assemblyman Eichenstein's Office to see if anything could be done so the trip could continue as planned. After working through the overwhelming bureaucracy, Assemblyman Eichenstein and his staff were able to work with OPWDD to ensure that these special children would not be disappointed and could continue with the most wonderful experience of a lifetime on their school trip to Florida.

Community Boards play an important role in improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. The purpose of each Community Board is to facilitate the involvement of citizens with government operations within their communities.



Assemblyman Eichenstein at CB 11



Assemblyman Eichenstein at CB 12



Assemblyman Eichenstein at CB 14

Community Residents Take Advantage of Free Flu Shots at Assemblyman Eichenstein's Office

Free flu shots were offered to the general public in response to several recent cases of the flu that developed into serious complications and subsequent hospitalizations. Assemblyman Eichenstein joined forces with State Senator Simcha Felder and Councilman Kalman Yeger in presenting this event, in partnership with Maimonides Medical Center.



Assemblyman Eichenstein Introduces Legislation to Amend Bail Reform for Hate Crimes

New York State's new bail laws have taken effect in January of 2020. As a result, judges are prohibited from imposing cash bail on defendants accused of committing misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies. Instead, these defendants are being released on their own recognizance until the trial. Given its fundamental faults, Assemblyman Eichenstein opposed this bill and voted against this legislation.

With the dramatic increase in hate crimes across the country, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein has authored legislation that would amend the criminal procedure law pertaining to those who are charged with committing hate crimes.

Assemblyman Eichenstein believes that hate crimes represent an extreme form of prejudice and therefore judges should have the discretion to impose cash bail on hate crime perpetrators. Perpetrators of hate crimes generally show little or no remorse and are likely to become repeat offenders. His bill (A8944), would enable judges to keep violent hate crime offenders off the streets until trial and thus keep our communities safer.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein Organizes Holocaust Survivors to Engage and Share Their Stories with High School Students



Survivors described the horrors of the Holocaust and the stories of their miraculous survival. The students engaged in a discussion with their visitors and developed greater empathy, which helps foster an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding.



CENSUS 2020

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein: Don't forget to fill out your census forms!

Who gets counted?

Every ten years, the Census Bureau conducts a census that counts every person living in the United States. In the past, our communities have been severely under-represented so I'm urging everyone to participate this time. Any community that is under-represented might not receive the services and funding it deserves.

Why is it important to count everybody?

It's important to participate in the census because this data is used by the government to decide on how to distribute funds, allocate services, and determine representation based on population. It takes just a few minutes to fill out the census form, but the benefits are huge. It's in our best interest to be accurately counted so that we are properly represented. And if we don't respond, we don't count!

How do I fill out the form?

For your convenience, this year you can respond to the census by paper, by phone or online. You should be receiving instructions by mail in March of 2020. If you need help, call my District Office and my staff will be happy to assist you. Please take the time to respond—it only takes a few minutes! Do it for yourself, for your family, and for your community.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone.

"I urge everyone in my district to respond to the Census so that we can be accurately counted. In the past, our communities have been under-represented. We can't allow that to happen again. If we don't respond, we don't count. And if we don't count, we don't matter!"

**Assemblyman
Simcha Eichenstein**

Assemblyman Eichenstein Hosts Workshop on Hate Crimes Grant Program

The Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes grant program was founded by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2017. In 2019, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein's first year in office, he spearheaded a campaign to expand the program to include summer camps as eligible recipients. As a result, summer sleepaway camps may now be eligible to receive as much as \$250,000 in grant funding for security upgrades such as surveillance cameras, perimeter lighting, alarm systems, fencing and barriers, security doors, and other safety measures.

Assemblyman Eichenstein recently hosted a workshop for summer camp administrators where experts shared guidance on how to apply for the grant program and acquire the necessary funding to ensure safety and security. Nearly 150 representatives of summer camps attended the workshop.

The overwhelming response to the workshop indicates a serious response to the increasing safety and security. Assemblyman Eichenstein continues to fight for additional security measures that help institutions protect our safety.



1. Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein joined the American Red Cross in support of their mission to help those in need in the aftermath of emergency situations.



2. Assemblyman Eichenstein introduces students (standing in back) from SEEALL Academy on the floor of the New York State Assembly.



3. Assemblyman Eichenstein along with colleagues Senator Simcha Felder and Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal meets with a group of students from Touro College's Occupational Therapy Program.



4. Assemblyman Eichenstein joined community leaders at the Flatbush Jewish Community Council for a Chanukah celebration.



5. Assemblyman Eichenstein and Senator Simcha Felder speaking at an event that was organized by Mrs. Freida Rothman and Nachas Health Network for Holocaust survivors at Industry City in Brooklyn.



6. Assemblyman Eichenstein and Councilman Kalman Yeger joined the Tantzlers for a joyous pre-Purim event for special needs individuals.

7. Assemblyman Eichenstein at the Met Council and BPJCC Annual Luncheon for Holocaust Survivors.



Assemblyman Eichenstein Joins NYPD Officials to Accept Letters Penned by Boyan Yeshiva Students to NYC Police Commissioner Shea



The fifth through eighth grade students of Yeshivas Boyan in Borough Park recently wrote warm personal letters to NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea. Assemblyman Eichenstein facilitated for the letters to be accepted by NYPD officials at the Yeshiva. The boys engaged with the NYPD officers on a wide range of issues and learned how to handle emergencies, how to react when confronted with danger, and how to walk the streets safely after dark. The children of the Boyan Yeshiva learned valuable lessons, showing that when law enforcement works hand in hand with the community, everybody benefits.



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Spring 2020 Update

Prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein nominated Yeshiva of Flatbush student Richard (Ricky) Sasson to the prestigious United States Presidential Scholars Program. The program honors a select group of high school students across the country as our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors.

Ricky, who will now advance to the next round of competition, is a well-rounded scholar who excels in academics, performing arts, and sports.

