



Deputy Speaker

**Earlene  
HOOPER**

Assemblywoman, 18th Assembly District



Spring 2016

## Message to the People

*The 2016-17 State budget passed on time — April 1st at 5 A.M. This bold document is a bonus for all New Yorkers and is especially favorable to the 18th A.D.*

*The budget signifies our commitment to education, family values reducing the tax-burden and the scourge of poverty in our midst.*

*It provides for youth programs, safe roads and infrastructure and a host of issues that impact the quality of life.*

*I fought hard for the elimination of the GEA, a hardship on school districts and the taxpayers. GAP Elimination Adjustment (GEA) is gone for good!!*

**Minimum Wage** – *A minimum wage is the first step to eradicating poverty. This is the beginning to developing a living- wage.*

**Family Leave** was achieved so **NO ONE** has to choose between caring for a loved one or losing a job.

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## Freeport Armory Situated on a Wetland

**Love Canal, Flint, Michigan and Hoosick Falls made headlines due to their water problems. Let this NOT happen to Freeport luxury condos or safe water is not an option**

The Freeport Armory is located on a wetland which is a haven for swans, Canada geese (formerly fresh water fish) heron and other species of wild life, which are in danger.

The plant-life, now in abundance, stands in jeopardy. But, the most serious and frightful issue is our *fresh water* supply.

Our environment is being challenged to the extent that we cannot sit by and wait to see if we make headlines because chemicals or other substances from industrial vehicles poison our water.

The Village of Freeport wants to place its DPW on this site which sits on an incline where water-run-off from dpw trucks would flow into the water, the canal, the body of water leading to the main area of the village causing our water to be contaminated.

Water knows no borders (except down); it carries with it whatever is put in it. To jeopardize Long Island's water supply is not an option.

We cannot place an industrial facility – dpw/waster transfer station – on this site. *All Freeporters deserve good, clean, safe water.*

The Armory can serve the public with legislation that provides a police station, a place for veterans to meet and engage in activities, for the community to enjoy its presence.

The wetland can be saved and restored for purposes that enhance our well-being, through education, recreation and meanwhile, save the environment while we maintain *clean safe water* for *Everyone*.

The mayor of Freeport has said that the sandy damage at the current public work-site “suffered five million dollars (\$5 million) worth of damage”. The Deputy Speaker has already provided two million dollars (\$2 million) for the sole purpose of mitigating storm-sandy damage.

Also, it is on public record that Freeport Village received seventeen million dollars (\$17 million) from FEMA to address sandy damage in the village. Surely, some of those funds could have/should have been used for the DPW site.

Finally, it is NOT in the best interest of *all* of the residents of Freeport to possibly have that site developed for water-front luxury condominiums at the risk of having contaminated water.



Deputy Speaker listens to Basil Seggos, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation during his visit to the wetlands at the Freeport Armory.

## Message to the People (continued from Page 1)

We (the budget) allocated \$20 million for **My Brother's Keeper** to carry out President Obama's initiative to address opportunity-gaps for minority males.

**Tuition** at SUNY and CUNY colleges will not increase for this school year and the funds are appropriated to assure this.

The budget provides investments for **economic** development, **environmental** protections, **hospitals** and an assortment of those ideas/concerns you brought to my attention. Thank you.

I am proud to have been an integral participant in getting this bold and great budget passed.

## State Budget Creates Disaster Preparedness Program

The state budget included a "Disaster Preparedness Program" for property owners to make their dwellings capable of withstanding natural disasters.

This program is a home-safety and loss-prevention course so that severe weather does not cause property owners to bear the brunt of watching their most valuable resources disappear due to lack of preparedness.

The NYS Department of Financial Services (DFS) will provide an actuarially reduction in the property owner's insurance premiums for up to three (3) years upon completion of the "Safety and Loss Prevention Course".

The applicant has to submit the prevention course to DFS for review. When the property owner provides a certificate of completion to DFS, the insurance rate is then reduced.

This is an incentive for property owners to prepare for major storms, a reduction in the loss of property and savings in insurance premiums.

## Getting Your Fair Share

These are a few of the line item funds allocated in the budget for the 18th A.D. In addition, some grants were also funded:

- **District-wide** – \$10,743 million Nassau University Hospital (NUMC) so it can remain a **PUBLIC** hospital;
- **Baldwin** – \$20 million school district;
- **East Meadow** – \$43.18 million school district;
- **Freeport** – \$2 million for mediation of the DPW site ravaged by storm sandy;
- **Hempstead** – Kennedy Park (sewer system, skate board rink, renovate kitchen, Boots on the Ground, playground for Academy, repair streets, eradicate poverty)

*\$2,523 million (streets)*

*2,900 million (See above)*

*Total \$5,423 million*

- **Lakeview** – \$150,000 for the renovation of the bathrooms at Herber Junior High;
- **Roosevelt** – \$12 million above state aid formula (new schools built resulted in NO failing schools in the district. \$105,000 for youth programs;
- **Uniondale** – Sure Foundation, \$150,000;

The Uniondale school district needs \$71 million dollars for the building and the construction of new classrooms to replace temporary portable module-type classrooms.

In order to obtain these necessary funds, the assembly and senate are required to share the costs. The two assembly members, Earlene Hooper and Thomas McKeVitt, must contribute \$17,750 million each or 50%. The one senate member must contribute \$35,500 million or 50%.

Both assemblypersons have indicated their interest via written document/or verbal consent prior to ways and means reviewing the request. The assembly is waiting for a written commitment from the senate.

These are a snapshot of what your Deputy Speaker was instrumental in obtaining for the 18th A.D.

# Around The District



▲ Deputy Speaker Earlene Hooper joins the Uniondale community at the high school for a legislative forum sponsored by the PTA. Shown are (L to R) Emerson Matt, Trustee, Dr. Terri Mangum, Vice president school board; Deputy Speaker, James M. Sharpe, III, President Uniondale school board; Neville G. Georges, Vice president, Uniondale school board.



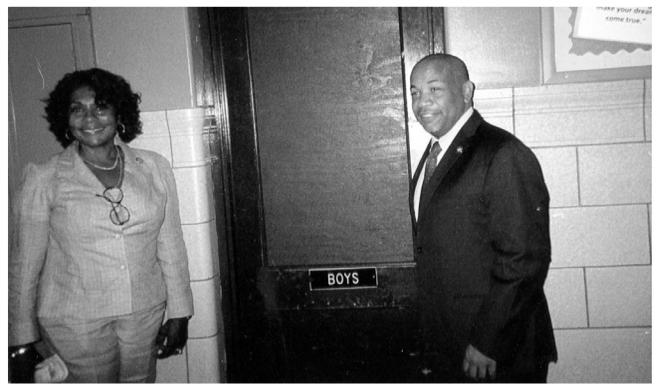
▲ The Hempstead Branch of NAACP celebrated Black History Month. The Deputy Speaker was the keynote speaker (second from right). Also presenting was Colby Christina, a youth educated in a private independent school environment (center). In attendance were Barbara Powell, Jr. the daughter of the late Barbara Powell, past president of the Hempstead Branch (far left) and Bishop David Gates, President, Hempstead Branch NAACP (second from left); James Garner, (former mayor Hempstead), Deputy Comptroller Nassau County.



◀ Young children are a passion of the Deputy Speaker. Each summer she invites a group of youth for a Fun-Day-in-the-Sun at her home. Shown are students at the L.I. Youth Federation Summer Day Camp. Emerinse Funderburke (Founder/CEO) (far left) and Deputy Speaker (far right).



▲ The Governor dispatched his team of experts to examine the wetlands where the Freeport Armory sits. Checking the natural setting are Carrie Gallagher, Regional Director, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (an expert on wetlands) (far right) E. Reginald Pope, Vice President, National Action Network, Freeport Branch (NAN) with Earlene Hooper, Deputy Speaker. The state team made two visits.



▲ Speaker Carl Heastie joins the Deputy Speaker at Herber Jr. High in Malverne. The Deputy Speaker has awarded the school a grant of \$100,000 to renovate the boys and girls rest rooms. Lakeview students attend the Malverne school district.



◀ The Deputy Speaker enjoys a moment with our greatest heroes –the veterans. The veterans shall have their own space in the Freeport Armory for meeting, activities and storage as they deem necessary.

# Help for Victims of Human Trafficking



## A.2953-A, A.3419, A.8650-A

Human trafficking hurts us all. This cruel and inhumane crime preys on the most vulnerable of our residents.

In a community which has a significant representation of immigrants from many countries, we have to be vigilant to assure they, too, are protected.

*A.2953-A* outlines stronger procedures for recognizing and identifying persons who manifest as possible victims of human trafficking. It requires certain employees (health care workers are an example) to be trained in assessing and referring for follow-up protection when such individuals are recognized.

*A.9317* passed the assembly that expands the duties of a task force through inter-agency efforts to address this crime.

Should you suspect anyone who may be such a victim, advise your local police.



## Earlene HOOPER

*Deputy Speaker*

*Assemblywoman*

*18<sup>th</sup> A.D.*

### Message to the People

Spring 2016

## Safeguarding Tenants Rights

**T**enants who report criminal acts – domestic violence, drug activities – should not fear losing their housing or being “outed” as a result of local nuisance laws.

Some municipalities can be overly zealous in their execution of these laws, resulting in dissuading victims or witnesses to crimes from calling the police.

Also, landlords should be protected from any penalties for respecting the rights of tenants to request police or emergency assistance.

*A.1322* assures tenants and landlords have a right to live free from the fear of reporting, anonymously, any criminal activity.