



Assemblyman

ANDREW HEVESI

Community Update



January 2014

Hevesi Continues to Address Freight Locomotive Environmental Concerns

After securing a \$3 million funding allocation in the FY2013 New York State Budget to upgrade the engines of antiquated and environmentally harmful locomotives that run through our district, Assemblyman Hevesi is currently working towards the expeditious and appropriate administration of this groundbreaking project. Through regular project update meetings with all parties involved including the Governor's office, multiple government agencies, and private-sector partners, the Assemblyman is monitoring the progress of the upgrades. In addition, Assemblyman Hevesi is preparing for this coming session in order to build on last years progress.

Coalition for Queens Receives State Funding for Tech Hub

Last spring, Assemblyman Hevesi, along with a coalition of elected officials, wrote a letter in support of a grant proposal to the Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC) to develop a tech incubation zone in Queens for the promotion of economic growth. This December, a \$125,000 grant from the REDC was awarded to the Coalition for Queens. A group at the forefront of economic development in Queens, the Coalition will work with Queens College and Cornell NYC Tech to upgrade computer science education for local students and open a co-working space for aspiring entrepreneurs. We look forward to the creation of well-paying jobs as Queens continues to develop itself as a hotspot for tech innovation.

Hevesi Pushes Human Trafficking Reform and Education

In the 2013 legislative session, Assemblyman Hevesi attempted to reform the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking. Assembly Bill 8042 would have added new experts to the task force and improve reporting and recommendation timeframes. That legislation, which unanimously passed the Assembly, was subsequently packaged into the Governor's 10 point Women's Equality Agenda. Agreement on the full package was not reached in 2013. Therefore, the issue of the task force will be addressed this coming session. In addition, this fall, Assemblyman Hevesi began collaborating with various non-profits to discuss ways to incorporate Human Trafficking awareness and prevention curriculum into schools. The Assemblyman and his staff are currently working to develop and incorporate age and content appropriate curriculum.

Apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) if You Are a Low-Income Individual

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income homeowners and renters pay bills for heating fuel, equipment and repairs. HEAP is a federally funded program that assists eligible households with grants to pay regular and emergency energy heating costs. HEAP eligibility is determined by whether the household income is below the current New York State income guidelines that correspond to the household size and the household energy costs. HEAP may be able to offer a benefit even if heat and utilities are included in the rent or the applicant lives in subsidized housing and pays directly for heating costs. For more information, please contact the HEAP hotline at (212) 331-3150.

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