



Assemblyman

BRIAN BARNWELL *Reports to the People*

SPRING / SUMMER 2017



Dear Friends:

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I wanted to take this time to introduce myself. I am the new Assemblymember for our district. Thank you for the honor to allow me to serve you in the New York State Assembly. I believe we must give back our government to the people. My staff and I have been working very hard to make government more accountable and responsive to you.

I am an attorney and I come from a family of nurses, teachers, construction workers, and members in law enforcement and the fire department. I believe the middle class, those working to get into the middle class, and seniors have been forgotten. My goal is to give the people, and not the special interest groups, a voice.

You should not have to deal with the government alone to solve your issue or concern. Please call our office at 718-651-3185 and we will help you every step of the way. I can also be reached via email at barnwellb@nyassembly.gov. Whenever you see something that bothers or concerns you in our neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact us. Please also let us know if you would like to join our email list. We usually only send out one email a month. The email provides notice about the upcoming community events and services that will be provided for the month ahead.

This newsletter will discuss some of the legislation I have drafted and introduced, or legislation that I am co-sponsoring. The newsletter will also highlight some of the events we have had in the district, and events we will be having in the future.

Again, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your representative.

Sincerely,

Brian Barnwell

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some provisions in the enacted budget. Please feel free to call our office to find out more information about these provisions, or if you have any other questions.

- Increases Education Aid by \$1.1 billion, including a \$700 million increase in Foundation Aid.
- Private schools will receive \$181 million in state reimbursement for standardized testing and data collection mandates. \$15 million will also be provided for school safety equipment, along with \$5 million to help pay salaries to advance STEM programs.
- Middle Class Tax Cut which will save taxpayers \$250 on average next year, and 6 million New Yorkers \$700 annually when fully effective.
- Under the FY 2017- 2018 Budget, New York is the first state in the nation to cap the growth of prescription drug spending in its Medicaid program. Funding for State Medicaid is increased to \$23.5 billion.
- NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs is funded at \$8.5 million, plus \$12.4 million to aid local veterans' services.
- \$150 million is provided for the Middle Income Housing Program.
- New York's libraries will receive an additional \$4 million over last year's levels, for a total of \$24 million.
- \$125 million is provided for the Senior Housing Program.
- \$2.5 billion is provided for Water Quality Improvement.
- \$1 billion is provided for the Supportive Housing Program.
- \$200 million is allocated for NYCHA capital repairs.
- \$2 million is provided for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities and Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities.
- The budget creates the Nation's Largest Multi-Use Trail Network: The Empire State Trail.
- The budget supports New York's middle-class families by doubling the New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.
- \$5 billion, an increase of \$40 million, will be provided to the NYS Department of Transportation, and \$6.9 billion will be provided for capital projects. An increase of \$65 million to \$1.5 billion in MTA capital appropriations.

■ SOME BILLS THAT I HAVE DRAFTED / INTRODUCED ■

Senior Property Tax Exemption (A.6995, A.7628)

With individuals living longer and with the rising cost of living, goods, and services, seniors will need more money as they age. A rising number of individuals who live longer are being pushed out of their homes due to lack of savings. No New Yorker should be pushed out of their home, especially because of high property taxes. The bills that I have introduced on this topic grant seniors greater property tax exemptions as they age. These pieces of legislation will help decrease the property taxes of seniors as they age.

Affordable Housing Reform (A.5505)

I have introduced legislation with Senator Gianaris that reforms the "Affordable" housing formula. Currently, to determine affordability for affordable housing purposes, New York uses a number known as the area median income (AMI). The current formula used for affordability often results in increasing the overall AMI for neighborhoods by grouping more affluent neighborhoods with lesser affluent neighborhoods in the same calculation. Because of this grouping, currently, when housing is being built in lesser affluent neighborhoods, the AMI of that neighborhood is calculated to be higher than it actually is. Right now, when "Affordable" housing is built in a particular neighborhood in NYC, the formula to determine what is affordable for that new housing project takes into account the median income levels of all of New York City PLUS Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties!! It is unfair to group all of these counties together. My legislation will mandate that for any affordable housing projects being built, when determining what is affordable in that neighborhood, only the income levels of the people who actually live in that particular zip code will be used to calculate what is affordable.

EVENTS WE HAVE SPONSORED AND OTHER EVENTS



Free Mammograms

I feel it is imperative we help those who truly need it. Early detection is so vital in fighting cancer. That is why I have sponsored various events that have provided free mammograms for the community. Thank you to the American Italian Cancer Foundation for providing these services.

Free Legal Services

As an attorney, I have experienced firsthand how important it is to provide free legal services. That is why we have partnered with NYLAG in providing these services throughout the community. Thank you NYLAG.



Free Shredding for the Community

With the rise in identity theft, I felt it was necessary to provide free shredding services for the community.



IBEW Meeting

On February 1, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell had the privilege of being the guest speaker at Local Union 3 IBEW's monthly meeting.



Feeding the Needy

Join Assemblyman Barnwell on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. to make Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches for those in the community who need it. We make the sandwiches at Saint Sebastian's Roman Catholic Church Parish Center, located at 39-60 57th St., Woodside, NY 11377.



Park and Graffiti Cleanups

I believe greatly in helping to clean up our neighborhood. Throughout the year, we will be cleaning up our parks. Also, please let us know if you see any graffiti in our community. We have gone out (and will continue to go out) to remove graffiti.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer on any future park or graffiti cleanup. The dates for the park cleanup are on page 4.



Press Conference on Worker Safety

On January 19, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell joined Assemblymember Francisco Moya, other colleagues, union leaders, and workers at a press conference for worker safety.



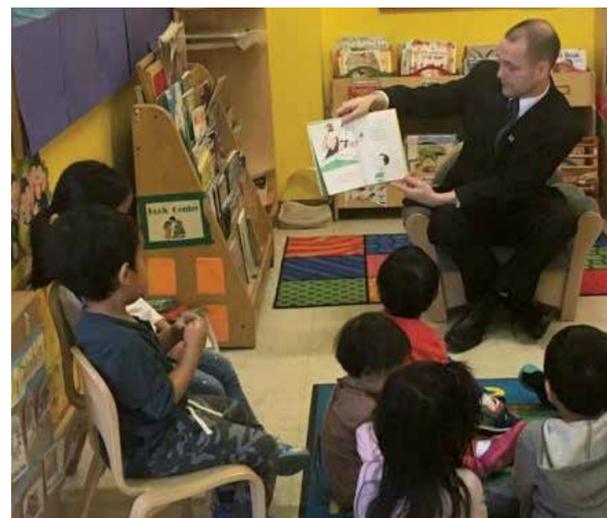
NYS Nurses Association Event

On April 25, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell had the privilege of speaking at a New York State Nurses Association Event to advocate for safe staffing.



P.S. 58 PTA Meeting

On February 1, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell visited P.S. 58 School of Heroes for the February PTA meeting.



School Book Reading

On March 10, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell had the pleasure of reading to a Towers Play-N-Learn class in Woodside.



Habitat for Humanity

On April 21, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell joined with Habitat for Humanity and Assemblyman Vanel to help construct a home in Queens.



Civic Engagement Conference

On March 25, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell and Councilman Van Bramer joined Woodside Houses TA President Annie Cotton Morris and community leaders for a civic engagement conference.



Senior Center Visits

On February 17, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell visited the Selfhelp-Maspeth Senior Center, and on February 27, 2017, he visited the Dellamonica Steinway Senior Center to discuss legislation he's introduced on behalf of our seniors.

Mobile Office Hours

On February 17, 2017, Assemblyman Barnwell visited the Big Six Towers in Woodside to provide mobile office hours for those constituents in our district who cannot make it to our office.

BILLS THAT I HAVE DRAFTED (continued)

Under this proposal, affordable housing being built in a specific area will actually reflect the median income of the people who already live there.

Construction Safety (A.6738, A.6744)

There has been a major increase in the deaths of construction workers over the last few years. Most of these deaths can be attributed to lack of safety training and/or qualifications. My bills attempt to mandate that only those workers who have gone through the proper training and who have achieved the proper qualifications would be allowed to work on projects over four stories or more. No worker should ever have to wonder if this is the day that they never come home.

A FEW OTHER BILLS I HAVE DRAFTED / INTRODUCED

- **A.2997:** An act to amend the tax law, in relation to raising the cap on the amount of pensions and annuities which can be subtracted from gross income in an effort to help retirees save more money each year.
- **A.1850:** Requires all agencies of the city of New York which issue summons to document violations with photographic evidence when feasible.

A FEW OTHER BILLS THAT I HAVE DRAFTED / INTRODUCED (continued)

- **A.2535:** An act to amend the public health law in relation to enacting the “transparency in health care fees act.” The bill will help clarify costs of healthcare procedures to patients before they undertake medical services.
- **A.05497:** Relates to banning individuals who have violated wage theft laws from bidding on public works projects.
- **A.02982:** Relates to limiting licensing to only pet dealers which sell animals obtained from shelters and rescue organizations.
- **A.4074:** Provides for initiative; empowers the electors with the ability to propose statutes and amendments to the constitution.

■ SOME BILLS THAT I HAVE CO-SPONSORED ■

- **A.1807:** Requires health insurance policies to cover comprehensive genetic screening for breast, ovarian, prostate, colon, and lung cancers.
- **A.1532:** Enacts the “safe staffing for quality care act” to require acute care facilities and nursing homes to implement certain direct-care nurse to patient ratios in all nursing units.
- **A.3356:** An act to exclude from personal income tax, the amount up to 1k paid for any medication by seniors over the age of 65 if the income is below or equal to 60k.
- **A.2086:** Relates to the use of American-made iron, steel, and manufactured products in certain government contracts. Public works contracts shall contain provisions that the iron, steel, and manufactured products used shall be manufactured in the United States.
- **A.404:** Enacts “The Domestic Violence Protection Act – Brittany’s Law” requiring registration of violent felony offenders.
- **A.4489:** Will give teachers’ a tax break for the unreimbursed expenditures for qualified supplies.
- **A.3498:** Establishes the New York state higher education debt consolidation and refinancing program which will help eligible borrowers consolidate and refinance education loans at a lower interest rate that is equal to or less than 5.5%.
- **A.5972:** Relates to freezing property taxes for individuals 65 years of age or older.
- **A.6044:** Establishes the “newborn health and safety pilot program” within the department of health to provide baby boxes in areas of the state with high infant mortality rates or poor birth outcomes.
- **A.49:** Provides for free public transportation of senior citizens.
- **A.1382:** Relates to real property tax exemptions for disabled veterans.
- **A.3316:** Removes the pension of any elected official who is convicted of a felony offense against public administration that occurred during their time in office.
- **A.6618:** Establishes the New York City tax reform study commission to provide the governor and legislature with a blueprint of reforms to the real property taxation system in the city of New York.
- **A.6584:** Relates to rental assistance for low-income elderly families.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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Community Update

After many conversations with constituents about the noise problems they have been facing along the Long Island Expressway for years, Assemblymember Barnwell engaged in several months’ worth of dialogue with the State DOT and was able to have them commit to implementing various noise reduction measures, including diamond grinding, along the LIE from Maurice Avenue to 108th Street.

If you would like more information, please call our office or email us at barnwellb@nyassembly.gov.

Remaining Park Cleanup Schedule

Please join Assemblyman Barnwell and his staff at any one of the following scheduled park cleanups from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

June 24, 2017

Lawrence Virgilio Playground

July 22, 2017

Elmhurst Park

August 12, 2017

Little Bush

October 14, 2017

Frank Principe Park

November 11, 2017

Torsney Playground/

Lou Lodati Playground