



Assemblyman  
**Michael  
Miller**

*Reports to the People*

Summer 2010

## Assemblyman Miller responding to your feedback

In my last newsletter I attached a form for you to fill out. On this form I asked you to tell me what your concerns were about a number of issues such as the quality of life and tax relief. I also left a space for you to tell me any other concerns you might have. Here are three common responses we received and I would like to answer them for everyone:

**CONCERN 1:**

*“Crossing Woodhaven Boulevard is scary! Please fix it!”*

- My office is located on Woodhaven Boulevard. I travel on it every day. I know how terrible it can be. At some intersections an individual only has 35 seconds to cross the entire Boulevard. For mothers with baby strollers or for those who are in a wheelchair, crossing the Boulevard can be almost impossible. In order to alleviate this problem, my office has successfully reached out to the Department of Transportation to increase crossing time across Woodhaven Boulevard. Also, Senator Joe Addabbo and I are co-sponsors of the “Complete Streets” legislation, which will require the state and city to make dangerous roads like Woodhaven Boulevard safer for pedestrians.

**CONCERN 2:**

*“DON’T CUT EDUCATION!”*

- I understand the value of our school system. That is why I sponsored legislation with Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, Chair of the Education Committee, to reform our school system

in a manner that protects our students and teachers, while qualifying New York State for the federal “Race to the Top” money. Our struggle is that we need money for education but we cannot afford to raise taxes. I am committed to ensuring that our schools receive the state and federal money they need.

**CONCERN 3:**

*“I have heard a lot about student MetroCards being cut. This service helps us make ends meet. If it were not for the free MetroCard I could not send my child to school. Please do not allow these to be cut.”*

- I, along with my colleagues in the Assembly, fought to preserve the free MetroCards that over 500,000 students use every year.

I hope these responses were helpful to any of your questions regarding the work my office is doing. I am attaching another response form to this newsletter as well. Responsible government listens much more than it talks, but it is only helpful if I have someone to listen to. You can also feel free to contact my office anytime at 718-805-0950. My staff and I will be available to take your call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Thank you,

  
Mike

### Mike wants to hear from you!

What concerns do you have about your neighborhood? See page 4 for details...

## The Queens Walkabout for Independence Residences, Inc.

Saturday, July 31, 2010 • 10 a.m.  
Cunningham Park

**Independence Residences Incorporated (IRI)** is a not-for-profit agency committed to serving adults with developmental disabilities and other impairments. The event is an effort to continue providing essential services to those with disabilities.

Assemblyman Miller has the honor of serving as the Grand Marshal of the event.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Assemblyman Miller’s office at **718-805-0950**.

# Miller continues fight to protect children from sexual predators

Assemblyman Mike Miller helped pass a comprehensive package of bills designed to protect children by keeping dangerous predators out of our schools, strengthening sex offender registry laws and providing the public with greater access to information to keep closer tabs on the location of offenders.

“New York City families depend on strong laws to protect children from sexual predators,” Assemblyman Miller said. “This package of legislation will help shield them

***The Assembly’s package of bills includes legislation that creates the category of criminal trespass by a Level 2 or Level 3 sex offender if they enter the school that their victim attends or formerly attended.***

from harm and make our communities safer.”

The package of bills includes legislation that creates the category of criminal trespass by a Level 2 or Level 3 sex offender if they enter the school that their victim attends or formerly attended.

“Children who have been sexually assaulted need a safe haven,” Miller said. “We must do everything in our power to make certain school grounds are a place children are protected from sexual predators.”

New York’s Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) requires all sex offenders to register with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and to annually update and verify their place of residence. However,

offenders often fail to timely register and verify with law enforcement. Therefore, Mike passed legislation requiring local law enforcement to visit the residence of any sex offender who fails to properly register. If the offender is no longer residing at the address or refuses to sign the verification documents, he or she would face a class E felony offense. Further, the legislation imposes a civil penalty on all offenders who fail to properly register. Additional legisla-

tion holds offenders accountable for failure to register by adding the length of time they did not register to the duration of the required reg-

istration period.

Current law also requires Level 3 offenders to verify more frequently and include specific information about their place of employment. Assemblyman Miller co-sponsored legislation that will expand the verification of employment to Level 2 sex offenders (A.10276) and require Level 2 and 3 offenders to include information about voluntary employment.

“When it comes to sex offenders, information is the key to safety for families and law enforcement,” Miller said. “Knowing where Level 2 sex offenders work will help keep our kids out of harm’s way.”

“We must continue to expand the infor-

## These bills take steps to better track sex offenders by:

- Requiring the Department of Criminal Justice Services to provide registry information on Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders to municipal housing authorities. A recent report indicates that although serious sex offenders are prohibited from residing in public housing under federal law, many offenders were illegally living in municipal housing complexes;
- Mandating that the Sex Offender Registry contain additional information such as type and length of assigned supervision; and
- Providing information to victims, their families and the community if a sex offender is in violation of registration requirements.

mation found in the Sex Offender Registry to protect the interests of the victims and the community,” Miller said. “Victims deserve to know when an offender who hurt them is no longer receiving supervision, and families have the right to know when an offender is released to public housing or working in their neighborhood.”

## Miller and NYPD protect our children

Over the last several months, Assemblyman Miller has been working to keep our children safe. His first bill proposed in the Assembly, A10010, was a bill to keep sexual predators away from our children. Now, working with the NYPD, Miller is making sure that parents can protect their children from danger.

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), 34% of parents in the United States do not know their own child’s exact height, weight, and eye color. In the event of an emergency this information is vital in rescuing a child. To combat this issue, Assemblyman Miller and the NYPD are bringing Operation SAFE CHILD to local schools. The SAFE CHILD program creates identification cards for parents that include an updated photograph of the child as well as all of their vital statistics including height, weight, eye color, and fingerprints. The information for each child is stored into the database at the Division of Criminal Justice Services. In the event a child is reported missing, the DCJS can use the file created for the child to match any clues the police bring in.

“These cards can literally save a child’s life,” Miller said. “We need to spread the word about this important information and make sure every parent in this area knows how to protect their children.”

If you would like more information about the SAFE CHILD program, please call Assemblyman Miller’s office at 718-805-0950.



Assemblyman Miller and Principal C. Barbara Chin-Sinn with officers from the NYPD at St. John Lutheran’s Career Day.



Assemblyman Mike Miller addresses the crowd during the Allied Veterans Memorial Day Parade.

# Miller passes legislation aiding and protecting victims of domestic violence

Assemblyman Miller supported a legislative package to protect victims of domestic violence and give them the resources needed to stay safe and get their lives back on track.

A recent study found that one in four women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, and nearly three out of four Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence. Here in New York State, approximately 450,000 domestic incidents are reported annually to police departments with countless incidents going unreported.

Miller passed a package of bills that would:

- prohibit employers from discriminating against victims of domestic violence or stalking committed by a member of the same family or household; the legislation also includes a right for the domestic violence victim to a reasonable accommodation from the employer of unpaid leave to deal with legal and medical issues relating to the domestic incident
- prohibit housing discrimination against domestic violence victims by forbidding landlords and sellers of property from denying an individual the right to purchase, rent, lease or inhabit housing because of involvement in a domestic dispute
- require criminal or family court judges to inquire about the defendant's or respon-

dent's ownership or possession of a firearm when orders of protection are sought

- establish the "Address Confidentiality Program" for domestic violence victims, by authorizing the secretary of state to accept service of process for victims of domestic violence and their children
- allow domestic abuse victims who have an order of protection to obtain an unlisted telephone number without charge
- make it illegal for an individual to possess a firearm if he or she has committed a family offense by adding "domestic violence offenses" to the list of serious offenses for which purchasing or possessing a license for a firearm, rifle or shotgun would constitute a class A misdemeanor and
- Expand the class of domestic violence victims who may cast special ballots (similar to absentee ballots) in elections to include non-relatives and individuals who have suffered emotional harm at the hand of an abuser

Another important piece of legislation that Miller passed requires orders of protection issued in family court to be translated into the native language of the individuals. This will allow non-English speaking individuals and those with a hearing impairment the opportunity to better understand what was reported in court. Other measures in the package passed will:

- strengthen orders of protection by authorizing family courts to extend an order for victims who are afraid of recurring violence upon a showing of good cause, even if there has not been an actual recurrence of violence.
- provide that orders of protection can't be denied solely on the basis that the alleged abuse was not simultaneous with the date of the application.

"In many cases, orders of protection are critical to the safety of the victim and their families," Miller said. "Measures included in the Assembly's package of bills strengthen the laws that are on the books and add new provisions that give victims the peace of mind that they are protected."

To further help victims of domestic abuse, Miller passed a bill that would expose individuals or parties who fail to obey or enforce an order of protection to joint liability for all non-economic damages sought by a claimant, after a fact-finding by a judge or jury. The measure re-enforces New York's zero-tolerance policy about domestic violence

"Domestic violence is a devastating crime of enormous magnitude," Miller said. "This package of legislation helps ensure the safety of victims and empowers them with the resources they need to move forward."

## Assemblyman Miller Brings Senior Center to Woodhaven

Assemblyman Mike Miller (D-Queens) has brought good news to the seniors of Woodhaven. Until recently, seniors from the Woodhaven area were forced to take a bus to the nearest senior center in Richmond Hill. The hassle was created when the senior center located at St. Thomas the Apostle Church was closed due to spacing issues. Woodhaven seniors were left with the choice to catch a bus and walking several blocks to socialize or to just stay home.

Upon taking office Assemblyman Miller heard several concerns from Woodhaven seniors about the inconvenience and took immediate action. "I saw what was happening and knew it wasn't right," Miller said. "I knew something had to be done, so I called my colleagues and we worked together to make something happen."

In January Assemblyman Miller began searching for pos-

sible locations for the center. Eventually Miller, along with State Senator Joseph Addabbo, toured the Woodhaven Volunteer Ambulance Corps building on Jamaica Avenue. The location was ideal, as the Ambulance Corps was facing financial difficulty and the revenue from creating the senior center would help balance the books.

"It was a win-win situation," Miller said. "The seniors of Woodhaven finally get the comfort and dignity they deserve, while the Woodhaven Volunteer Ambulance Corps can stay open and continue providing a vital, life-saving, service to our community."

The new center will be known as Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Woodhaven Senior Center and planning for the new center is already underway. Thanks to additional state funding from Miller, his colleagues, and Catholic Charities, renovations will soon begin to make the building handicap-accessible.

### 2010 Internship Program

## Assemblyman Miller's Office Needs You!

Mike Miller's office is looking for interns who are looking to gain experience in the field of government. The program is a great way to serve your community while learning at the same time. Internships are unpaid but may be counted towards school credit.



Mike handing out flowers – As a Mother's Day gift, Assemblyman Miller delivered flowers to all of the women at the Peter Cardella Senior Center.



Assemblyman Mike Miller and Senator Joe Addabbo publicize a new program from Con-Edison to save businesses money and save the environment. Con-Edison will install energy efficient fixtures and may cover the cost up to 70% of expenses.

## Miller fights for local construction workers

Assemblyman Miller was honored to have his first bill pass both the Assembly and the Senate this June. His bill, A9898, takes a temporary system for settling workers' compensation claims in the construction industry and makes it permanent.

The program has a fifteen year track record of solving disputes quickly and fairly. In 1995 the State Legislature established an alternative dispute resolution system to resolve compensation claims. The program was designed as a five-year pilot program. It had been extended twice but was slated for elimination this year. Miller's bill establishes the program as a permanent method of compensating injured workers.

The bill creates a faster way to get injured construction workers the benefits they need to get by while away from work. "We need to make sure that we are constantly protecting our workers," Assemblyman Miller said. "Construction can be a dangerous profession and it is essential that we make this compensation system permanent so workers can continue to receive the benefits they deserve."

### What concerns do you have about your neighborhood? Mike wants to hear from you!

What are your thoughts on...

Senior Care? : \_\_\_\_\_

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Schools? : \_\_\_\_\_

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Safety? : \_\_\_\_\_

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Security? : \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any other concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and complete this form, then send it back to:  
**Assemblyman Mike Miller**  
**83-91 Woodhaven Blvd.**  
**Woodhaven, NY 11421**

### Assemblyman Michael Miller

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