



Assemblyman
Michael Miller

Reports to the People

DECEMBER 2012

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. I am happy to have the opportunity to continue working for you in the district and fighting for you in Albany. As this year draws to a close, we look back at how Hurricane Sandy and the subsequent Nor'easter ripped through parts of New York City and Long Island. Just days after the first storm, members of our own community, as well as other areas of the state and the country were showing support by donating supplies and volunteering their time to help those affected. The generosity was truly overwhelming and I was touched by the display of solidarity that was circulating in the community. It is during times like these that we see how individuals and groups from all over come to aid those who need it most.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support, thank you to all those who donated supplies, and most of all, volunteered their time helping out those in need. I wish you all happy and healthy holidays.

All the best,

83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard
Woodhaven, NY 11421
718-805-0950
Room 542, LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4621

millermg@assembly.state.ny.us

Legislation

Anti-Phone Theft Legislation

Assemblyman Mike Miller introduced legislation to prevent the stealing of cell phones.

With the introduction of the newest smartphones, we have seen a surge in cell phone related thefts. This is nothing new; people have been stealing cell phones since we began using them years ago. However, today, cell phone use is very prominent and almost everyone carries very expensive ones on their person at all times. This is what has made them such an attractive item to steal.

What most people do not know is that every single device has a unique number assigned to it called the Number Assignment Module (NAM). Assemblyman Miller's legislation requires cell phone service providers to use that NAM information and register it to the owner of the phone. Once a NAM is registered to a person and that phone gets lost or stolen, that person will report it to the provider who will then record that number and not allow anyone else to activate that phone unless it is the original owner, or the owner has consensually released the phone. Thus, making a phone useless if it is stolen because it will not be able to be activated by anyone else unless they were given permission by the owner or it is the owner themselves.

Although the legislation will not stop people from physically stealing the phones, shortly after it goes into effect, thieves will realize that stealing phones will no longer be profitable because they will not be able to use or even sell a stolen phone. The law does, however, still allow for people to sell their old phones, so long as the previous owner notifies the provider of the new owner.

Illegal Conversion Legislation

Many community members who make complaints to Department of Buildings about illegal conversions are constantly in a state of frustration because of the lack of results, but the agency is not to blame. Once they receive a complaint, the agency sends inspectors, and it seems like they never do anything about the problem. That is because they are prohibited from entering a property to do the inspection unless they have a warrant to do so. Assemblyman Mike Miller has introduced legislation that will help agencies in performing their tasks of inspecting and enforcing laws against illegal conversions in a much more effective manner.

The legislation will compel the enforcing agency, the insurance company, and the mortgagee (if there is one) to work together to rectify the issue. Currently, once an agency has received a complaint about an illegal conversion, they cannot legally enter the house unless they are granted access or they have a warrant to do so. The legislation will give the authority to insurance companies to deny certain claims for damage or loss to a property if it has been illegally converted and the owner of the property has denied access to an agency to inspect the property. Additionally, once an owner has denied access, the agency will contact any lien holder on the property to inform them of the potential for denial of a claim.

The onus will now be on the owner to comply because he or she will want their insurance company to cover their property in the case of a fire, a flood, or another emergency situation, as well as the lien holder, who will also be forced to comply because of the stake they hold in the property. It is in their best interest to make sure all claims on a property are paid out.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Assemblyman Mike Miller hosts Hispanic Heritage Event

Assemblyman Mike Miller held an event at the Richmond Hill Block Association in Richmond Hill, Queens to honor the contributions of the local Latino community. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which stretches from September 15th to October 15th, the Assemblyman presented awards to 6 individuals for their contributions to the community. Among those being honored were Julio Batista, Kaitlyn Perez, Alexa Criollo, Therese Robbano, Wilson Vargas, and Jose Quizphi.



Assemblyman Mike Miller partakes in bi-lingual public safety forum

Assemblyman Mike Miller and Senator Joe Addabbo partook in a bi-lingual public safety forum held by the non-profit organization, the Association of Mutual Help Unity



and Solidarity, Inc. (AAMUS). The public safety forum was an effort led by the community-based organization to bring elected officials, government agencies, and members of the community together to address issues of crime and public safety in the Latino community. This forum gave many community members a chance to speak to the government agencies personally and in their language. This is extremely important for those who did not know who to contact or how to contact them and shedding light on their issues.

The forum was held in both English and Spanish. Participants of the forum included representatives from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the 10^{2nd} Precinct Community Affairs division and 1 Police Plaza Community Affairs division.

Assemblyman Mike Miller supports those affected by Sandy

Although Assemblyman Mike Miller's district did not suffer the types of water damage and flooding that the neighboring districts did, District 38 did see its share of downed trees and loss of power. Many constituents contacted Assemblyman Miller's office to make their complaints. In addition to taking in complaints, Assemblyman Miller physically went out to many of the areas affected to personally survey the damages and report back to the utility companies and government agencies.



Assemblyman Mike Miller sponsors self-defense class for seniors

Assemblyman Mike Miller sponsored a self-defense class at the Forest Park Senior Center. Evon Reyes, founder of Fearless Fighting Females and a certified self-defense instructor facilitated the event at the senior center. The seniors were instructed on different defensive techniques to use in the event of an attack.

Assemblyman Mike Miller works with DSNY for Adopt-A-Basket in Glendale



Assemblyman Mike Miller teamed with the Department of Sanitation to promote the department's Adopt-A-Basket program for the businesses on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale. The program is a volunteer program in which a business or an organization agrees to monitor a DSNY litter basket in front of their location to help prevent overflowing of the baskets in an area of high pedestrian traffic. If you or anyone you know is interested in this program, please contact Assemblyman Miller's office at 718-805-0950.

Assemblyman Mike Miller at the Woodhaven Street Fair



Assemblyman Mike Miller, joined by Councilmember Elizabeth Crowley and Senator Joe Addabbo at the Annual Woodhaven Street Fair.

Assemblyman Mike Miller at GCOP Officer Installation



Senator Joe Addabbo and Assemblyman Mike Miller join the Civilian Observation Patrol for their annual Officer Installation Event.

Hurricane Sandy

Make sure your family is prepared for a disaster

The damage in New York State from weather-related emergencies over the past two years has been devastating. Hurricanes Irene, Sandy, and Lee, as well as consecutive early-fall snow storms are evidence that extreme weather is becoming more frequent and dangerous. It is increasingly important for our families to know what to do when faced with an emergency.

Whether it's a natural disaster like high winds, flooding, lightning, or a man-made threat, the amount of personal devastation in these situations can be limited by taking proper preventive measures. Every family should have an emergency plan and be able to live without electricity, water, heat, air conditioning or telephone service for days at a time.

I also recommend that every resident sign up for the NY-Alert program. This free service provides warnings and emergency information during disaster situations, including road closures, inclement weather events and protective actions recommended by state and local governments, schools and the private sector, where appropriate.

After you sign up at www.nyalert.gov or by calling **888-697-6972**, emergency information will be sent to your cell phone, your home phone, email or other technologies. You will be able to select the geographic areas or regions you would like to receive information about, such as your town or village, county or the entire state.

I want to thank our local, state and federal emergency-response personnel, especially the Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol, Glendale Kiwanis, the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, the Legacy Center and all the other organizations and individuals that volunteered to help New Yorkers get back on their feet after Superstorm Sandy. Many first responders put their lives on the line to help those in need and I commend their efforts. By taking some simple preventative measures, we can all help ease the burden on emergency personnel when the next emergency arises. As always, if you would like additional information on this, or to get a free New York State Assembly brochure on emergency preparedness or information on any other important community issue, please contact my district office at **(718) 805-0950** or email millermg@assembly.state.ny.us. Additionally, if you were impacted by the recent storm, please see helpful information at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/disasterresponse/>.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

In order to properly represent you in the upcoming legislative session, I need to know what your thoughts are. Please take the time to provide some feedback on legislative issues, community concerns, or any general information you wish to provide. Don't forget to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter where you can interact with our office each month about current issues. Just send an email to polancp@assembly.state.ny.us. Thank you.

On election day this year, the states of Colorado and Washington legalized the use of marijuana. Would you support legalizing marijuana in New York State?

YES NO

Comment: _____

Currently, New York's minimum wage is lower than minimum wages in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Do you support raising New York State's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 per hour?

YES NO

Comment: _____

New York State legislators are currently debating the New York DREAM Act. The act will provide the children of undocumented immigrants access to state, city, and locally-funded financial aid programs. Do you support this bill?

YES NO

Comment: _____

New York State has some of the most lenient campaign finance rules in the nation. Would you support the creation of a public fund to finance state campaigns? This would be similar to the system currently used by New York City.

YES NO

Comment: _____

Let me know of any other issues that are important to you....

Legislation Community Issue General Comment Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please detach and complete this form, then send it back to:

Assemblyman Mike Miller
83-91 Woodhaven Blvd., Woodhaven, NY 11421