

Happy Holidays



Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, I am beginning to prepare for another legislative session to commence in Albany. I want to encourage everyone to reach out to my office in regards to any issues you may come across. Your input and concerns may spark a new piece of legislation that may help thousands of people across the State.

Also, I would like to ask each one of you to please answer the question I posed to you regarding the Select Bus Service plan that the Department of Transportation is hoping to implement in our community. It is important that every one of you give your opinion and feedback, so your voice can be heard since this plan will likely affect each one of you. I appreciate any comments or questions you may have.

Below you will find some events that took place over the last several months within our community. I am here working for you 24/7 to address any issues or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact my district office for more information regarding any of the items listed. I look forward to hearing from you all and I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Miller".

Mike Miller
Member of Assembly
District 38

83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard
Woodhaven, NY 11421
718-805-0950

Room 519, LOB, Albany, NY 12248
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Assemblyman Mike Miller Hosts Hispanic Heritage Event

Assemblyman Mike Miller held an event at the Richmond Hill Block Association 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. Above (from left to right) is a photo of Martin Colberg of the WRBA, NYPD Officer Paul Polanco, American Legion Post 118 member Casimiro Rios, Assemblyman Miller, and Sergeant Rodriguez from the 75th precinct.



Assemblyman Miller Joins in Honoring Gerardo Rivera at IRI Gala: Turning Dreams into Reality

Assemblyman Mike Miller joined IRI in honoring Gerardo Rivera for all the work he's done and continues to do on behalf of individuals with disabilities. He was the recipient of IRI's "Champion Award" along with a citation from the Assemblyman.

Assemblyman Miller Helps Create Scholarship Program for STEM Students

Choosing a college major can be an intimidating process. Students entering higher education today have a vast selection of colleges and majors to choose from, but they face the decision knowing they are likely to take on burdensome student debt to finance their futures. For students who love to solve problems, want to make the world a better place and constantly wonder about how things work, a career in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) field can be an attractive option.

This is especially true because many of the best-paying, most secure jobs are STEM-related, and these opportunities continue to multiply. In New York State, STEM jobs are expected to grow 14 percent between 2014 and 2024, while other jobs will grow just 9 percent. Yet employers struggle to fill these positions because there are more jobs than there are workers qualified to do them, which hurts our state's businesses.

To solve this mismatch, New York State created an exciting new scholarship program for high-achieving high school students. Under the New York State Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Incentive Program, students in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes who plan to study STEM at a SUNY or CUNY school can earn full-tuition

scholarships for four- or five-year programs. In return, those students must keep their grades up and work and live in the state for five consecutive years after graduation in a STEM-related field. Not only will this scholarship help inspire more students to enroll in STEM majors, it also keeps them from being saddled with crushing student loan debt upon graduation.

This incentive program is a win-win for employers searching for top talent and for high school students interested in pursuing rewarding STEM careers. By offering scholarships to our best and brightest, we're helping put more kids on the path to a brighter future and investing in the future of our state. It's vital to New York State's success that STEM-educated professionals connect with the employers who need their unique talents. A strong economic future in New York State depends on preparing students for the jobs of today and tomorrow as well as encouraging graduates to stay and put down roots. Ultimately, their talents will benefit all of us.

For more information or to apply for this scholarship, visit the program's website (www.hesc.ny.gov/stem). As always, if you have questions about this or any other issue, please call me at 718-805-0950 or send me an email at millermg@assembly.state.ny.us.

Summer Reading Challenge



Assemblyman Miller presented Summer Reading certificates to the students of Middle School 210. Assemblyman Miller was proud to recognize the accomplishments of these students. Over 100 students at MS 210 pledged to read for 15 minutes a day for 40 days, during their summer vacation.

Assemblyman Miller Helps Pass Bill to Refund Fees for Veteran's Notations on Driver's Licenses

Assemblymember Miller (D-Woodhaven) announced that he helped pass legislation that would provide a refund to veterans who paid a fee to obtain a veteran's notation on a driver's license or non-driver identification (ID) card (A.6557).

"Simple actions can have a big impact when it comes to showing our veterans that we appreciate their service and sacrifices," said Assemblymember Miller. "Our men and women in uniform do so much for our country, state and community. It's important to show our gratitude by making everyday things a little easier and more affordable."

Currently, eligible men and women who have served our country can have their status as a veteran designated on their driver's license or non-driver ID card, making it easier to access many of the programs, benefits and discounts available to them throughout the state (Ch. 487 of 2012). However, a standard \$12.50 photo fee was initially charged to those who replaced their license, learner permit or non-driver ID card prior to its expiration date.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has since been prohibited from charging a replacement fee to veterans (Ch. 429 of 2014), but many veterans requested the designation on their license prior to this new law taking effect. According to the DMV, the legislation Assemblymember Miller helped pass would allow nearly 11,000 veterans who already paid this replacement fee to receive a refund.



Assemblyman Miller Attends Grand Opening of New Restaurant on Jamaica Avenue

Assemblyman Miller had the privilege of attending the grand opening of a new Japanese restaurant on Jamaica Avenue named U-Me Sushi. As a supporter of small businesses, we are very excited to have a new restaurant on Jamaica Avenue and we wish them nothing but success in the future.

Assemblyman Miller & Senator Joe Addabbo Sponsor Recycling Event

Assemblyman Miller and State Senator Joe Addabbo hosted their bi-annual Recycle Day Event in the Bandshell parking lot in Forest Park. The event drew hundreds of community residents to the Bandshell parking lot to recycle household goods, clothing, electronics, and shredding paper.



Greater Ridgewood Youth Council Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Assemblyman Miller was honored during the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council's 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. Assemblyman Miller was recognized for his years of dedication and work to improve the lives of our community's youth. It also gave him the chance to congratulate the GRYC on 35 years of helping our community! We are looking forward to celebrating many more together!



In the above photos you will find: Assemblyman Miller with members of the Glendale Kiwanis (top) and Assemblyman Miller with fellow honorees of the evening (bottom).

Assemblyman Miller: Veterans deserve our gratitude and our support

Home to nearly 900,000 veterans, New York State has a moral responsibility to care for service members who have returned home. Unfortunately, statistics show that about half of all post-9/11 service members will face some period of unemployment upon their return. In addition, veterans make up 12 percent of the adult homeless population in our country, including a growing number of women with children.

This year, the Assembly unanimously passed legislation that would direct key state agencies to gather information on the state's homeless veterans and their children so we may better support them (A.434). In addition, we passed a new law creating the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, to which New Yorkers can easily contribute by simply checking a box on their income tax forms (Ch. 428 of 2014).

Further, Assemblyman Miller fought for an additional \$250,000 in the State budget to be used to fund burials for indigent veterans. He also voted for legislation that passed both the Assembly and Senate that would provide \$2,000 state reimbursement to congressionally chartered veterans organizations who provide funeral and burial services to indigent veterans who died in a county or in the City of New York.

School Sisters of Notre Dame's Annual Wine & Cheese Harvest Gathering



Assemblyman Miller had the privilege of joining the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) for their Wine and Cheese Harvest Gathering. Every year the SSND host this event to thank all their donors for their continued support.

United Bangladeshi-American Youth Association's Rayhan Memorial Cup Tournament

Assemblyman Miller and Councilman Eric Ulrich sponsored the United Bangladeshi-American Youth Association's Rayhan Memorial Cup Tournament at Franklin K. Lane High School. The event drew several soccer teams from Brooklyn and Queens who participated in the tournament.



Assemblyman Miller Joins American Softball to Celebrate a Great Season

Assemblyman Mike Miller attended the American Softball League's final game of the season at Kissena Park (Rose Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355). The American Softball League is an organization for developmentally challenged and handicapped adults and helps those who suffer from mental disabilities.



Assemblyman Miller Visits the Forest Park Jewish Center to Discuss Elder Abuse

Assemblyman Miller (D-Woodhaven) visited the Forest Park Jewish Center located at 90-45 Myrtle Avenue in Queens. Assemblyman Miller answered questions regarding Elder Abuse as well as provided information and insight regarding State Laws and resources for seniors.



Assemblyman Miller Passes Several Pieces of Key Legislation

A.928/S.5905: This bill would broaden the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to elderly persons study and evaluation of programs beyond only triad programs. The problem of crimes against the elderly is growing and ever-changing, so this bill allows the committee to adjust their focus to respond to changing times. This bill passed both houses and was recently signed into law by the Governor.

A.7872/S.5467A: This bill relates to authorizing the city of New York to sell to abutting property owners real property owned by the city, consisting of lots that cannot be independently developed due to the size, shape, configuration and topography of such lots. This bill passed both houses and was recently signed into law by the Governor.

A486A/S438A: After continued advocacy from Assemblyman Mike Miller, both the Assembly and Senate have passed Assemblyman Miller's legislation that would allow the DMV to create distinctive Kiwanis license plates to honor the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis. Earlier this session, Assemblyman Miller introduced a resolution in the Assembly honoring the 100th Anniversary of Kiwanis International. Kiwanis boasts nearly 600,000 members worldwide and annually raises more than \$100 million in support of their cause, improving the lives of children all over the globe. Although the bill was ultimately vetoed by Governor Cuomo, Assemblyman Miller will continue to push for distinctive plates for Kiwanis members.

A763A/S2497A: This bill would create a voluntary contribution on the state personal income tax return for veterans service organizations. Veterans are entitled to certain services. Accessing these services can be difficult, though. Veterans' service organizations help cut through the red tape and connect veterans with the services that they have earned. By allowing taxpayers to voluntarily contribute to the Veterans Service Organizations Fund, we are providing budget-neutral support to our veterans. This bill has passed the Assembly and is awaiting passage in the Senate.

A.7821: This bill would extend provisions of the law that modify when an employer's account would be charged for unemployment insurance claimants who participate in the shared work program. The Shared Work Program helps employers avoid some of the problems caused by a layoff by allowing them to keep their employees until they can continue operations at full capacity quickly once business conditions improve. Both employers and employees alike who are facing a temporary decline in business benefit greatly from the Shared Work program which offers employers an alternative to laying off employees by enabling them to keep their already trained and productive workforce.

Assemblyman Miller Presents Student of the Month Certificates to St. Elizabeth Students

Assemblyman Miller (D-Woodhaven) presented Student of the Month certificates to the Students of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Academy in Ozone Park, Queens. Attached is a picture of Assemblyman Miller, Principal Mr. William Ferguson, and the outstanding students for the months of September and October.



Assemblyman Michael Miller

Reports to the People

HOLIDAYS 2015

Assemblyman In Your Area

We invite you to please come and visit Assemblyman Miller with any questions, concerns, or to apply for a Free senior emergency medical id card:

Ozone Park Senior Center

103-02 101st Ave., Ozone Park, NY 11416

December 15 • 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

February 17 • 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Woodhaven Residents' Block Association

84-20 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven, NY 11421

December 7 • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

January 14, February 11 • 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Ridgewood Older Adult Senior Center

5914 70th Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

December 9, January 8, February 16, March 4

• 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Independence Residences Café

94-16 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven, NY 11421

December 14 • 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Community Help Desk

175 Forbell Street Brooklyn, NY 11208

December 16 • 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Woodhaven Richmond Hill Senior Center

89-02 91st Street Woodhaven, NY 11421

December 29 • 11:30 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

February 22, March 18 • 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Richmond Hill Block Association

110-08 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418

January 27 • 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Get Involved In Your Community

We invite you to please share your thoughts with us by answering the following questions:

When it comes to your community, what is your biggest concern?

Do you favor the Select Bus Service (SBS) plan proposed by the Department of Transportation which would, in an effort to improve bus transit, remove one lane of through traffic in each direction and establish bus shelters in the median along the Woodhaven/Cross Bay Boulevard corridor?

YES NO UNDECIDED

We ask that you answer these questions via email or feel free to call our office at 718-805-0950.