



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
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Year in Review 2016

We're Moving!

Assemblymember Bichotte's district office will be moving from its current office at 1414 Cortelyou Road to **1312 Flatbush near Foster Avenue.**

The office will host an open house in the early part of next year.

State of the District

The Assemblymember will be hosting the State of the District Address for the 42nd Assembly District on **Thursday, February 9th, 2017.** She will address the key issues in the district, as well as budget items. The State of the District is being held at Brooklyn College, East 27th Street and Campus Road, in the Gold Room, 6:00-8:00pm. There will be a program with a reception.

Events



Assemblymember Bichotte at Newkirk Plaza during mobile summer office hours.

Summer Office Hours

This past summer, **Assemblymember Bichotte** set up summer office hours so that constituents would have an opportunity to meet with her and share their questions and concerns. Office hours were held at subway stations throughout the district along the Q/B line at Church Avenue, Beverley Road, Cortelyou, and Newkirk, as well as along the 2/5 line at Nostrand and Beverley Road stations.

Back to School Event

Assemblymember Bichotte partnered with the Flatbush Development Corporation during their "Weekend Walk" event on Cortelyou Road to host her Annual Back-to-School event. Guests enjoyed complementary refreshments for the movie with hot dogs, popcorn, and cotton candy.

Families brought chairs or a blanket while they dined outdoors and enjoyed fun and games for kids, and watched the *Pokemon* movie.

The Jewish Community Council of Marine Park and **HealthFirst** generously contributed 100 backpacks, while **Greenfield Pharmacy** and the community-at-large contributed school supplies.



Director of Constituent Support Services, Francois Jeanty, serves cotton candy to residents of the 42nd Assembly District during the Back-to-School Supply Drive.



Assemblymember Bichotte participates in the book giveaway hosted by the United Federation of Teachers (UFT).



Assemblymember Bichotte with Mayor de Blasio, the First Lady Chirlane McCray, and Commissioner Jacques Jha.



Assemblymember Bichotte with Pastor James Thornton of Salem Missionary Baptist Church and younger members of the church at their summer block party.



Assemblymember Bichotte attending the graduation of interns Egypt Amagwu and Migel Haynes from the Generation Citizen Program, which encourages young people to become civically engaged.

Recent Events

Mental Health Event

The office of Assemblymember Bichotte, along with **Global Trauma Research**, presented a mental health workshop at **Brightpoint Health Center**. The workshop was made possible by the support of **Metro-Plus Health Plan**.

The first half of the program featured **Dr. Jill Bowen** of **ThriveNYC**, a city initiative initiated by the **First Lady Chirlane McCray**, and implemented under the direction of **Deputy Director Richard Buery**. Dr. Bowen spoke about the pervasiveness of mental health in New York City and the transformative nature of this initiative that makes mental health support more accessible than ever to all New Yorkers.

The second half of the program consisted of practitioners sharing hands-on skills to deal with stress such as **Dr. Florence Saint Jean**, from **Global Trauma Research**, and **Jasmine Belotte**, a life coach, who lead a session on mediation and self-empowerment, **Nicolette Dixon** from **Third Root Health Center** who led a session on yoga, and **Gemma Burgio**, from **Ditmas Park Creative Arts Therapy**, who led a session on art therapy.



Participants at the mental health workshop, hosted by Assemblymember Bichotte along with Global Trauma Research, and Brightpoint Health. The event was sponsored by MetroPlus Health Plan.



Assemblymember Bichotte joins Father Perry and members of Our Lady of Refuge after delivering turkeys for their communal Thanksgiving meal.



Assemblymember Bichotte partnered with a local grocery store and other elected officials to donate turkeys to Dorchester Senior Center and joined the seniors for their Thanksgiving luncheon.



Assemblymember Bichotte joined President Michelle J. Anderson, Ernest Skinner of Council Member Jumaane D. Williams's office, and members of "So Fed Up," a student advocacy group for disabled members of the Brooklyn College community, to celebrate the new Access-A-Ride Stop on Bedford Avenue.



Assemblymember Bichotte joined members of the Flatbush Tenant Coalition (FTC) at their annual picnic. Pictured here are Diesieul Rosemond and FTC members Thomas Williams and Betty King.

Community/Police Relations

Community and police relations became a cornerstone for legislation that **Assemblymember Bichotte** put forth this year. Nationally, this year marked a number of high profile deaths by which both civilians and police officers lost their lives—including the largest mass murder in the United States at **Pulse** nightclub, **Philandro Castile**, **Alton Sterling**, **Terence Krutcher**, **Keith Lamont Scott**, and police officers in Dallas and throughout the country and not to mention the continued high incidents of trans men and women. We also had several high profile shootings that impacted people in the 42nd Assembly District including **Lorita Pierre**, the mother of **District Leader Josue Pierre**, **Anthony Nazaire**, a promising young man who attended Ithaca College, and **Gerald Cummings**, a father who died standing up for his son.



During a year with a number of high profile killings, Assemblymember Bichotte joins Churches United to Save and Heal (CUSH) to speak out about violence in the community.

It is events like **National Night Out**, which is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships that are invaluable to creating neighborhood camaraderie in the hopes of making our neighborhoods safer and better places to live. The Assemblymember's office aims to work very closely with the **70th Precinct** and the **67th Precinct** to accomplish that. Both precincts were chosen to implement pilot programs of the **Neighborhood Coordinating Officer Program**. The program is one step that **NYPD** is taking to move toward a community-policing model, for which many advocates have been calling.

In addition to the **National Night Out**, **Assemblymember Bichotte** participated in a community forum on **Race, Community, and Law Enforcement**. The intention was to invite community members and law enforcement officers to be engaged in a dialogue about recent events, and to investigate the role that race plays.

In light of these events, **Assemblymember Bichotte** has worked with **Council Member Jumaane D. Williams** to introduce several pieces of legislation to build both accountability and trust. This includes legislation on the **right to record**, which would allow New Yorkers to record police officers from an appropriate distance as long as they are not interfering with the officer's work, and the **right to know**, which would require that law enforcement officers identify themselves to the public.

Assemblymember Bichotte addresses attendees at the community forum on race and law enforcement organized by Haitian American Lawyers Alliance of New York (HALANY) and the Haitian American Caucus (HAC).



Assemblymember Bichotte, District Leader Josue Pierre, and Pastor Gil Monroe join Shanduke McPhatter of G-MAAC, Gangstas Making Astronomical Community Changes, in prayer to honor the life of Gerald Cummings who was shot after standing up for his son.



Criminal Justice Reform

In light of some of the structural and institutional barriers experienced by those who have a history of incarceration, **Assemblymember Bichotte**, also in collaboration with **Council Member Jumaane D. Williams**, has introduced legislation including the **Fair Chance Act**, which prevents employers from discriminating against those who were formally incarcerated, and the **AutoErase Bill**, which automatically seals and expunges the records of those who have been wrongfully accused.

Haitian Studies Institute

August 24th, 2016 marked the first phase of a very long road for the **Haitian Studies Institute** (HSI). After years in the making, many members of the community including from the areas of academia, politics, not-for-profit, and civic groups, joined **Assemblymember Bichotte**, **State Senator Kevin Parker**, **Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke**, **Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams**, and **Brooklyn College President, Michelle J. Anderson** at their joint press conference at Brooklyn College to celebrate the establishment of the **Haitian Studies Institute**.

For a long time, the **Haitian Studies Institute** was an idea without a home that did not have enough political support, that many thought would remain an idea. As soon as the Assemblymember was sworn into office, she began to work on resurrecting it.



Assemblymember Bichotte addresses the audience at the press conference marking the official opening of the Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College.

The establishment of the Institute marks the end of the first phase. It has the support of **President Michelle J. Anderson**, and will require the support from members of the State Senate, Assembly, and the City Council to ensure its sustainability.

In his statement, **Dr. Jean Eddy Saint Paul** laid out his concept for the Institute, which includes a vision to create a leading research center with national and international recognition, a state of the art website, and scholarship that looks at the connection between Haiti and Africa, among other things.

Chibok Girls

In June of this year, **Assemblymember Bichotte's** resolution, **Resolution K1447**, condemning **Boko Haram** for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, especially women and girls, to raise awareness about the plight of the 276 Chibok girls that were kidnapped by **Boko Haram**. Her resolution supported a similar **House Resolution 147**, supporting efforts, to bring an end to violence perpetuated by **Boko Haram**, and urging the **Government of Nigeria** to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, which was introduced by **U.S. House Representative, Frederica Wilson**, who represents the 24th District in Florida.

Assemblymember Bichotte had reason to celebrate recently due to the release of 21 of the Chibok girls that were kidnapped. According to the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**, **Information Minister Lai Mohammed**, stated that this is a "credible first step" and that he was confident that it would lead to the eventual release of the remaining girls.

Hurricane Matthew

Assemblymember Bichotte, **Council Member Jumaane D. Williams**, and **District Leader for the 42nd Assembly District, Josue Pierre**, partnered with the **Bridge Multicultural Advocacy Project**, the **YMCA**, and the **Haitian American Caucus** to coordinate clothing, food, and supplies that would be sent to Haiti in the wake of **Hurricane Matthew**, a category 3 hurricane.

Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise



Assemblymember Bichotte joins NYC Scott Stringer, State Senator Brad Hoylman, and City Councilmember Ritchie Torres to announce their support of anti-discrimination legislation in government contracting.

The Mayor's Office for MWBE's

A milestone for minority- and women- owned Business Enterprises was the **Mayor's Office for MWBEs**, headed by **Senior Advisor Jonnel Doris**. The new office, under the direction of Mr. Doris, will be responsible for identifying strategic policy guidance, programs, services and accountability mechanisms to increase the number of awards given to qualified M/WBEs, as well as work with agencies to improve utilization of the City's M/WBEs.

Anti-discrimination Legislation

Assemblymember Bichotte, along with **State Senator Brad Hoylman** and **Council Member Ritchie Torres**, joined **NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer** to introduce **anti-discrimination legislation**. The legislation was introduced to address a gap in the law whereby discrimination in government contracting was not covered. The new language makes it unlawful for any agency or bureau of the state and any political subdivision to discriminate because of the actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, age, disability, marital status, or familial status, to deny such person a government contracting or procurement opportunity.



Assemblymember Bichotte (center) is joined by Jonnel Doris (l.) Senior Advisor for the City's MWBE program and Deputy Mayor Richard Buery (right) at the launch of the Mayor's Office for MWBEs.



Assemblymember Bichotte with Kenneth Mbonu, Executive Director of the Junction BID at the ribbon cutting for Ovi's Express.

Assemblymember Bichotte (right) with Mayor of Baltimore, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (left), and real estate mogul, Donahue Peebles, were panelists at the NYREC Holiday Roundtable discussing the future of business under the Trump administration.



MWBE Joint Hearing

A NYS Assembly hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held in mid-January in Albany by the **Government Operations, Small Business, and Oversight of Analysis and Investigations Committees**, along with the **Subcommittee on the Oversight of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise**. The hearing will look to hear testimony from small businesses, which will be used to help strengthen the MWBE program moving forward.



Assemblymember
**Rodneyse
Bichotte**

Year in Review 2016

Happy Holidays to All

Once the legislative session ended, Assemblymember Bichotte spent the summer attending block parties, holding outdoor office hours at train stations, and attending a wide range of events throughout the district.

She would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

With Gratitude

The Assemblymember is always grateful to the many people of which the 42nd Assembly District is comprised. She is especially grateful to her colleagues District Leader Josue Pierre, Council Members Jumaane D. Williams and Chaim Deutsch, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Senators Kevin Parker, James Sanders, Jr., and Dave Carlucci, Assemblymembers Ellen Jaffe, Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Michaelle Solages, N. Nick Perry, Diana Richardson, Latrice Walker, Kenneth Zebrowski, M&T Bank, Emblem Health, Hospice of New York, Con Edison, Kings County Hospital, Haitian Cultural Exchange, Bill Howard, Benjamin Pinczewski, Mark Meyer Appel, HealthFirst, JCC Marine Park, Shea Rubenstein, Pastor Gil Monroe, Patricia Reddock, HABNET, St. Mark's United Missionary Church, P.S. 269, Flatbush Y, Haitian American Caucus, Haitian American Lawyers Alliance of New York, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Flatbush Development Corporation, Flatbush Tenant Association, Global Trauma Research Center, MetroPlus Health Plan, Brightpoint Health, Thrive NYC, Third Root Health Center, Ditmas Park Creative Arts Therapy, Haitian Community Coalition, Cortelyou Road Church of God, Junction BID, Tonel, MIPO, Inc., Sundance Adult Day Center, East Flatbush Village, Neighborhood Housing Services, Tropical Paradise, National Allotment, Teresa Gonzales, CUNYNow!, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Key Food, Greenfield Pharmacy, Derek Noel, and others.