



Assemblymember  
**Jim Brennan**  
*Reports to the People*

WINTER 2013

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Dear Community Residents,

*It is an honor to continue serving you in the State Assembly. I appreciate the hard work and effort of so many people to preserve the vitality of the neighborhoods I have the privilege of representing, including Flatbush, Boro Park, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, and Park Slope. I pledge continued hard work to maintain the quality of life in our communities.*

*Hurricane Sandy had a devastating impact on hundreds of thousands of people, causing loss of life, property, and long-term damage. The recovery from this storm will require not just money for repairs, but also smarter investments to protect and strengthen our infrastructure and shorelines in the future. Recently, I served as the Assembly appointee to a Governor's Commission, the NYS 2100 Commission, to review the State's response to the storm (see article). Dealing with issues related to the storm will be an important part of the 2013 legislative agenda.*

*This year will pose many other challenges. We must adopt a fair budget, increase the minimum wage, reform our campaign finance and election laws, strengthen the accountability of our public authorities, and many others.*

*Please feel free to contact either my Park Slope or Flatbush office anytime to share your concerns or problems.*

*James F. Brennan*

## New York State 2100 Commission

In late November, following Hurricane Sandy, Governor Cuomo appointed a commission composed of 25 leaders from across the State to review how New York should address many environmental and infrastructure issues related to the storm. Hurricane Sandy was an extreme weather event that represents the ever-increasing risks involving climate change, rising sea levels, and the likelihood of similar storms in the future. The effectiveness of the State's response will have a major impact on our destiny.

The Assembly Speaker appointed me the Assembly's representative to the Commission. Judith Rodin, President of the Rockefeller Foundation and Felix Rohatyn, one of New York's premier business leaders, served as co-chairs of the Commission. The Commission held a public meeting on December 18th and a set of recommendations for the State government was issued on January 11. You can read more about the Commission's recommendations at <http://www.governor.ny.gov/assets/documents/NYS2100.pdf>.

Many of the recommendations involve strengthening the use of natural resources to protect ourselves. These include the restoration and protection of wetlands, which act as a sump for water. Other measures include adding, strengthening and restoring dunes, beaches, and barrier reefs, and protecting shorelines with added trees, plantings, and vegetation to hold water. For the MTA, protection measures include hardening tunnels and adding inflatable plugs for them, as well as improving the bus network. For utilities, they involve decentralizing the electric grid, adding local solar, wind and cogeneration to keep the grid operating if power plants go down.

The proposals address transportation, land use and coastal management, utilities and energy issues, and infrastructure finance. The key theme un-

**See Commission on page 2**



*I conducted a hearing to learn of the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the MTA's operations and finances as well as how the increase in the MTA's debt will affect the fares in the future, as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. I am pictured with Bob Foran, the MTA's Chief Financial Officer, who testified at the hearing.*

*There is more discussion on the storm's impact on the City and the State in an article on the Governor's 2100 Commission [above]. I was appointed by Speaker Silver as the Assembly's representative to that commission.*

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# New Law Creates Groundbreaking, Comprehensive Gun-Safety Legislation

I am pleased that the Legislature and Governor were able to enact into law the first week of session a law to provide for comprehensive gun-safety legislation to curb devastating gun violence. The bill provided for the following changes in the law.

## Stronger Gun-Safety Measures

This legislation would strengthen New York's existing assault weapons ban to prohibit weapons that include one or more of the features that increase the lethality of a semi-automatic weapon. Further tightening the law, there would be a grandfather clause for owners of legal semi-automatic weapons provided they register them with the state police, recertify the registration every 5 years and undergo a background check.



Additionally, this bill would ban all high-capacity ammunition clips with the capacity to hold more than 7 rounds. From this day forward, no clips with the capacity to hold more than 7 rounds can be sold. It would also require all people purchasing ammunition to undergo a state background check and present state-issued photo identification.

In addition, this bill would:

- revoke and/or suspend the gun license of an individual upon issuance of an order of protection by a court of law;
- require mental-health professionals to report to law enforcement when they believe a person receiving mental-health services is a danger to themselves or others. Those who possess a firearm license would have their license revoked or suspended and be required to surrender their firearms;
- require all private sales of firearms, shotguns and rifles to be made through a licensed gun dealer to ensure that a proper background check is performed, unless the sale is between immediate family members; and
- require owners of firearms to safely store such weapons if he/she resides with a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under certain provisions of federal law.

## Increasing Criminal Penalties

The Assembly's legislation would increase the existing penalty for possession of a loaded firearm from 3.5 years to 5 years imprisonment when the defendant is also convicted of a drug sale or violent felony offense as part of the same charge. Additionally, the penalty for possession of an unloaded firearm in this situation would increase from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony.

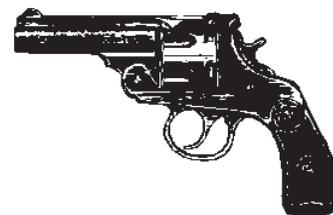
The Assembly's bill would also:

- increase the penalty for unlicensed possession of a gun on school grounds from a class A misdemeanor to a class E felony;
- clarify that an individual can be prosecuted for criminal facilitation for making available, sharing, selling, exchanging, giving or disposing of a "community gun" which helps another person commit a crime;
- create a new elevated crime of Aggravated Enterprise Corruption for commission of multiple class B felonies and gun-related crimes, a class A-I felony punishable by a mandatory life sentence with a minimum term of between 15 and 25 years; and
- increase the penalty for straw purchases of firearms from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony.

## Strengthening Kendra's Law to Address Mental-Health Aspect of Gun Safety

Specifically, the bill would:

- require the evaluation of the need for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) prior to the expiration of the order;
- require the county director of community services to notify the director in another county when a person subject to an AOT order has moved to that county;
- extend the maximum duration of an initial AOT order from 6 months to 1 year;
- require inmates being released to the community from a mental health hospital to undergo review for an AOT order; and
- extend the sunset provision of Kendra's Law from June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2017.



## Budget Restores Critical Funding for EPIC Program

The EPIC Program provides seniors with assistance to pay for their prescription drugs after the Part D deductible is met, as well as covering drugs that Part D does not cover.

To participate in EPIC, low- and middle-income seniors must enroll in a Medicare Part D plan. EPIC coverage will cap at \$20 all copayments for drugs that are included in an EPIC participant's Medicare Part D formulary.

EPIC enrollment is free. To join EPIC, you must be a resident of New York State who is 65 or older, with annual income of up to \$35,000 if single or \$50,000 if married. If you dropped your EPIC enrollment when the EPIC program was cut in 2011, you should reenroll. If you are eligible but you have not yet enrolled, you can do so now.

The EPIC application and information can be downloaded from <http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-3409.pdf>. Or you can call my Park Slope (718-788-7221) or Cortelyou Road (718-940-0641) office, and my staff will be glad to help you apply.

## Commission

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derlying the recommendations is RESILIENCE, meaning that our infrastructure and land use policies should include "spare capacity, staying flexible, managing failure adaptively, [and] rebounding quickly," (NYS 2100 Commission, Executive Summary).

A list of recommendations include: to protect, upgrade, and strengthen existing systems and rebuild smarter; encourage the use of green and natural infrastructure; promote integrated planning; and expand education, job training and workforce development opportunities.

My office will continue to report on the State's responses to Hurricane Sandy in future communications.



## **70th Precinct Night Out Against Crime**

*I am joined by the 70th Precinct Community Council President Ed Powell, Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, District Attorney Joe Hynes, and 70th Precinct Deputy Inspector Eric Rodriguez.*

# **Assembly's Electoral Reforms Will Strengthen NY's Electoral Process**

*Increased disclosure and early voting key reforms*

In a democracy like ours, every person's voice and vote counts. As a state Assemblymember, it's my duty to ensure that as many citizens as possible have the opportunity to be part of the electoral process, and that voters know where political messages—and the money behind them—come from.

It is for these reasons that I am putting my full support behind two new pieces of legislation that will strengthen our democracy. The first measure would bring early voting to our state while simultaneously increasing voter participation to ensure that as many voices as possible are heard. The second piece of legislation would require that more independent expenditures that influence elections be subject to financial campaign disclosure rules, helping ensure that voters know where the money behind the message is coming from.

### **Why early voting matters**

Recently, experts estimated that voter participation in New York State on Election Day 2012 was less than 46 percent. In an effort to increase voter participation, I'll be pushing for the passage of a bill that would create early voting in all general, primary and special elections in New York State (A.689).

If enacted, New York would join 32 other states and the District of Columbia in permitting an alternative to in-person voting on election days. Under the legislation, voters would be permitted to vote at designated locations beginning 14 days prior to general elections and 7 days prior to primary or special elections. The Board of Elections of the City of New York would be required to designate at least five polling places for voters to cast an early ballot. Polls would be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

each day during the early voting period, including Saturdays and Sundays, and ballots cast during the early voting period would be counted at the close of the polls on Election Day and included in the election-night tally.

Early voting would mean fewer people waiting in long lines on Election Day, decrease the need for absentee ballots and allow people with disabilities and those with non-traditional work schedules easier access to voting.

### **The need for increased disclosure of independent expenditures**

Currently, large corporations, billionaires and special-interest groups are allowed to spend unlimited money on political campaigns as long as they define themselves as "issue advocates" and avoid the use of certain words. This loophole leaves voters in the dark about who is behind messages and ads they see and where the money funding them comes from.

Voters deserve better, which is why I'm also supporting a bill that would ensure that entities engaged in what amounts to express advocacy of candidates are subject to the same registration and disclosure provisions that are now required of candidates and their campaigns (A.690).

These "independent expenditures" distort campaigns, and their secrecy makes it difficult for voters to discern their true intentions. We should strive to increase openness and accountability in our state's electoral system, which this legislation would do.

### **Chand Raat Festival**

*I joined Bazah Roohi, executive director of the American Council of Minority Women, at the Chand Raat Festival.*



# 2013 New York City Parking Calendar

Compliments of  
**Assemblymember Jim Brennan**

<b>January 1</b> Tuesday	<b>New Year's Day* – 2013</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	<b>May 16</b> Thursday	<b>Shavuot – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>October 16</b> Wednesday	<b>Idul-Adha – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>January 21</b> Monday	<b>Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>May 27</b> Monday	<b>Memorial Day*</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	<b>October 17</b> Thursday	<b>Idul-Adha – 3rd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>February 10</b> Sunday	<b>Asian Lunar New Year</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>July 4</b> Thursday	<b>Independence Day*</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	<b>November 1</b> Friday	<b>All Saints Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>February 12</b> Tuesday	<b>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>August 7</b> Wednesday	<b>Idul-Fitr – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>November 3</b> Sunday	<b>Diwali</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>February 13</b> Wednesday	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>August 8</b> Thursday	<b>Idul-Fitr – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>November 5</b> Tuesday	<b>Election Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>February 18</b> Monday	<b>Washington's Birthday (President's Day)</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>August 9</b> Friday	<b>Idul-Fitr – 3rd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>November 11</b> Monday	<b>Veterans Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>February 24</b> Sunday	<b>Purim</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>August 15</b> Thursday	<b>Feast of the Assumption</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>November 28</b> Thursday	<b>Thanksgiving Day*</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
<b>March 26</b> Tuesday	<b>Passover – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 2</b> Monday	<b>Labor Day*</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	<b>December 8</b> Sunday	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
<b>March 27</b> Wednesday	<b>Passover – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 5</b> Thursday	<b>Rosh Hashanah – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>December 25</b> Wednesday	<b>Christmas Day*</b> Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
<b>March 28</b> Thursday	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 6</b> Friday	<b>Rosh Hashanah – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>March 29</b> Friday	<b>Good Friday</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 14</b> Saturday	<b>Yom Kippur</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>April 1</b> Monday	<b>Passover – 7th Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 19</b> Thursday	<b>Succoth – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>April 2</b> Tuesday	<b>Passover – 8th Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 20</b> Friday	<b>Succoth – 2nd Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>May 2</b> Thursday	<b>Holy Thursday (Orthodox)</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 26</b> Thursday	<b>Shemini Atzereth</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>May 3</b> Friday	<b>Good Friday (Orthodox)</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>September 27</b> Friday	<b>Simchas Torah</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>May 9</b> Thursday	<b>Solemnity of the Ascension</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>October 14</b> Monday	<b>Columbus Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
<b>May 15</b> Wednesday	<b>Shavuot – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	<b>October 15</b> Tuesday	<b>Idul-Adha – 1st Day</b> Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		

## Alternate Side Parking or ASP (Street Cleaning Rules).

Most Alternate Side parking signs are clearly marked with the "P" symbol with the broom through it. Some signs are the traditional 3-hour ones, but others can vary considerably. Some metered parking zones have alternate side parking rules. When alternate side parking is suspended for a holiday or other reason, the parking meters remain in effect.

**\*Major Legal Holiday Rules.** The city suspends ASP rules on the legal and religious holidays listed in this brochure. No Stopping, No Standing and No Parking regulations are also suspended, except where those regulations are normally in effect seven days a week (for example: "No Standing Anytime"). Parking meter regulations are also suspended. On all other holidays, only street cleaning rules are suspended. All other regulations remain in effect.

**Alternate Side Parking Regulations may be suspended from time to time because of snow emergencies, inclement weather conditions or other emergencies. Visit [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot) or dial 311 (212-New York) for further information or log on to [www.nyc.gov/311](http://www.nyc.gov/311). TTY Deaf or hearing-impaired, dial 212-504-4115.**

## Reminder:

**Parking meters are not in effect Sundays.**