



News

from
Assemblyman
**DOV
HIKIND**

SUMMER 2012

HELP FREE JACOB OSTREICHER



It's hard to imagine that anyone in our community has not heard of the horrendous situation that Jacob Ostreicher faces. For nearly a year, Jacob has sat in a Bolivian prison under atrocious conditions without

being charged with a crime. We cannot stand by silently while this continues. Attempts at quiet diplomacy have only brought frustration to the Ostreicher family, so the time has come to be heard.

On May 3, Assemblyman Hikind joined nearly 500 of Jacob's neighbors and community members at the Bolivian Mission to the United Nations where he spoke out against the injustice being done to Jacob. Now he's calling on all of you to please sign the petition to President Obama to free Jacob Ostreicher. Our goal of 25,000 signatures is possible and will make a difference. You can download a copy of the petition at www.FreeJacobNow.com or stop by Assemblyman Hikind's office to sign the petition. PLEASE do not ignore this urgent plea to help Jacob Ostreicher—his very life is at stake.



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INTERVENING FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

“Early intervention makes a world of difference for children who receive treatment.”

— Assemblyman Hikind

Each day, countless families face the difficulties that come with raising a small child with disabilities. The Early Intervention (EI) program helps get care for children under age 3 who have been diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay. Parents are also offered various therapeutic and support services such as family edu-

cation and counseling, speech, physical and occupational therapy, and nursing and nutritional services.

“Raising a child with disabilities comes with unique challenges,” the Assemblyman said. “Early intervention makes a world of difference for children who receive treatment, and the counseling and social services

support help families understand what’s happening while preparing them for what to expect in the future. That’s why I made it a top priority to protect EI funding in the 2012-13 final state budget, and I will continue to work toward making sure the EI program has the funding needed to provide these life changing services.”

SALES TAX EXEMPTION

One provision of the State budget, which Assemblyman Hikind was pleased to help pass into law, will bring some welcome relief for shoppers. As of April 1, the sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear under \$110 has been reinstated. This tax-free offer applies to relevant items regardless of where they are

purchased – in person, by phone, by mail, etc. The qualifying exemption doubled since last year, when it applied to apparel under \$55. Local businesses will profit as well, with an additional influx of not only New York customers, but also shoppers from neighboring states like New Jersey.

KEY INITIATIVES SAVE PARENTS/YESHIVAS MILLIONS

Assemblyman Hikind announced two key initiatives included in the State budget that will positively impact yeshivas and parochial schools. New York State has accepted responsibility for providing transportation after 5:00 pm for

children in kindergarten through grade 6 attending classes in private and parochial schools. The amendment also ensures that transportation services deliver children as close as possible to their homes.

“The new transportation amendment is a colossal accomplishment in terms of education, safety and financial relief,” said the Assemblyman. “We fought for years to get equitable transportation for children whose parents elected to give them longer school days and additional education opportunities. This is truly an historic breakthrough.”

Another provision of the new budget is a \$7 million distribution for mandated services to yeshivas and parochial schools. The Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) reimburses schools for taking attendance at the beginning of each period, but since the program’s inception in 2006, yeshivas were denied their equitable share of funds earmarked for all schools.

“More than ever, yeshivas are feeling the bite of tough economic times,” Assemblyman Hikind said. “This \$7 million will take a huge burden off yeshivas.” The Assemblyman had the highest praise for

the leaders of Agudath Israel of America, in particular Rabbi Shiya Ostreicher, as well as Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, who lobbied tirelessly for years to help bring about these changes in Albany.



(L-R) Rabbi Shiya Ostreicher, Assemblyman Hikind, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz.

DUMPERS BEWARE!

“Corner garbage cans are not intended for household or private refuse.” — Assemblyman Hikind

Tired of people treating our neighborhood like a garbage dump? So is Assemblyman Hikind, who has launched a campaign to crack down on anonymous dumping of furniture, clothing, and other household items, including trash that’s strewn around sanitation baskets along various Boro Park and Midwood locations.

“Corner garbage cans are not intended for household or private refuse,” the Assemblyman explains. “This behavior is unconscionable and is an abuse of a service provided by the City. I can only imagine what visitors to our community think when they see this kind of filth. Where is the basic decency and self-respect?”

The Assemblyman noted that innocent small business owners are often issued sanitation violations for items dumped near garbage cans outside their stores. “Sanitation



finances are a minimum of \$100. It is outrageous for blameless store owners to have to pay the price for someone else’s mess. I plan to put a stop to it.”

HOPE TODAY, A CHILD TOMORROW

Assemblyman Hikind spoke at the Bonei Olam dinner and introduced NY State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, who also addressed the dinner attendees. “My heartfelt thanks to Dean for adding funds to the New York State IVF Grant,” said the Assemblyman. “Bonei Olam’s mission—a mission they fulfill—is to help couples that are experiencing infertility realize their dreams of having a child. Bonei Olam provides funding for all aspects of fertility treatments, relieving couples of the financial, emotional, and physical stress resulting from infertility.”



From L to R: Rabbi Shiya Ostreicher, Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Yumi Kleinbart, Rabbi Abe Eisner, Dean Skelos, Rabbi Shlomie Bachner, Assemblyman Hikind, and Rabbi Shimon Ostreicher.

SPECIAL CHILDREN GET SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL



Children from Yeshiva Bonim Lamokom—a special education yeshiva for high-functioning boys with Down Syndrome and other developmental delays—were excited to have Assemblyman Hikind host them in Albany. “It was an extraordinary time for the children, but even more so for me and my fellow legislators who were fortunate enough to meet these wonderful kids and their very special teachers,” said the Assemblyman. “One of the boys told me he faithfully listens to ‘The Dov Hikind Show’ every Saturday evening and was thrilled to meet me. ‘Not half as thrilled as I am to meet you,’ I said.”

A GIVING TIME OF YEAR

At no time during the year is the charity that abounds in our community more evident than during the Passover season. Thousands of food packages containing basic food staples are distributed to the needy to make it possible for them to enjoy the holidays. Assemblyman Hikind, who participated in the Kupas HaChessed of Boro Park and the Gorsky Kavkazi Jewish Center distributions, ex-

pressed his gratitude to the organizers, sponsors and volunteers for their hard work.

“The chesed (kindness) that is exhibited in our community is simply outstanding,” the Assemblyman remarked. “It makes me extremely proud to represent a community that is second to none in taking care of its less fortunate, needy, and vulnerable members.”



Assemblyman Hikind helping Kupas HaChessed along with Yanky Daskal of Boro Park Shomrim.



(L-R) Michael Nisanov, Assemblyman Hikind, Frank Avshalomov and Vitaly Ruvinov at Gorsky Kavkazi Jewish Center.

ABANDONED SHAIMOS GIVEN PROPER BURIAL

A Boro Park resident called Assemblyman Hikind to complain of a van that had been parked in the community since Pesach. A look inside revealed that the back of the van was full of boxes containing shaimos. Assemblyman Hikind wasted no time in making sure that the contents of the towed vehicle were not treated like garbage. Under the Assemblyman’s scrutiny, all *shaimos* found in

and scattered around the vehicle were taken by Beth Genizah in Sullivan County, New York, and properly buried in a container in Monticello. “This story touched everyone,” said the Assemblyman. “We all felt shocked and victimized to learn of abandoned shaimos in our community. Now that we’ve rectified this particular incident, we must work together to make certain it doesn’t happen again.”



THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY



Assemblyman Hikind joined Public Advocate Bill de Blasio to call on Nissan, the winner of a \$1 billion contract to manufacture New York City’s “Taxi of Tomorrow,” to stop conducting business with Iran. Selling roughly 7,500 vehicles a year in Iran, Nissan was placed on de Blasio’s “Iran Watch List,” a new campaign targeting companies that do business with Iran. “It is shameful and unconscionable for Nissan to undermine sanctions against Iran by doing business with them,” the Assemblyman charged. “This is an issue of morality.”