



# News

from  
Assemblyman  
**DOV  
HIKIND**

JULY 2012

## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY: Security Initiative Blankets Boro Park, Midwood

In a major breakthrough, Assemblyman Hikind worked with NY State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos to deliver an extensive security program to Boro Park and Midwood. The Security Initiative will utilize the newest advances in surveillance technology to safeguard residents by placing 150 high-tech security cameras in strategic places throughout the neighborhood allowing for end-to-end surveillance as needed.

“The Jewish community is the largest potential target for attacks—that’s why the NYPD increases patrols here when terror alerts are issued,” noted the Assemblyman. “Our new security-surveillance system will not only decrease the chances of outside attacks, but it will also enormously enhance law enforcement’s ability to solve and prevent local crimes. If, for instance, a child were to go missing G-d forbid, we will have exponentially increased the ability to locate and recover that child.”

Working with community leaders, Assemblyman Hikind’s office identified key locations throughout the community to offer the broadest surveillance coverage. These include commercial districts, schools and institutions, as well as residential areas. Surveillance cameras will be mounted at major intersections.

“This is a historical moment for the Jewish community,” said Assemblyman Hikind. “The achievement of this initiative demonstrates the importance of partnering with our government to provide for the community.”



*Assemblyman Hikind presents one of the high-tech surveillance cameras as community leaders and elected officials look on. Pictured L to R: Yanky Daskal (Boro Park Shomrim), Shmilu Follman (Shomrim Coordinator), Chaim Deutch (Flatbush Shomrim), Nachman Kletzky, NYC Councilman Mike Nelsen, Assemblyman Hikind, NYS Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, NYS Senator Marty Golden, NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, NYC Councilman Brad Lander, Rabbi Berish Freilich and Rabbi Gedaliah Weinberger (Agudath Israel of America).*

## The Fight Continues for Jacob Ostreicher



*U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and former NY Governor David Paterson join Assemblyman Hikind at the Bolivian Mission to the U.N. to denounce detention of Jacob Ostreicher.*

Assemblyman Hikind continues to gather high-level support to pressure the Bolivian government to free Boro Park resident Jacob Ostreicher, who was incarcerated more than a year ago without being charged with a crime.

“I’m determined to get the U.S. State Department involved,” says the Assemblyman. Toward that end, Assemblyman Hikind has recruited the aid of U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, along with Congressmen Jerrold Nadler and Bob Turner, NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, and the Executive Members of the Orthodox Union. In addition, more than 35,000 signatures were collected on a petition to the White House on Jacob Ostreicher’s behalf.

“There isn’t a conversation I have with the media or a fellow elected official that doesn’t include Jacob Ostreicher,” says Assemblyman Hikind. “We are dealing with a third-world dictatorship so this is very, very difficult, but we are recruiting allies and building awareness, which will be key to our success. I won’t rest until we bring Jacob home to his family.”

## An End to Bogus Sanitation Tickets



*Motti Katz and NYS Senator Jeff Klein look on as Assemblyman Hikind displays bogus sanitation tickets.*

A Sanitation Bill introduced by Assemblyman Hikind to eliminate false sanitation tickets has passed the NY State Assembly and now awaits approval of the NY State Senate. The proposed legislation will require DSNY agents to photograph and document the condition of a property at the time a ticket is issued. The process will no longer be arbitrary and based on a sanitation agent's word against a citizen.

Calling the bill "the antidote to bogus tickets," Assemblyman Hikind proposed the law after proving that DSNY sanitation workers were purposely or carelessly issuing expensive tickets to his constituents. Three Sanitation agents were captured on surveillance video in Brooklyn issuing fraudulent tickets.

"Sanitation tickets are a minimum of \$100," said Assemblyman Hikind. "This is a tremendous financial burden. My office is frequently contacted by constituents who've received tickets yet claim innocence. Now we're one step closer to making the ticketing process as fair as possible to home and business owners."

### Keeping Con Ed Honest

The recent power outages in Borough Park had Assemblyman Hikind furious over the double-talk received from Con Ed. With thousands of community residents without power, Assemblyman Hikind didn't let the issue rest.

"I spoke with half a dozen people, none of whom seemed to have communicated with anyone else on their own team," he said. "Everyone had a different answer regarding what to expect. No one seemed capable of giving a straight answer."

During the power outage, the Assemblyman spent the morning staying on top of the issue as Con Ed workers closed 50th Street, Borough Park's main thoroughfare, between 13th and 15th Avenues. "We kept the pressure on until power was restored. And if it happens again, we'll be there making sure Con Ed addresses the matter as quickly as possible."

## AT LONG LAST: Unprecedented Benefits for Special Ed Families

Assemblyman Hikind fought hard for a new Education Law, which was sponsored by his colleague, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, but it was worth the fight. "The passage of this law alone would have made the entire legislative session worthwhile," he says.

The new law will dramatically ease the burden of parents educating special needs children in three ways:

1. The new law ensures that Committees of Special Education (CSE) consider a child's home and upbringing to determine the child's most appropriate educational environment. Previously, the Dept. of Education only looked at educational factors; no credence was given to how a family's background impacted how a child learned.
2. The new law eliminates the length and tediousness of the tuition reimbursement process. Parents who once waited a year or more for placement—and longer for tuition reimbursement—will see applications processed within 90 days of filing, and reimbursement for approved applications paid out within 30 days. Yeshivas will no longer need to pressure parents for promised monies.
3. There's no longer a need to reapply for benefits. Each year, parents of special-needs children have found themselves repeating the entire litigious process: visiting schools, proving that schools are appropriate or not, and so forth. The new law says that once a program is deemed appropriate, it remains appropriate as long as the child's IEP hasn't changed.



*Leah Steinberg (Director, Project Learn), Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein and Chaskel Bennett (Agudath Israel of America) join Assemblyman Hikind on "The Dov Hikind Show" to discuss the new Education Law.*

## Ending Anti-Semitic Attacks in Boro Park

Assemblyman Hikind offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the vandals painting swastikas in Boro Park. "We don't know who is doing this yet but we know why," the Assemblyman said. "Some individuals are sending a message. We hear them. And when they're caught—and they will be—we'll send a message, too. I urge anyone with any information to come forward."

Assemblyman Hikind is working closely with law enforcement to prevent these attacks in our community. Everyone agrees that the new Security Initiative (see page 1) will go a long way towards apprehending the perpetrators of these hate crimes—and ultimately put an end to them.

## ASSEMBLYMAN DOV HIKIND

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