

## HEATING HELP

The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** for home heating aid for the coming winter has begun and **HeartShare (The Neighborhood Heating Fund)** will begin **December 9**. Please contact our office if you need assistance with HEAP. We also accept applications for HeartShare.

## Solving the Sanitation Nightmare

Early morning sanitation pick-ups have plagued residents in our district as they interfere each morning with school buses and wreak havoc on drivers. Assemblyman Hikind will be meeting with the Sanitation Commissioner in the hopes of finding a solution that benefits everyone. “I’ve spoken with parents in our community, with the bus drivers, and with the sanitation workers in our neighborhood,” said the Assemblyman. “Everyone agrees that sanitation pick-ups between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. are causing mayhem. I think we can come up with a solution that will benefit everyone.” In a recent appearance on “The Dov Hikind Show,” NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio made it clear that he supported Assemblyman Hikind’s bid to change morning sanitation runs in the community.



*Assemblyman Hikind meeting with bus drivers' reps.*



## Tuition Relief: A Brighter Future



This legislative session, Assemblyman Hikind’s top priority is the passage of The Education Investment Tax Credit bill, which would give a dollar-for-dollar reduction on the state tax bill for charitable contributions to education, whether on public school tutoring or private school tuition. “The amount of money that private and parochial schools save New York State is truly astronomical and this Act would allow New York to give back to these parents and provide the much needed relief that these parents also deserve,” said the Assemblyman. “It’s more than reasonable: It’s just.” At his recent meetings with Assemblyman Hikind in Boro Park, NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo committed himself to Education Investment Tax Credits as never before calling the issue “a matter of justice.”

*Assemblyman Hikind and Governor Cuomo in Boro Park.*

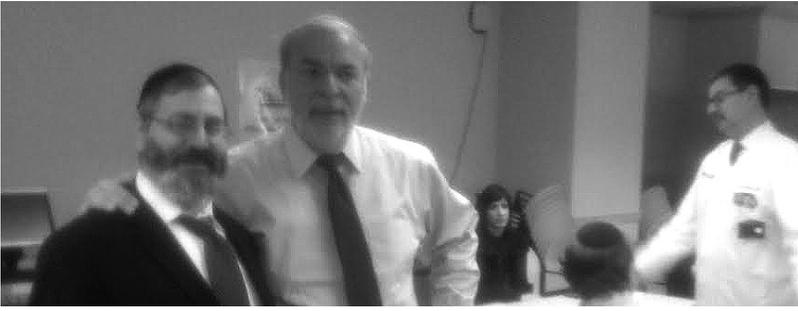
## The Mail Must Go Through!

Residents on 46<sup>th</sup> Street were furious to find that their mail was being withheld because a postman said their mail slots were too low. But just 24 hours after holding a press conference in Boro Park to bring attention to this mail delivery suspension, Assemblyman Hikind received assurances from the U.S. Postal Service’s top brass that all residents would continue receiving their mail as usual, regardless of where their mail slots were. The Assemblyman met with three USPS officials at his home where the complaints from Boro Park residents were reviewed and the matter was quickly resolved. “I was relieved that this matter could be resolved so quickly and so respectfully by the U.S. Postal Executives,” said Hikind, who had reached as high as the U.S. Postmaster General in an attempt to quickly remedy the situation.



*Assemblyman Hikind meets with residents whose mail was withheld.*

## An Ounce of Prevention



*Assemblyman Hikind pauses with a constituent at his recent health fair.*

On Sunday, October 26, Assemblyman Dov Hikind and EZRA Medical Center sponsored a free Health Fair at Touro College in Brooklyn. The health fair offered community members numerous free screenings including blood pressure, heart rate, body mass index (BMI) assessment, hearing and vision testing, foot exams and more. Vital information was available on nutrition, obesity, diabetes prevention and cancer prevention. “These health fairs save lives and I plan to sponsor many more,” said Assemblyman Hikind.

## “Super-Human Efforts” Made Benefits Available Before Holidays

Shoppers would have been disappointed to find EBT (electronic benefit transfer), including food stamps and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits unavailable the Sunday before Rosh Hashanah. But when he heard that a system overhaul planned by NY State would cause this, Assemblyman Hikind worked with NYC Public Advocate

Letitia James and NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo and quickly resolved the issue before it became a problem. The result: the system upgrade time was changed to accommodate the community. Assemblyman Hikind thanked the Governor and everyone involved for their super-human efforts.

## No More Waiting Around: You Can Soon Pre-Pay Muni-Meters

Assemblyman Hikind says NYC muni-meters will soon accept pre-payments up to an hour before they begin working for the day. This should come as welcome news to the many drivers who are forced to wait at the meter each morning—or return to it—despite having parked up to an hour before the meter became active.

“The current situation has been very frustrating for New Yorkers,” said Hikind. “Because the muni-meters are not currently set up to accept payments until they become active, people who find a spot and park their cars at, say, 8:30 or 8:45 a.m. are forced to wait for the meter to accept payment, or to return and make their payment at the time the meter begins working. But now you will be able to park and pre-pay.”

Assemblyman Hikind, who first raised the issue with the Department of Transportation earlier this year, had high praise for DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg and her staff, as well as for Mayor de Blasio, for quickly responding to the issue.



*Discussing the need to wait at a muni-meter in Boro Park.*

“This solution benefits residents and commuters without taking a dime away from New York City,” said Hikind. The meters are scheduled to be reprogrammed city-wide over a period of time starting this winter.

## PS 160’s Garbage Creating a Stink



*Assemblyman Hikind visits residents near P.S. 160.*

Residents near P.S. 160 on 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Fort Hamilton Pkwy. are complaining that huge piles of garbage, resulting from the daily meals of nearly 1400 students and faculty, are left out twice each day in front of the school for sanitation to remove at night. The result is an all-day stench that has become unbearable to the neighbors. The residents say they have been complaining for a long time but nothing was done so they turned to Assemblyman Hikind.

“Public schools need to work with the community,” said the Assemblyman who met with school Principal Margaret Russo and contacted the Executive Director of Field Operations at the Chancellor’s Office. “At the request of residents, I visited the neighborhood and I saw with my own eyes—and smelled with my own nose—how bad the situation is. This situation has brought vermin and is destroying the quality of life for residents in the neighborhood. This intolerable situation must be addressed.”

## Shtreimel, Tallis and Tefillin Recovered

Imagine coming all the way to Boro Park from Montreal for a family occasion only to find you've left your luggage on the bus... and that your personal contents were reported destroyed. Assemblyman Hikind was called by a constituent regarding their family member whose valuable *shtreimel*, *tallis* and *tefillin* were lost at a stop in Suffern, NY, at Wal-Mart on Rt. 59. A passenger had gotten off and proceeded to unload his own luggage from beneath the bus, but in so doing apparently removed a suitcase that wasn't his. No one was the wiser until the bus pulled into Boro Park at 5 a.m. Wal-Mart was



called and a manager confirmed that a suitcase was indeed left outside the store, but that he'd thrown "the empty" luggage into a compactor that could not be opened. Assemblyman Hikind's office wasted no time contacting Rabbi Berish Freilich who, in turn, contacted the Ramapo Chief of Police. Permission was granted to open the compactor and the valuable *shtreimel*, *tallis* and *tefillin* were recovered. "I want to personally thank Rabbi Freilich for his quick assistance, as well as the Ramapo Police Department and the Chaverim, who were all instrumental in helping recover these valuable missing items," said Hikind.

## Assisting Our Community's Entrepreneurs

Assemblyman Hikind partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to offer a valuable forum that made it possible for community members to identify resources that can aid in their business growth. The event, which took place at the Boro Park Y, featured numerous SBA partners who offered residents business advice on small-business loans. Community members were also treated to business insights from such notable business leaders as Elly Kleinman, president and CEO of Americare Companies, and Chesky Kauftheil, founder of Gourmet Glatt and H3 and Co. Both men discussed how they built their businesses and imparted business wisdom accrued from their years of experience.

Following the presentations, members of the community who had attended the presentations were given the opportunity to meet with the presenters and SBA partners for specific questions. There was also a panel consisting of representatives from the Local Development Corporation, the Women's Business Center, the SBA, and Accion USA. Community members were also able to make appointments with the panelists for follow-up business-related issues.



*Assemblyman Hikind with SBA rep and community members.*

## Bringing Opportunity to Our Community



*Community job seekers thank Assemblyman Hikind for sponsoring the Job Fair.*

Assemblyman Hikind and the OU Job Board presented their 5<sup>th</sup> Job Fair on October 23 at the Young Israel of Midwood where an impressive list of top companies met with nearly 500 residents to discuss immediate openings and opportunities. The dozens of companies in attendance included Americare, B&H Photo, Forest Hills Financial Group, New York Life, and PricewaterhouseCooper LLP.

"Time and again, these job fairs have proven to be excellent opportunities for members of our community," said Assemblyman Hikind who has worked for years with the OU Job Board, as well as local banks and the SBA to provide employment and business opportunities for community residents. "Attendees of our job fair gain new contacts and interview opportunities that often led to employment. I'm proud to have personally witnessed hundreds of our community members receive jobs as a result of our job fairs."

## A Little TLC for the TLC

Assemblyman Hikind and community activist Tzvi Gluck presented a series of sensitivity training programs for New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) to increase awareness among TLC officers of the Jewish community's unique culture. "The Jewish community has a charity-oriented culture and a volunteer culture that we are extremely proud of," said Hikind. "Our community members are eager to help the needy and those who can use extra help, so it's not surprising that we have so many organizations that provide free transportation services. It's important to know who these volunteers are, who the organizations they work for are, and what they do so their work isn't impeded and no mistakes are made by TLC officers who are trying to do their jobs."

The training followed Assemblyman Hikind's meeting with Meera Joshi, Commissioner/Chair of New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission, as well as other TLC top brass, to review new practices and procedures that would



*Assemblyman Hikind leading sensitivity training course.*

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best allow charity volunteers—as well as parents participating in carpools—to transport those in need without interference from TLC agents. The meeting followed an unfortunate incident that resulted in a volunteer from Brooklyn’s Chesed organization receiving a summons and having his car impounded after

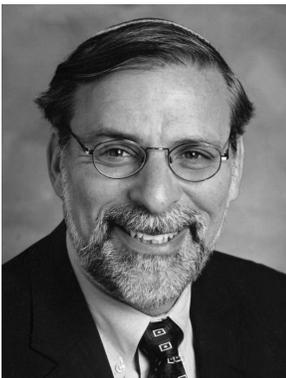
attempting to transport a woman in need of cancer treatment as well as another woman who also needed medical care. After the Chesed volunteer’s car was impounded, the two passengers in need of medical attention were left stranded near a cemetery without other means of transportation.

## An End to Disgraceful Shaimos Dumping

Assemblyman Hikind is actively seeking a solution to the *shaimos* dumping and burial problem. “Shaimos—religious items that are holy but are no longer useful—must be treated with respect, not like garbage,” said the Assemblyman who was appalled to learn that once again unscrupulous people dumped a large quantity of shaimos on 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Several members of the Assemblyman’s staff spent hours boxing up the abandoned shaimos so it could be properly disposed of. “For years I have been warning our community to be careful about who shaimos is given to and I must repeat that warning again. We must find a way to address this issue and I will continue working with our community’s rabbis to come up with a solution.”



*Assemblyman Hikind's staff member rescues abandoned Shaimos.*



Assemblyman  
**Dov Hikind**

*Reports to the People*

**Get in Touch with Assemblyman Hikind**

*It's never been easier to contact Assemblyman Hikind about an issue of concern to you or our community.*

**Assemblyman Dov Hikind**

**District Office:** 1310 48<sup>th</sup> Street • Brooklyn, New York 11219 • 718-853-9616 • Fax: 718-436-5734

**Albany Office:** Room 551 LOB • Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5721 • Fax: 518-455-5948 • **Email:** hikindd@assembly.state.ny.us



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