

Community 49th Assembly District News

from Assemblyman
**Peter
Abbate**

District Offices: 8500 18th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11214 (718-236-1764) • 6419 11th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219 (718-232-9565)



Update: **Mayor Bloomberg** **Wants to Close** ***Our Firehouse***

Dear Neighbor,

I wrote to you recently that Mayor Bloomberg seemed likely to try again to close down 20 firehouses across the city, including our own Castle on the Hill Firehouse at 1157 79th Street. The Mayor has released his budget and it confirms, once again, he will not be providing adequate funding to many vital programs, including the FDNY. Just as we did last year, we are going to have to fight Mayor Bloomberg to save Engine 284 and the 79th Street Firehouse.

If the Mayor succeeds in closing firehouses, he will be putting lives in jeopardy. I do not plan on letting this happen and have been working closely with Councilman Gentile and Fire Commissioner Cassano on this issue. On the back of this letter, is Commissioner Cassano's response to my letter to him.

You will see that his response was less than satisfactory and I need you to join me in standing up to the Administration on this issue. While the Mayor's concern with a balanced budget is admirable, there are issues on which compromise is unacceptable, and public safety is one of these issues. We will stand together as a community, just like last year, and demonstrate to Mayor Bloomberg that we will not be bullied.

In order to prove to the Mayor just how serious we are, I need you to call 311. Tell them to tell the Mayor he **cannot** close our firehouse on 79th Street and we **will not** accept any other answer.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

9 METROTECH CENTER

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201-3857

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Hon. Peter Abbate, Jr.
New York State Assembly
6419 11th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

Dear Assembly Member Abbate:

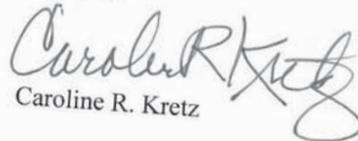
Your letter to Fire Commissioner Cassano dated March 16, 2012 regarding the possible closures of 20 fire companies was referred to my office for a response.

Over the last several years, the FDNY has had to make very significant budget reductions. We have been able to withstand these cuts and manage our operations while maintaining a high standard of service to the public. However, we are once again faced with the possible closure of 20 fire companies. While we have done everything possible to avoid cuts to operations, fire and EMS operations constitute about 90 percent of the FDNY's budget.

When making difficult decisions about fire company closings, the Department's goal is to identify those companies that could be closed with the least impact on public safety while retaining the maximum effectiveness of our finite resources. We expect the list of companies set for closure to be similar to the list from 2011, with possible changes due to the use of data from 2011 and other factors.

Closing fire companies are not steps we take lightly. We will do our best to use our limited resources as efficiently and effectively as possible to enable us to continue to serve the public as best we can. We remain committed to that and, as always, appreciate the support of the communities we serve during these difficult times.

Sincerely,


Caroline R. Kretz