



# NEWS FROM NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN **PETER J. ABBATE, JR.**

49th Assembly District, Brooklyn

2016

*Dear Neighbor,*

*As you know, helping senior citizens has always been, and will continue to be, a top priority of mine. Each year, I have fought to ensure that sufficient funding is available in the State budget to meet the needs of New York State's elderly population.*

*The Assembly's budget has consistently supported the perspective that funding is vital in supporting senior programs in order to provide health care affordability; ensuring seniors live independently at home while remaining active in their community and aiding those less fortunate seniors in making ends meet.*

*As always, I make every effort to ensure that all senior citizens in our community receive the type of benefits and representation they truly deserve. I will continue to do all I can for our community and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.*

*Sincerely,*

*Peter J. Abbate, Jr.*

## **Assembly Majority Fights For Funding in 2016 Budget to Help Seniors**

Seniors have played an integral role in helping to keep our neighborhoods vibrant. This year's budget helps more elderly New Yorkers remain in their homes and continue to be a vital part of our community and ensures they will receive the best possible care.

The 2016 State budget funded an additional \$1 million to support Community Services for the Elderly which will enable communities to better serve seniors and ensure their needs are met as well as \$86,000 to restore support for the New York Foundation for Senior

Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Care Program, which helps seniors live fuller, safer lives in their own homes.

Additionally, this State budget provides \$1.62 million in restorations and additional funding for veterans to include \$40,000 for the Vietnam Veterans of America. This will help support Vietnam Veterans and their families. We must do all we can to ensure that our veterans secure the services they deserve along with receiving our utmost respect for their sacrifice.



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## Assemblyman Abbate in the Neighborhood



Giving back to our community is one of the most rewarding aspects of being your Assemblyman. Each year, I have the privilege of helping seniors by way of passing important legislation and hosting community events targeted towards them. I am honored to be able to host multiple Senior Proms and Senior Picnics and invite the local senior centers throughout South Brooklyn to attend. I am proud to have the opportunity to work with the Neighborhood Improvement Association and my colleagues in government to help fund the local Senior Centers.

## Fighting For You in Albany

After the New York City Council passed legislation that would mandate a five cent fee for all plastic and paper bags, my colleagues and I, in the Assembly, took immediate action to open a dialogue.

This would be a misguided and invasive mandate on the residents of Brooklyn and the five boroughs that would disproportionately affect low and middle income families. Instead of this regressive tax and fee, the City of New York should promote recycling programs that currently exist and encourage consumers to recycle and reuse their plastic bags. This initiative will only raise the cost of living in our City and hurt working families.

I am relieved the New York City Council has agreed to delay the implementation of this fee until next March. This will give the City and State time to work together to find a better solution. We must do our best to keep the communities we love affordable and avoid placing undue hardships on families and the elderly.



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# Assembly Aging Committee Updates

As your Assemblyman, one of the most important committees I am assigned to is the NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. On this Committee, we create and debate significant legislation that pertains to seniors across New York State. Here are some highlights from the Aging Committee over the past two legislative years:

- **Annual Notification of Eligibility for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)**

This law requires the administering agency of the SCRIE and DRIE Programs to develop informational material describing eligibility for, benefits of, as well as information on how additional material can be obtained for SCRIE and DRIE. Such informational material will also be provided

*Landlords will be required to provide this information to eligible tenants at least once annually, included with a new lease and all renewal leases.*

to landlords of rent stabilized housing for distribution to eligible tenants who may qualify for either program. These landlords will be required to provide this information to eligible tenants at least once annually, included with a new lease and all renewal leases. This bill was signed by the Governor last year.

- **Transferring a Rent Increase Exemption to a New Head of Household**

This law allows an eligible surviving member of a household to apply to the administering agency of SCRIE and DRIE to transfer the rent increase exemption from the deceased head of household to their own name, continuing the exemption as the new head of household. The option to transfer the exemption is now available for six months after the death of the head of household, or 90 days after a notice from the administrative agency stating that the exemption benefit has expired upon the death of the head of household; whichever occurs later. Such notice shall include an explanation of the process to transfer such exemption and the time period in which to do so, along with the form needed to transfer the exemption.

## TO QUALIFY FOR SCRIE YOU MUST:

- Be at least 62 years old;
- Rent an apartment that is rent controlled, rent stabilized or hotel stabilized;
- Be named on the lease or the rent order or have been granted succession rights to the apartment;
- Live in your apartment as your primary residence; have a combined income in your household that is \$50,000 or less in the previous calendar year; and
- Spend more than one-third of your monthly household income on rent.



## Elder Abuse Hotline

**CALL**  
**1-844-697-3505**



If you or anyone you know is experiencing elder abuse, please call the Adult Protective Services number listed. Elder abuse can be physical, mental, financial or any other form that deprives an elderly person of their rights. If you are not sure, please call this number to discuss with a trained professional and receive advice on how to proceed.



*Assemblyman*

**PETER  
ABBATE, JR.**



**NEWS FOR SENIORS 2016**

## Keeping Our Communities Safe from Drug Abuse



Our community, like many others throughout New York State, has been hard hit by the heroin and opioid addiction crisis. This epidemic is costing lives, contributing to crime and bringing pain and suffering to many families. While this is a far-reaching and difficult problem to solve, I am committed to doing everything I can on the State level to tackle this issue. The State Legislature passed legislation that will keep these drugs off the streets and help stem the rise of overdoses. I am hopeful these laws will begin to turn the tide against this drug crisis. We must keep looking for ways to get heroin and highly addictive painkillers off our streets so we can save lives.