



Assemblywoman

# Annette M. Robinson

*Reports to the People*

## *2014 Legislative Update*

### 2014 END OF SESSION ... AN OVERVIEW

#### **Requiring Mental Health Discharge Planning for Inmates Receiving Treatment at Time of Discharge:**

Legislation would require mental health discharge planning for inmates and, if necessary, appointments with psychiatrists or other prescribing mental health professionals in the community upon their release from prison (A.10071). This would help to better ensure that medication orders do not lapse and that the released inmates remain under appropriate medical supervision.

#### **Prevention Against Child Identity Theft:**

This legislation would allow parents and guardians to freeze the credit record of their children in order to prevent child identity theft (A.8955-B, Dinowitz). This measure has become increasingly necessary as a 2011 report by ID Analytics, an identity theft protection firm, noted that an estimated 140,000 minors are at risk of falling victim to identity theft every year.

Currently, New York State law only allows a parent to freeze a child's credit if a credit file already exists in the child's name. More times than not, a file exists because the child has already fallen victim to identity theft. This measure would allow a freeze to be placed without an existing credit report on file for a child, likely avoiding the risk of child identity theft altogether.

**Compassionate Care Act:** New York is the 23rd state to legalize medical marijuana (Signed 7/7/14). New York's program is among the most restrictive in the nation. This legislation would establish a medical marijuana program for New York State. The new law includes provisions to ensure

medical marijuana is reserved only for patients with serious conditions and is dispensed and administered in a manner that protects public health and safety.

#### **Measure to End Racial Profiling in New York State:**

Legislation (A.2941) prohibiting law enforcement officers from using racial and ethnic profiling as a pretext for stopping, questioning, or "frisking" an individual where there is no reasonable suspicion that would otherwise justify such conduct.

The bill includes provisions that would prohibit police officers from using racial and ethnic profiling during the performance of their duties by:

- requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies prohibiting racial profiling and develop procedures to review and take corrective action with respect to individual complaints;
- requiring law enforcement to collect data such as race, ethnicity and gender when conducting a traffic stop or a stop that results in a pat-down, frisk and/or search; and
- allowing individuals or the state Attorney General the right to bring legal action against a law enforcement agency for injunctive relief and/or damages for engaging in racial profiling.

#### **Strengthen Wage Theft Prevention Act:**

Legislation to help employees recover wages that have been withheld by unscrupulous employers. The bill (A.8106-C) would hold employers more accountable for wages owed to their workers through increased penalties and greater enforcement by the state Labor Department.

*2014 END OF SESSION continued on page 2*

*Assemblywoman Robinson extends a special word of "Thanks" to Assemblymember Sean Ryan and Assembly staff member Bakary Janneh.*



*continued from page 1*

The bill also would increase penalties on employers who fail to provide proper notice of wages and payment to their employees. Under the bill, individuals who violate the act would face fines of \$50 to \$250 a day for up to \$5,000.

### **Joint Bidding on Contracts for Public Works Projects in New York City:**

Legislation to authorize joint bidding on contracts for private utility work as part of public works projects in New York City (A.10021). Silver said the legislation, modeled after highly successful measure he authored in the wake of 9-11 for lower Manhattan, will allow for the more timely and cost-effective completion of street repairs and boost revitalization efforts.

**853 & Special Act Schools:** New York's most vulnerable children, schools working with special needs will receive a 3.8 percent increase in funding.

**Enhancing Emergency Health Services in Schools:** Legislation allowing students diagnosed with asthma or another respiratory disease that requires inhaler treatment, allergies and diabetes to use medical treatments in school (A.9334-B, Nolan).

The bill would authorize students who have been diagnosed with an asthmatic or respiratory condition, allergies or diabetes to carry and use a prescribed inhaler, epinephrine auto injector or supplies related to treating diabetes during the school day and at any school function.

**Reduce Overcrowding in New York City Schools:** Legislation to help address the severe overcrowding problem in New York City schools by requiring the City's School Construction Authority (SCA) to collect population data and use this information in connection with the Authority's five-year educational facilities capital plan (A.10108/S.07873). The bill, sponsored by Silver and Squadron, states that the SCA and the New York City Schools Chancellor must factor and account for how future population growth might affect the pervasive overcrowding of city schools.

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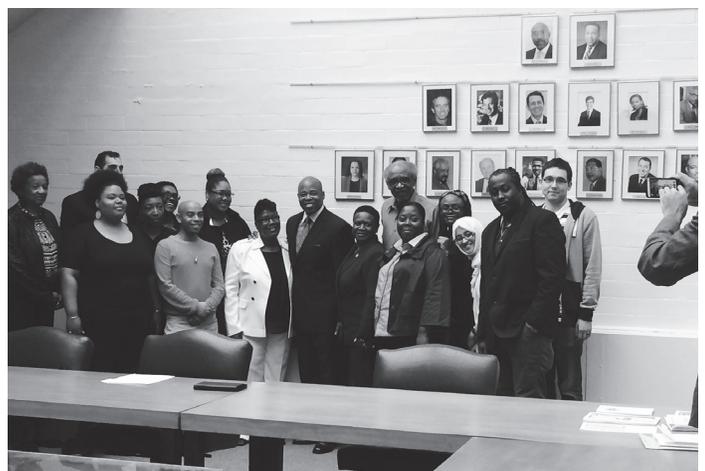
*Assemblymembers Annette M. Robinson and Walter Mosley present Barnabas Uba Shakur, Founder, Foot Soldier with the Community Service Award during the NYS Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc., Annual weekend in Albany, NY.*



*Assemblymember Robinson co-sponsors "Delta Day at the Capitol" where a group of professional woman (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.) lobbied legislators.*



*In celebration of Juneteenth, members of the NYS Black & Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, Inc., presented Rodney Leon, Architect with a proclamation in honor of his work done honoring millions of victims of the transatlantic slave trade at the U.N. memorial.*



*Assemblymember Robinson meets with Medgar Evers College & Adelphi University graduate students who served as interns in social work at the Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Also pictured are: Dr. Gloria Gaspar, Internship Program Supervisor; Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President and Sam Pinn, Social Worker President.*



*Congratulations to Cedric V. Smith, Veterans Resources Coordinator, Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation on being named to the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame on May 20, 2014.*



Assemblymember Annette M. Robinson, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Banks and Marlene Cintron, President, Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation at the Bronx Week - Bronx Banker's Breakfast.



Guest Speaker, Assemblymember Annette M. Robinson, Chair, NYS Assembly Committee on Banks; Reuben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President; and Mark Jaffe, President, Greater New York Chamber of Commerce at the Bronx Banker's Breakfast.



(Center) Lovely Warren, Mayor, Rochester, New York is welcomed to the Assembly Chambers by (Right-Left) Assemblymember Michele Titus, Michaëlle Solages, Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes and Annette M. Robinson.



Assemblymember Robinson presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for their work in the community (Councilmember Robert Cornegy, Jr. pictured behind Assemblymember)

*continued from page 2*

This bill would authorize the SCA to enter into agreements and work with New York City's office of City Planning and Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Buildings and Housing Preservation and Development to access relevant data and render any services required in order to create uniform, student population projections for a minimum of five years to be used in the creation and implementation of the SCA's five-year educational facilities capital plan, as well as school sitings.

The legislation also requires the SCA to publicly respond to issues raised at Community Education Council (CEC) hearings on both school sitings and in response to the capital plan, including why alternative recommendations were or were not incorporated into the final plans and how any changes made to the proposed plan resulted from issues raised at hearings.

State law currently requires the New York City school district and the SCA to develop a five-year educational capital plan. This plan must describe each project proposed in the plan, an estimate of the capital funding required each year and the expected sources of funding, an estimate of the cost of each project and the year in which construction will begin on each project.

**Updating Existing Law and Expanding Definition of Rape:** legislation that would reinforce current law to add other forms of sexual assault, specifically oral and anal sexual conduct, to the current definition of rape and would also remove the requirement that penetration be proven to establish a rape charge (A.3339-A/Simotas).

Current law defines the crime of rape only in cases of vaginal penetration. This bill would amend the law to remove requirement that penetration be proven to establish vaginal sexual conduct in order to parallel the standard of other forms of sexual conduct currently defined as "criminal sexual act." The legislation would further include oral and anal sexual conduct into the definition of the crimes of rape in the first, second and third degrees.



Boys and Girls High School renames their athletic field "Nelson Mandela Field" during their day of service on July 18th - International Nelson Mandela Day.

## Banking legislation passing both houses introduced by Assemblywoman Robinson

**A9037A:** To authorize banking organizations to establish prize-linked savings accounts to give incentives to customers to save money by giving them the opportunity to win promotional prizes.

**A9057:** To extend, for an additional five years, the banking “wild card” law, which provides an administrative mechanism to keep the state banking charter viable and competitive with the federal banking charter.

**A9408:** This bill would expand the qualifications for membership into credit unions and to create parity with federal credit unions in the areas of branching and investing. This bill would allow state-chartered credit unions to apply to the Superintendent of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to request a membership that includes groups based on employment, association and community within a single field of membership.

The 2014 New York State Assembly Banks Committee Annual Report will show all other actions later this year.

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