



Assemblymember  
**Walter T.  
MOSLEY**

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**Reports to  
the People**  
Spring 2014

## Assembly Passes Monumental Budget!

### Legislative Highlights:

Ethics reform,  
supporting Veterans, and  
protecting our wildlife!

### No pension benefits for convicted public officials

Assemblymember Mosley has joined a number of his colleagues in the Assembly to urge for the passage of **A.7173**. This legislation would strengthen the Public Integrity Reform Act and amend the state Constitution to deny public officials convicted of a felony their retirement benefits.

### Banning the sale of ivory in New York

Assemblymember Mosley is a co-sponsor of bill **A.8824** which would place a ban on the sale, purchase, trade, barter, and distribution of certain ivory articles. More specifically, this legislation amends the environmental conservation law to prohibit the purchase and sale of ivory articles and increases the penalties for the illegal commercialization of wildlife products. **A.8824** will help in preventing the possible extinction of elephants, preserving our wildlife, and reducing the funding stream for overseas black-market dealers.

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For the fourth consecutive year, the legislature passed an on-time budget that invests in our state's future and distinguishes New York as a progressive leader in the nation. The budget commits \$300 million per year for two years to fund universal, full-day pre-K in New York City. The funding set aside represents a significant commitment to Mayor de Blasio's goal for full-day **Universal Pre-K (UPK)**. Research has shown that early education has positive long-lasting effects on our children, their academic achievement, and prospects for the future. Investing in UPK is a major accomplishment that will greatly benefit our children.

The budget addresses the needs of learners at all ages, allocating more than \$8.6 billion to New York City schools and providing almost \$15 billion for the **City University and State University of New York**. To help students afford the rising cost of college, the budget increases funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the first time in 14 years. The budget also provides \$102 million for college opportunity programs, the funding restores cuts and provides a 3 percent increase for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) program and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

The 2014-15 state budget provides funding to increase access to quality, affordable child care for families in need. Providing for more than 4,500 additional subsidized child care

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*Representatives of the Pratt Area Community Council met with Assemblyman Mosley in Albany.*

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## Mosley Delivers 2014 State of the District Address

On Thursday, February 6, Assemblymember Mosley delivered his 2014 State of the District Address in front of an audience of community leaders, clergy members, and esteemed dignitaries.

The evening's program was directed by Lazetta Duncan-Moore, of the Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, and included musical presentations from Jazz vocalist Debbie Carter and the Brooklyn Music School. Father Michael Sniffen from the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew and Rev. Dr. Mark V.C. Taylor of the Church of the Open Door delivered the invocation and benediction. The ceremony concluded with Assemblymember Mosley recognizing the outstanding achievements of Ms. Claudette Macey, Executive Director of the Fort Greene Council and Mr. Job Mashariki, CEO and Founder of the Black Veterans for Social Justice.

In the spirit of celebrating Black History, Assemblymember Mosley's State of the District Address also featured a presentation from the Brooklyn Historical Society on the "In Pursuit of Freedom" Exhibition—which focuses on the unspoken stories of Brooklyn abolitionists who were engaged in the anti-slavery movement.

Looking back on his first year as a lawmaker, Assemblymember Mosley spoke on the legislature's major accomplishments, including the monumental increase of the minimum wage. Focusing on the work ahead, Mosley spoke of the fight to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 to 18. "We have to understand that young people who commit crimes are still in their formative years, and public money is more efficiently and effectively spent providing rehabilitation, job training, and social programs that give the tools and hope they need..." Mosley pledged his continued support for ensuring that our youth are not marginalized as outcast members of society, but are instead given the opportunity to become successful, civic-minded individuals.

Speaking on Brooklyn's changing development landscape, Assemblymember Mosley said "We have to speak up and stand together, so that big developers and corporate interests know that if they want to move in, they will need to provide our community with well-paying jobs that come with good benefits and safe work conditions. They will need to tap local minority- and women-owned businesses for construction and post-construction contracts."



*Assemblyman Mosley at the Brooklyn Borough Hall Celebration of the Shirley Chisholm Forever Stamp.*



*Assemblyman Mosley and his colleagues at a 32BJ Worker's Rally.*

### Available Community Resources and Upcoming Events

**Free Screening of Gasland II Documentary & Talk Back with Director Josh Fox**  
Thursday, May 1, 2014, 5:30 p.m.

Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall, 61 St. James Place corner of Lafayette Ave.

**Atlantic Yards Public Hearing**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Long Island University, Room HS 107 at 75 Dekalb Ave., Atlantic Yards@esd.ny.gov

**Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ)**

BVSJ is available to help all veteran families, homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with children. Assistance with housing, transportation, and child care needs, supportive services, and access to emergency food.

**665 Willoughby Avenue** (between Marcus Garvey Blvd. and Throop Ave.)  
**718-852-6004 at ext. 269 or ext. 255**

**Tenants and Homeowners**

Facing eviction? Tenant and Landlord dispute? Foreclosure? First-time homebuyer? There are a number of organizations in the community available to help.

**Pratt Area Community Council:** 201 Dekalb Ave. (between Carlton Ave. and Adelphi St.), 718-522-2613

**Neighborhood Housing Services of Bed-Stuy:** 1012 Gates Ave., 1st Floor (between Ralph Ave. and Broadway), 718-919-2100

**Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions**

Offers services for job seekers, assistance with job placement, workshops, training and education, work support, and opportunities for continuous advancement. Please contact **Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions** at **718-577-2194**.

**Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 Employment Center**

**For job seekers:** The Employment Center specializes in placements for job seekers of all skill levels, with emphasis on local residents, veterans, and individuals with experience in industrial/manufacturing, hospitality, warehousing, and distribution.

Visit their website at [brooklynnavyyard.org/employment](http://brooklynnavyyard.org/employment) or contact [ecenter@brooklynnavyyard.org](mailto:ecenter@brooklynnavyyard.org) or **718-907-5996**.

# Vision Zero: Save Lives! Make Safer Streets!

On Thursday, March 27, Assemblymember Mosley and Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, along with the New York City Department of Transportation, co-hosted a Vision Zero Town Hall Meeting at Medgar Evers College. The community meeting allowed residents the opportunity to make their voices heard and to engage in a detailed presentation from the NYPD and Transportation Department.

“I am proud to have co-sponsored with Councilwoman Cumbo and the NYC DOT the town hall meeting, which gave community members an opportunity to take part in making Vision Zero a reality. Over 250 New Yorkers are killed each year in traffic accidents and thousands more are injured” Mosley said. Addressing traffic safety issues, is not just about safer roadways, but about protecting innocent lives. Every few hours in New York City someone is seriously injured or killed by a vehicle. Research has shown that being struck by a vehicle is one of the leading causes of injury-related death for young children and seniors.

Vision Zero takes a dynamic and comprehensive approach to improving traffic conditions in New York City with the driving idea that no traffic fatality is inevitable. Stronger enforcement of traffic regulations and a wide-reaching campaign to educate drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians is at the heart of Vision Zero’s mission. Assemblymember Mosley agrees that “now, more than ever, we must take action towards reducing these alarming numbers and making our streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.”

Assemblyman Mosley stands in full support of the mayor’s plan and has also placed improved traffic conditions at the heart of his legislative agenda in Albany. He is the prime sponsor of legislation (A.4194) that would mandate the inclusion of pedestrian and cyclist safety to the Department of Motor Vehicles’ pre-licensing driver’s education course. Similarly, Assemblymember Mosley has proposed that New York State law be amended to include persons 16 years and older in the mandated use of seat belts in the back seat of a vehicle (A.6657).

## 8 Tips for staying safe:

- 1 Walk on sidewalks.** If you must walk in the street, walk facing the traffic. Always stop at the curb before entering the street.
- 2 Cross only at street corners.** Preferably, cross at corners with a traffic light and within designated crosswalks.
- 3 Look left, right and left again.** As you cross the street, keep scanning for oncoming traffic.
- 4 Pay attention to “Walk/Don’t Walk” signals.** Give yourself the most time to cross by waiting for a newly turned green light or “Walk” signal.
- 5 Be cautious.** Watch for vehicles that may be turning or backing up, especially trucks. And be sure to stay out of the driver’s blind spot.
- 6 Be visible at night.** Wear reflective or light-colored clothing when it’s dark and carry a flashlight.
- 7 Be vigilant, even when you have the right of way.** Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of a vehicle, even in crosswalks.
- 8 Don’t get distracted by your cellphone.** Walking while texting or talking can be dangerous, so remember to be aware of traffic and your surroundings.

## Assembly Passes Monumental Budget! *Continued from page 1*

slots, the legislature is working to ensure that families do not have to break the bank to afford safe, nurturing care for their children.

Obtaining affordable housing continues to be a struggle for many working families; the budget supports programs that are working to provide every New Yorker with access to safe, quality housing. Specifically, the budget restores \$2.2 million to the **Neighborhood and Rural Preservation** programs. These programs aim to revitalize neighborhoods around the state to restore the vibrancy of communities, resulting in more affordable housing and economic development.

It is also important to note that over \$700,000 in funding will be made available for the **New York City Housing Authority’s Tenant Watch Program**, which trains volunteers to provide

patrols within their development, further increasing the sense of community and safety on the grounds.

Addressing the health care needs of our seniors, the budget provides \$4.1 million for the expansion of eligibility for the **Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC)** program. In addition, the budget increases the income limit for the **Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)** program from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for a two-year period. The SCRIE program is a vital lifeline for many community residents who have their rents frozen at the time they are awarded the grant. This maintains affordable housing and ensures that seniors are not priced out of their homes.

## Available Community Resources and Upcoming Events

*See page 2 for details...*

### Legislative Highlights: *Continued from page 1*

#### Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act

The Assembly passed the “Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act” (A.9135). The act will create the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans’ Business Development within the Office of General Services (OGS). To qualify, small businesses must be at least 51 percent owned by a service-disabled veteran who controls day-to-day operations. Assemblymember Mosley is proud to stand in support of the bill and to ensure that our servicemen are provided with every opportunity necessary to succeed. Research has shown that 1 in 7 veterans are self-employed or small-business owners. With passage of the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act, New York will join many other states and the federal government in implementing a program to help self-employed service-disabled veterans gain more contracts.



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*Spring 2014*



*Assemblyman Mosley with Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio at the 43rd Annual NYSABPRL Conference's Sunday Church Service.*



*Assemblyman Mosley and Congressman Jeffries at the Wiloughby Senior Center's Women's History Month Celebration.*