



ASSEMBLYMAN
**N. NICK
PERRY**

*New Year
Report*

January 2010

Happy New Year! 2010

903 Utica Avenue (between Church and Snyder) ■ (718) 385-3336

Dear Constituent:

Happy New Year! It's 2010. The final year of this decade during which we saw our way of living drastically altered by the most heinous act of terrorism committed against our nation. This first decade of the 21st century could very well be called the "decade of terror," but as we begin 2010, we pray and hope that this year, the world will see a decline in the terror that takes so many innocent lives each day around the globe.

I'm sure you will unreluctantly join me in praying, not only for a more peaceful 2010, but also for global economic recovery that will translate into real prosperity for hardworking families in our neighborhoods and around our city and nation. And if our prayers are answered, as we hope and expect, our neighbors who are struggling to hold on to their homes, and keep their jobs will find some relief, and this year should bring more blessings than the financial and social burdens of 2009.

As we begin this new year, our state is experiencing extremely serious financial problems. Our State Treasury is depleted and we have recurring shortages in our "cash flow." Balancing our 2010 budget is going to be a tremendous challenge. It is therefore very important you keep in touch and share your concerns with me.

This newsletter includes a brief survey, requesting your response in regard to three very important issues. I will greatly appreciate you reading the entire report and then responding to the survey. Your opinion matters, and is really important to me as your representative in Albany.

May all your New Year's wishes come through, and may you and all your loved ones and friends be bountifully blessed and prosperous, with good health and safety throughout 2010. I thank you so much for your support and for allowing me this opportunity to serve you.

Working for You,

Assemblyman N. Nick Perry

**Assemblyman Perry, a Leader
in Securing \$120 Million in
Capital Funds to Rebuild
Brooklyn College Campus**



Assemblyman Perry proudly joined new Brooklyn College President Karen Gould, and many of his colleagues in government to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new West Quad building at Brooklyn College and celebrate the rebuilding and upgrading of the campus as part of a \$120 million capital project.

Brooklyn College has always boasted of its inclusion as one of the nation's most beautiful and best urban campuses. The addition of the new building, set back from Bedford Avenue to create a new west quad, will help assure that Brooklyn College remains atop the lists of best urban campuses.

"The new building certainly enhances the college atmosphere, creating an ideal environment for higher learning and scholarship," said Assemblyman Perry.

The 145,000-square-foot glass-fronted West Quad Building, will serve as both a one-stop student services center and house state-of-the-art physical education and recreational facilities.



Happy 100th Birthday Vera Rowe

Assemblyman Perry paid a special visit to an extraordinary constituent this past October. Assemblyman Perry stopped by the home of Ms. Vera Rowe to wish her a very happy 100th birthday and present her with a citation from the New York State Assembly.

Ms. Rowe also joined Assemblyman Perry, as his special guest, at Assemblyman Perry's Annual Awards Gala. At the gala, Rep. Yvette Clarke presented the centenarian with a proclamation from the United States Congress.

Assemblyman Perry and Legislature Protect Homeowners and Tenants Facing Foreclosure



Working For You: Assemblyman Perry debates legislation on the floor of the Assembly Chamber in Albany.

Avoid Fines! Know New York State's New Traffic Laws

New Booster Seat Regulations, Use of All Electronic Devices While Driving are Banned

In an effort to keep our roads safe Assemblyman Perry voted to pass two new laws. One law implements a statewide ban on driving while using portable electronic devices. Assemblyman Perry also voted to extend the law that **requires children to sit on a booster seat in a motor vehicle from age 6 to age 7.**

Previously, the law required children ages 4-6 to use booster seats. Most 7-year-old children, however, are not big enough to be adequately secured by a vehicle's lap and shoulder belt. Therefore, the law needed to be amended to include children under the age of 8. Seat belts are designed to fit adults, not children. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, booster seats reduce injury risk by 59 percent when compared to children who only use seat belts.

Under the new law banning the use of electronic devices while behind the wheel, **drivers are prohibited from composing, sending, reading, viewing, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving or retrieving e-mail, text messages or other electronic data while driving.** The new law also bans viewing, taking or transmitting images and playing games. Motorists found in violation of the ban could face a maximum fine of \$150. Fines are allowed to be imposed only as a secondary offense, when the driver is pulled over for a violation of another law.

If you need more information about these new laws, please contact Assemblyman Perry at (718) 385-3336.

As the nationwide economic recession and mortgage crisis persist, more and more homeowners and families continue to face the sad reality of foreclosure and are being forced out of their homes. Foreclosure is incredibly disruptive to families' lives and can be further devastating because of the sense of shame and failure often associated with losing your home.

During November's extraordinary session, Assemblyman Nick Perry voted for and passed legislation that will protect homeowners facing foreclosure, as well as tenants living in buildings being foreclosed upon (A.40007).

Midway through 2009, New York ranked 39th in the nation in foreclosures, indicating that the Empire State is far from being in the most perilous position when it comes to the nationwide mortgage crisis. Still, some areas of the state have been hit disproportionately hard. Foreclosure rates in Central Brooklyn are among the highest in the nation.

"I can't stand by as hardworking people lose their homes and life savings and are kicked out onto the street," said Assemblyman Perry. "As long as families are being edged out of their homes due to foreclosure, New York needs to do better and put more effective measures in place to make sure that homeowners' and tenants' rights are protected. It's critical that we take steps now to help more people stay in their homes and to keep our communities intact."

In order to do this, the Assembly's reform measures expand consumer protections to all distressed homeowners, beyond those with subprime or non-traditional mortgages. All struggling homeowners would be able to participate in pre-foreclosure settlement conferences, and would be required to receive a notice from lenders 90 days before legal action is commenced. The legislation also establishes a data-collection program to help the state identify distressed homeowners and target counseling to them.

The Assembly reform measure also authorizes and regulates "shared appreciation" agreements between lenders and borrowers; ensures a speedy settlement conference process; expands notice to co-op owners subject to default, thereby enabling them to take advantage of counseling and attorneys; grants tenants the right to remain in foreclosed-upon properties until the end of the lease – if the tenant has a lease – and for 90 days in the absence of a lease; and requires that owners of foreclosed properties maintain their properties and keep them safe and habitable.

Looking For a Job? The Brooklyn Public Library Can Help

The Brooklyn Public Library is offering job seekers free help and guidance. The Brooklyn Public Library's Skills Training & Employment Project (STEP) can help you get that job you desire. The STEP program offers one-on-one career advice, resume review and job interview workshops.

The Brooklyn Public Library's Education & Job Information Center also offers employment advice, specific to immigrant professionals new to the United States. The experts at the Education & Job Information Center will advise you on how to make your foreign degree work for you in the United States, advise you on how to use the internet to find a job, and possibly transfer your existing skills to a new profession. For more information on these valuable programs you can call (718) 230-2177.



Please clip and return

CONSTITUENT SURVEY

Assemblyman Perry Wants to Know Where You Stand on Key Issues

1. On the issue of **allowing same sex couples to marry** in New York State, should Assemblyman Perry continue voting NO?
 Yes No
2. On the issue of **the death penalty**, should Assemblyman Perry continue to vote NO against the use of the death penalty in New York State? Yes No
3. On the issue of **police presence in public schools**, should Assemblyman Perry and the Legislature enact a new law to regulate police presence in our public schools? Yes No

Please e-mail your opinion to Assemblyman Perry at perryn@assembly.state.ny.us

OR

You may also mail your survey response to Assemblyman Perry at 903 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11203