



# HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.

Member of Assembly

**Reports to the 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District**

WINTER 2012-2013

## Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year to yourself, your family and loved ones.

In the coming days, the Assembly and Senate will return to Albany to begin our 2013 Legislative Session, which will begin on Wednesday, January 9th when Governor Cuomo delivers his State of the State speech. Later in January, around the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, this event will be followed by a report from the Governor's Division of Budget detailing our State's fiscal health in the last days of 2012.

Following the Division of Budget's report, we will see the Executive Budget which will lay out the Governor's spending priorities for State Fiscal Year 2013-2014 which will begin April 1. After the Executive Budget's release, around January 28, I will hold hearings with members of the Assembly and Senate. During these Joint Legislative Budget Hearings, which are televised, we will listen to the public's reaction to the Governor's budget plans. It promises to be an exciting and difficult time.

As you may have heard, the financial costs of Superstorm Sandy to our City and State's economies have been calculated to be near \$30 billion, and President Obama has requested Congress allocate \$60 billion to help New York, New Jersey and Connecticut recover from storm damage. Leaders of the House of Representatives are pushing to cut this amount by more than half.

Governor Cuomo, Congressman Rangel, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and other members of New York's Congressional delegation have been meeting with their colleagues and members of President Obama's administration to discuss New York's needs and how they may be met. It is clear that the storm may have an impact on the State's Fiscal Year 2013-

2014 budget, but the exact shape of those effects has yet to be determined. We may bond these costs, or use direct Federal aid to rebuild, depending on the timing and scope of the Federal response. I will keep you informed on how we will deal with this issue in future newsletters.

While Washington works toward a decision on these vital questions, Albany continues to move forward with the normal cycle of introducing legislation. I have already submitted or signed on to support several important pieces of legislation.

These include the method by which New York selects Housing Court judges; regulation of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking, or "fracking,") which some people want to make legal in order to mine natural gas, but which at this time I oppose; the means by which tolls are collected; and the ongoing expansion of a solar-energy program I created through a bill that was passed in Albany several years ago.

My colleague, Assembly Member Steve Englebright of Long Island, invited several members including myself to support his "fracking" bill, which would not allow fracking materials within twenty five miles of New York City. Fracking operations use water mixed with sand and chemicals which are pumped at high pressure deep into the ground, fracturing natural shale formations which are believed to hold pockets of natural gas. This process leaves behind thousands or millions of gallons of a waste product, the used water and chemical mixture whose effects on human health and the environment are unclear. Assembly Member Englebright's bill would amend State Environmental Conservation Law to forbid the transportation of these waste products into or near the City for any purpose including, but not limited to, their use, re-use, pre-treatment, treatment or disposal.

Finally, as we have discussed before, I have been and remain a strong proponent of preserving and improving our environment through the increased use of solar energy and other programs. In 2007 and 2008, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law two solar energy bills I wrote, which created and expanded tax breaks for homeowners and co-ops who wished to install solar energy equipment on their homes and buildings.

Now, I can announce that this important program has been extended through 2015. My new bill, which was strongly supported by New York City's government and was signed in to law by Governor Cuomo in August 2012, will help bring about the goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent during the coming decades. Cleaner, more efficient heat and electricity could help reduce the high rates of asthma and other breathing ailments in Northern Manhattan and throughout our communities, which is good news for us all.

Again, I wish you and yours . . .

*Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year,*

Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

### CRENSHAW FAMILY HONORED FOR SERVICE



Assemblyman Farrell recently presented the Rev. Jeffrey M. Crenshaw with a Legislative Proclamation upon the occasion of his seventh anniversary as Pastor of Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church.

[See story on page 2.](#)

## FARRELL AND DOT WORKING FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



*Assemblyman Farrell recently met with NYC DOT Manhattan Commissioner Margaret Forgione, DOT engineers and staff, and returning Farrell staff member Wendy Olivio to discuss adjustments that will make it possible to safely cross the street at 157<sup>th</sup> Street and Edward Morgan Place.*

As you may have noticed, the City's Department of Transportation recently agreed to adopt and use suggestions I had previously made to improve the flow of traffic on 157<sup>th</sup> Street at Broadway and Edward Morgan Place. Now, I am working with DOT to make this area easier and safer for pedestrians.

In early December, I visited the site to meet with DOT's Manhattan Borough Commissioner and members of our staffs to watch the traffic and pedestrians at this crossing, and to talk about my ideas to improve the present arrangement.

These include adding timers to the crossing signals, and adjusting traffic light cycles in order to give pedestrians more time to cross at 157<sup>th</sup> Street and Edward Morgan Place. Right-turn-only red and green crossing arrows should also be added so that pedestrians may cross the street without having to worry about being struck by a vehicle making a right turn onto Edward Morgan Place and into your path. DOT has also committed to review other, similar signal issues at 158<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside Drive and Edward Morgan Place.

These adjustments should not only make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross the street but may also improve traffic flow.

## CRENSHAW FAMILY HONORED FOR SERVICE

In the course of my job as the Assembly Member representing our community, from time to time I have the pleasure of recognizing our outstanding friends and neighbors who have made contributions to the quality of life that we all enjoy.

Many of you who have lived in Northern Manhattan for some time are no doubt familiar with the Crenshaw family, and for those of you who are new to the community, please allow me to introduce them to you.

The Crenshaws, like many of us, have a family business. The Crenshaw family business is public service, and they brought their children up to believe in and embrace the power in selfless service.

The story began some years ago with Richard and Gwenn Crenshaw. Gwenn Crenshaw, a native of Washington Heights, was one of the first African-American women elected to the District 6 Community School Board, of which she was an original member, and she held that post of service to the community for many years. Her husband, Richard, also served the community for a number of years in many different ways.

As I mentioned, their five children took their parents' example to heart. Eldest daughter Patricia is a lawyer of note in the community. Their son, David, has been known to hundreds of Northern Manhattan youth as "Coach" since 1983. Now in his late 40s, he has offered guidance to young athletes through his Camp Dreamers after school program. It was my privilege to honor him not too long ago.

More recently, I honored his younger brother, the Reverend Jeffrey M. Crenshaw (see photo), upon the occasion of his seventh anniversary as Pastor of Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church. Rev. Crenshaw also serves on the Board of Directors of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, with whom I have worked continuously over the years to build affordable housing. Youngest siblings Marcie and Richard Junior have also made valuable contributions to our quality of life. I hope you will join me in applauding their legacy of community service.

## FARRELL SPONSORS TOWN HALL MEETINGS

**Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013  
6:30 p.m.**

The Fortune Society  
625 West 140<sup>th</sup> Street

**Friday, Feb. 1, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

Esplanade Gardens,  
South Community Room  
133 W. 147<sup>th</sup> St., Building #3

**Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013  
11:00 a.m.**

Church of Intercession,  
550 W. 155<sup>th</sup> St.  
(between Broadway and Amsterdam)

**Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

Mt. Sinai Jewish Center  
187<sup>th</sup> St. and Bennett Ave.



*Assemblyman Farrell is pleased to announce and invite you to a series of four Town Hall Meetings which will be held early in the New Year. Borough President Scott Stringer has been invited to attend and speak at a meeting at Esplanade Gardens, and Assembly Member Keith Wright at the Fortune Society meeting. Representatives of the New York Police Department's 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct have been invited to discuss matters of concern with the community as well.*

## FARRELL SEEKS RETURN OF BRIDGE TOLL OPERATORS

Like some of you, I am concerned with the new rules that have taken toll booth operators out of toll plazas and replace them with EZ-Pass scanners. As you may have noticed, some crossings now have no toll booth operators at all, despite the fact that some drivers do not have EZ-Pass tags. These motorists' vehicles are photographed as they pass through the toll plaza, their license plate compared to Department of Motor Vehicles records, and they are billed through the mail – sometimes with an added fee tacked on.

Many people do not use EZ-Pass, and I believe that there should be at least one cash toll lane open at all times. I recently introduced a bill in Albany that would, if it becomes law, require at least one cash toll booth at every toll plaza.

My bill also increases penalties for motorists who attempt to skip paying their tolls and makes other small but substantial changes to existing law.

## ASSEMBLYMAN FARRELL'S COMMUNITY OFFICE INFORMATION

I maintain full-time bilingual offices to serve you. If you need my help, you may contact me at any of my offices.

**2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.** • 212-234-1430 • Monday — Friday: 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**751 W. 183<sup>rd</sup> St.** • 212-568-2828 • Monday — Friday: 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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