

Season's Greetings

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year to yourselves and your families. As you may know, the Legislature recently returned to Albany to begin our 2015 Legislative Session and Governor Cuomo will release his Executive Budget for State Fiscal Year 2015-2016 which begins April 1.

Later this month and in early February I will hold a series of Town Hall Meetings throughout the District to meet with you and talk about your concerns and things that are happening in our community. We will also discuss the Governor's budget plans and what they will mean for Northern Manhattan after the budget is released and these details are known.

This year, Albany must also renew the rent laws that protect millions of New Yorkers. As you may know, I have fought for many years to protect tenants and this year will be a major effort to protect tenants in existing housing while we work to create new affordable housing to help with the ongoing shortage in Northern Manhattan and throughout New York City.

When I was a boy, I loved model airplanes but I never finished them, setting them aside after I finished the wings. My father used them to teach me a life lesson. He explained that only doing part of the job was not good enough, and stick-to-it-ive-ness was needed to see it through to the end. I believe that the people of our community have that ability, as is shown by a number of important affordable housing projects that have been years in the making which are now being finished or are breaking ground after many, many years of hard work and setbacks.

The people of Bethany Baptist Church, Broadway Housing Communities, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement and other organizations who make these wonderful things happen deserve tremendous credit for their stick-to-it-ive-ness because if they had taken "no" for an answer, these great things would never have happened. Also deserving of credit are Community League of the Heights, who, led by Yvonne Stennett and her predecessor Lucille Bulger, recently opened the Community Health Academy of the Heights. Also, the late Catherine Abate, in whose memory the Community Healthcare Network was created, deserve credit for their endless stick-to-it-ive-ness. These are a few of many who are working throughout the District to make our community a better place to live.

WORKING WITH ADVOCATES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

In early December Assemblyman Farrell met with a group of constituents who are parents, educators and advocates at the District Office to discuss their concerns about funding inequalities in our schools. "As you may know, I have always fought for educational opportunity for our young people because I believe that a good education is the key to unlocking the possibilities life holds."

Cuts made to education as a result of the financial crash of late 2007/early 2008 have caused problems in schools across the State, especially in urban districts like the New York City school system. Class sizes have been growing, and local officials have been forced to cut teachers and programs. "I was proud to vote for a significant increase to school aid in the 2014 budget, but we need to do more."

The parents and advocates whom Assemblyman Farrell met with shared these concerns and others, and Assemblyman Farrell promised to bring their concerns to Albany as the Legislature works to negotiate a budget for the coming year.



Assemblyman Farrell met with a group of parents and education advocates to discuss school funding in early December 2014. Pictured are (back row) Josh Karen, Assemblyman Farrell, Juan M. Paredes, Emily Ortiz, Miriam Aristy Ferer and Christian Rodriguez, plus (front row) Mayra Cruz and her children.

Again, I wish you and yours . . .

*Happy Holidays and a
Healthy New Year,*

Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WORKING ON BUDGET SURPLUS PLAN

As you may have heard, the State in recent months has negotiated several large-scale financial settlements with major banks accused of malfeasance during the period leading up to the financial crash of late 2007/early 2008. In total, these payouts amount to roughly \$5 billion.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Commit-

tee, I will have a significant responsibility in working with Speaker Silver to decide how these unanticipated revenues should be spent.

Speaker Silver has said, and I agree, that these one-time, non-recurring sources of funding (which are called "one-shots" in Albany's strange language) should be used for one-time projects like the many much-

needed infrastructure projects across our State. I believe some of these funds should be used for ongoing programs including capital projects for our schools.

Whatever decision is made, I will fight to assure that Northern Manhattan receives its fair share of the many good things these funds can accomplish.

FARRELL AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Working to Protect and Enhance Affordable Housing



In late October 2014, Assemblyman Farrell joined Housing Committee Chair Keith Wright, Senator Adriano Espaillat (pictured) and a number of affordable-housing advocates for a march up Broadway in support of tenants' rights.



On November 12, 2014 Assemblyman Farrell was honored to speak at the opening of Bethany Place, a new affordable-housing building at 304 West 154th Street. This important project came to be because of the incredible stick-to-it-ive-ness shown by advocates including members of Bethany Baptist Church who fought for decades to make this dream a reality.



This artist's rendering shows the future home of The Boys' and Girls' Club of Harlem in the revamped PS 186 on 145th Street. This redevelopment project, which finally broke ground in November 2014 after many years of false starts, will not only put this important building to productive use but will also offer 78 units of affordable housing to individuals and families.

Credit: Gustavo Solis

In the letter on the front page of this document, I described the stick-to-it-ive-ness shown by the many wonderful community groups who are working to protect and enhance the supply of affordable housing in our community. These projects, in many cases, have been in the works for years or even decades. Now, several have recently been completed and opened while others are finally breaking ground. It has been a pleasure and an honor to support their efforts.

In November, the doors opened at **BETHANY PLACE** at 304 West 154th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard and 23 units of affordable housing were made available. This was a wonderful ending to a very long story, which saw the people of Bethany Baptist Church fighting to overcome red tape, the loss of promised funding and other serious problems. But they stuck to it, and their dream came to pass.

Also in November, a **HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** at 260-266 West 153rd Street broke ground and when complete will offer 51 units of affordable housing.

Several other groundbreakings took place during recent months including the conversion of the old PS 186 on 145th Street, which had been closed since 1975, into the new home of the **BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB OF HARLEM** as well as 78 units of affordable, high-quality housing. As December neared, the 124-unit Sugar Hill Development opened at West 155th Street and St. Nicholas Place, offering affordable apartments and other important amenities. None of this would have happened without stick-to-it-ive-ness, which is a wonderful quality for the people of our community to possess.

As we move into 2015, my colleagues in the Assembly Majority Conference and I will fight to protect tenants by renewing and strengthening the rent laws. Please stay tuned to my Web page at assembly.state.ny.us for the latest news from Albany.



Assemblyman Farrell, Housing Committee Chair Keith Wright and Borough President Gale Brewer were among those who attended a recent groundbreaking for a Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement project at 260 West 153rd Street. This seven-story building, when completed in 2016, will contain a 10,000-square-foot day care, HCCI's main social service office and 51 units of affordable housing, eight of which will be reserved for families who were formerly homeless.



The Sugar Hill Development, a 124-unit affordable-housing complex at West 155th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, opened November 21, 2014 two years after ground was broken for this major effort. Sugar Hill includes not only a large number of affordable apartments, but also an on-site museum and child care facilities, offering much-needed resources and quality-of-life improvements in addition to high-quality housing at an affordable price.

FARRELL SPONSORS TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Thursday, January 29 at 7 p.m.
Mt. Sinai Jewish Center

135 Bennett Avenue (near 187th Street)

Friday, January 30 at 7 p.m.
Fortune Society

625 W. 140th St.

Saturday, January 31 at 11 a.m.
Church of Intercession

550 W. 155th St. (between Broadway and Amsterdam)

Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m.
Esplanade Gardens

North Community Room
133 W. 147th St., Building #3

As this newsletter is being prepared for mailing in early January, my office is in the process of confirming the attendance of guest speakers who are being invited to attend these Town Hall Meetings. These invited guests may include NYPD Captain Wilson Arambales, who recently replaced the outgoing Deputy Inspector Fausto Pichardo who has been promoted and will serve as the Department's spokesman and work from One Police Plaza. Deputy Inspector Pichardo did a very good job leading law enforcement efforts to make Northern Manhattan a better place to live and work, and he deserves our thanks and our best wishes for future success.

OVER A DECADE IN THE MAKING ROBERT CLINKSCALES PARK OPENS



Assemblyman Farrell speaks at the grand opening of Clinkscapes Park, September 2014.

Community Park and Playground located on 146th between Seventh, Eighth Ave.

It has been my great honor to support Mr. Clinkscales' family and friends as they diligently and tirelessly worked toward the goal of honoring this outstanding member of our community by bringing this dream to fruition. It has been over five years since I joined former City Council Member Robert Jackson, who obtained financing for the park, 146th Street Block Association President Frederick Wilson, Harlem Memorial Community Development Corporation, and the Clinkscales family in pushing to make this project happen.

The Park includes not only a modern playground for children with and without disabilities who live in this neighborhood but also garden plots for members of our community

to use. The site was once part of the Bradhurst Urban Renewal Area, and had long awaited a productive new use.

Mr. Clinkscales was brought into this project in 1997 by Mr. Wilson and the 146th Street Tenants' Association. Mr. Clinkscales taught Mr. Wilson how to work on public works projects and build support. Sadly, Mr. Clinkscales passed on before the Park was completed, but his name will live on for many years in this community.

A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE MOTHER CLARA HALE BUS DEPOT



After many years of work the reconstruction of the new, modern, Mother Clara Hale bus depot on Lenox Avenue is complete, and I had the honor of speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony late last month. Briefly, the original building was constructed in 1890 and was not as environmentally friendly as the new building, which features systems that collect rainwater for use in depot operations, modern energy-saving measures and other wonderful features.

Assemblyman

**HERMAN D.
FARRELL JR.**

*Reports to the
People of the
71st Assembly District*

Winter 2014 - 2015

Season's Greetings

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 either of my offices.

2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. • 212-234-1430

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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