



Assemblyman

CARL E. HEASTIE

Reports to the People

WINTER 2014

Dear Neighbor(s):

As the Holiday Season approaches, I wanted to send an update to residents on what has been accomplished recently in the State and Community. It has been a very busy time for the Bronx and the City of New York. We were able to pass our fourth on time budget and we have made some historic progress on minimum wage, wage theft, and measures to prevent employer discrimination.

This year I was able to secure funding for Capital projects in addition to funding for community groups through the local initiative program. This funding will serve to enhance current infrastructure and services for the community.

As always, if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office is here to serve you.

With Love and Hope,

Carl E. Heastie

Member of Assembly

COME VISIT CARL HEASTIE'S NEW OFFICE LOCATION



Assemblyman Carl Heastie provides turkeys to local residents so they will enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday. The District Office has a new location at 1446 East Gun Hill Road on the corner of Fenton Avenue. The new office is just up the road from our old location. Our new location is conveniently located two blocks away from the 5 train and is located on bus Rt. 28. We hope that you can come by and visit us.

Assemblyman Heastie, Borough President Diaz, Senator Thompson and Councilman King allocate funding to make the community safer

Local legislators have joined forces to make security a top priority in Bronx neighborhoods. Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Senator Ruth Hassel-Thompson and Councilman Andy King invested in new security measures to make sure the North East Bronx remains a safe place to live. The funding secured will create more offices in the 47th precinct and cover the cost for more security measures in the housing developments.

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie and Borough President Ruben Diaz secured funding to install high definition, state of the art, networked cameras in Edenwald Housing Development. These new cameras were installed at the end of last year and have been in use since. Assemblyman Heastie has dedicated an additional \$730,000 in Capital funding to install new cameras in the Boston Secor Housing Development. This money will upgrade the camera system and help tie the new high definition cameras into the security network. Additionally, Assemblyman Heastie was able to secure \$500,000 to have cameras installed in the Baychester housing development. The funding will



Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie and Councilman Andy King.

cover the cost of networking the cameras to be accessible by local law enforcement. Each building will be upgraded to have real time cameras that provide high definition images to enhance public safety.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Senator Ruth Hassel-Thompson were able to fund new cameras for the Eastchester Gardens Housing development. Councilman Andy King secured funding through the City Council to install cameras in the Gun Hill Housing Development.

Assemblyman Heastie secures funding for DOE Fund clean up program on White Plains Road

As the result of budget negotiations The Doe Fund's "Ready Willing & Able Program" will be able to provide services on White Plains and Gun Hill roads once again. The busy commercial corridor of White Plains Road between Gun Hill Road and East 236th Street will be litter free and

clean as the result of the hard work of the participants of the Doe Fund's "Ready, Willing and Able" program. This highly successful cleaning service will once again be picking up trash and cleaning White Plains Road on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays.

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie and the Food Industry Alliance provide turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie in conjunction with the Food Industry Alliance has provided turkey dinners for seniors and families in the Northeast Bronx for Thanksgiving celebrations. In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, turkey dinners with "all the fixins" were given to local families, churches, and senior centers so residents can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

"I would like to recognize the work of the Food Industry Alliance as they help local families enjoy the spirit of the Holiday season," said Assemblyman Heastie. "This is just another example of how New Yorkers come together in the wake of adversity to help members of the community," stated Assemblyman Heastie.

Assemblyman Heastie, with the help of the Food Industry Alliance, purchased the turkeys and provided the coordination of this event.



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2015 Calendar

January

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Jan. 1st New Year's Day
Jan. 19th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 16th Presidents Day
May 25th Memorial Day

July 4th Independence Day
Sept. 7th Labor Day
Oct. 12th Columbus Day
Nov. 4th Election Day

Nov. 11th Veterans Day
Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25th Christmas Day

Assemblyman Heastie announces passage of bill to strengthen Wage Theft Prevention Act

Measure provides additional protections to employees against employers who refuse to pay wages owed to workers

Labor Committee Chair Carl E. Heastie announced that the Assembly approved 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.

“This legislation makes sure employers who steal an employee’s wages will be held accountable with stiff financial penalties,” said Heastie, the bill’s sponsor. “This measure is aimed at dishonest employers. It holds them accountable in a way that ensures they cannot avoid penalties and walk off with their worker’s hard-earned wages. It also helps employees, with the assistance of the state Labor Department, receive the wages they deserve.”

The legislation would strengthen the Wage Theft Prevention Act of 2010 by repealing the current law’s required Employee Annual Notice requirement, which proved to be a very cumbersome burden to businesses operating in the state, and replaces it with enhanced employee protections and assistance from DOL.

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. The measure also authorizes the Department of Labor (DOL) to impose a greater civil penalty on employers who are repeat offenders and have committed certain violations within the

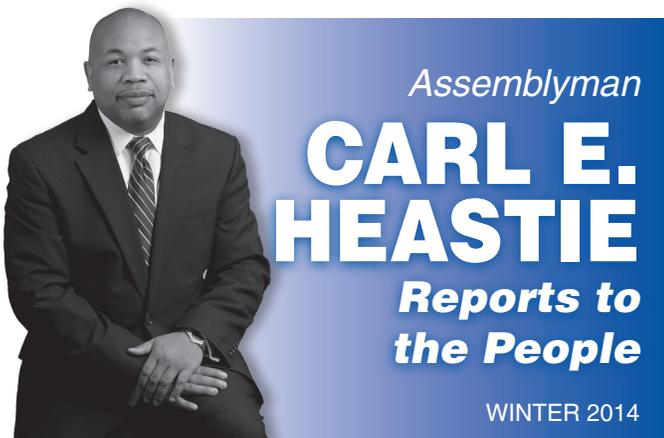


Assemblyman Carl Heastie speaks to working men and women at a rally for 32 BJ SEIU.

previous six years. It also would mandate that contractors or sub-contractors who committed wage theft to notify all of their employees of the violation to ensure the other workers are on notice that they should be more vigilant about their employer’s payment of wages.

The bill protects employees by requiring DOL to conduct investigations into employee claims of wages not paid for the past six years. Companies that are found to have retaliated against an employee for reporting theft of wages could face penalties of up to \$20,000.

This legislation would hold reconstituted companies fully liable for the same wages owed by its previous company if it has much the same ownership and purpose. The bill requires that a Limited Liability company’s 10 members, who have the largest percentage of ownership, be personally held liable for all debts, wages, or salaries owed to employees.



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New law will give seriously ill patients access to medical marijuana

Assemblyman Heastie announced the governor has signed legislation passed by the Senate and Assembly allowing seriously ill patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating and life-threatening illnesses (A.6357-E).

“The agreement reached today is an essential step toward providing certain seriously ill patients with safe alternatives to alleviate their pain,” said Assemblyman Heastie. “Allowing health practitioners to prescribe medical marijuana will give patients who have severely debilitating illnesses other options to improve their quality of life while safe guarding against marijuana abuse.”

The legislation would allow licensed physicians to determine if a patient suffering from a debilitating or life-threatening illness is likely to benefit from the use of medical marijuana. These patients would receive a special identification card, which they

would be required to carry while in possession of the drug. The bill would impose penalties on anyone attempting to defraud the program, and would make it a felony for a practitioner to prescribe marijuana when there is no medical need.

Additionally, the bill would prevent the marketing of medical marijuana to teenagers and limit the forms of the drug that could be prescribed to oil-based extracts, pills, edibles and vaporized forms. Finally, the bill would impose a 7 percent excise tax on medical marijuana sales, helping to fund our schools and vital programs.