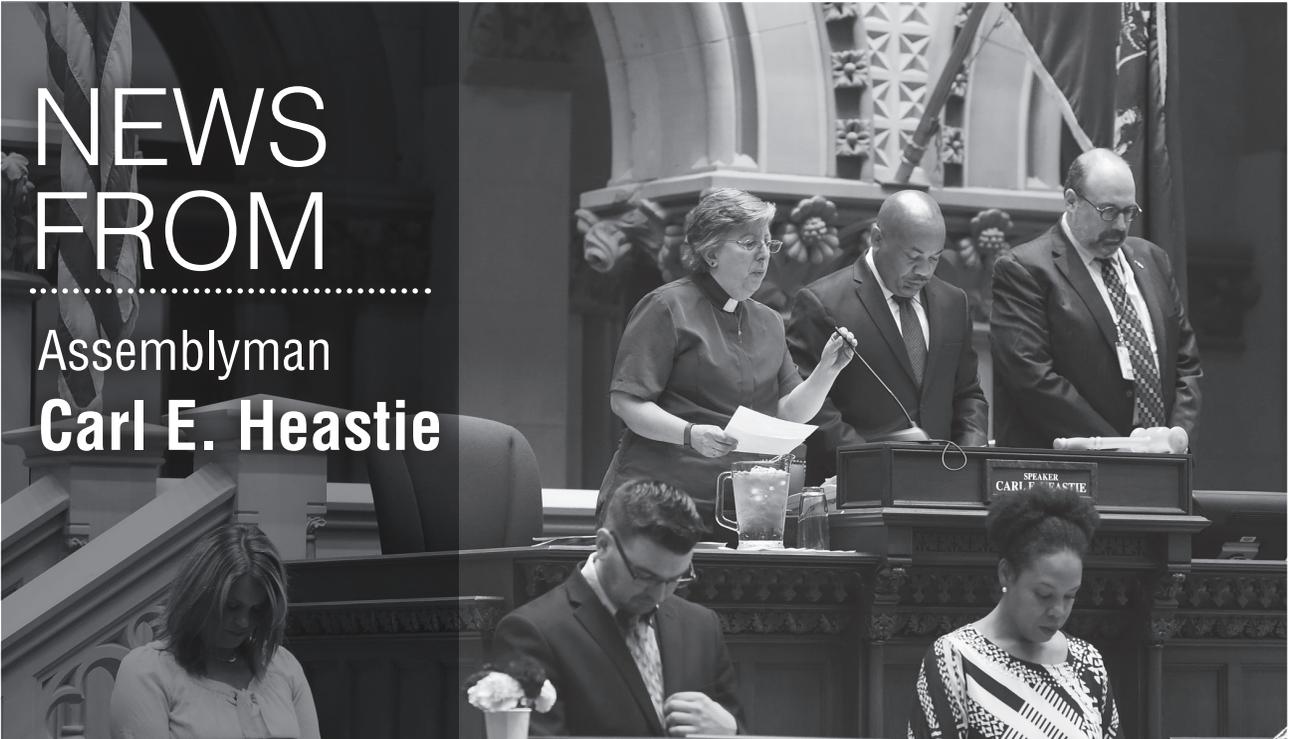


# NEWS FROM

Assemblyman  
**Carl E. Heastie**



**Assemblyman Heastie leads the Assembly in observing a moment of silence for the victims of the Orlando nightclub killings.**

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– Assemblyman  
Carl E. Heastie

Dear Neighbor,

As the summer months heat up, I wanted to report to the community on what we were able to accomplish at the end of this legislative session. We had a wonderful budget in which we raised the minimum wage to \$15 over the next 3 years and many other progressive policy issues like implementing paid family leave. We were able to add to those accomplishments some measures to help women fight breast cancer and legislation to fight the heroin epidemic. It is your support and strength that has allowed my Assembly colleagues and me to be successful.

Additionally, I wanted to update you about some funding allocations that have been secured for the Northeast Bronx. In addition to acquiring local funding for operating purposes, the Legislature was able to provide significant resources for capital and infrastructure investments. These resources help our community grow by investing in our infrastructure. We remain dedicated to giving working families the resources they need to achieve financial independence.

There is still much work to be done. The Assembly Majority and I will continue to make certain New York remains committed to providing the opportunity for success our families deserve. 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



Assemblyman Heastie is honored by members of the Bronx Botanical Garden including Gregory Long (President), JV Cossaboom (Director) and Eric C. Henry (Government Relations).

## Groups funded through the Special Projects Program

**St. Luke's Food Program-** Financial assistance will provide transportation and supplies to offer food to the local community.

**Baychester/Edenwald Senior Center-** Financial assistance provides for meals for the elder community.

**R.A.I.N. Inc.-** Financial assistance provides support for the following R.A.I.N. Inc. senior centers: Gun Hill senior center, Boston Secor senior center, Eastchester senior center, and Boston East senior center.

**Bronx Bethany Community Corporation-** Funds will be used to provide services to community youth by offering a summer day camp.

**Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center-** Funds will be used to purchase materials and supplies for the Community Folk Culture Program. This program offers an opportunity for young adults to have hands-on experience with shared cultural arts and activities while documenting and archiving this heritage.

**Theatre International, Inc.-** Funds will be used to provide an after-school theatre arts program. The funds from this grant will be used for the purchase of materials to run this program from Richard R. Green Middle School.

**Gun Hill Youth Football and Cheerleading Program-** Funds will be used to purchase materials and supplies to conduct a football and cheerleading youth program.

**City Parks Free Youth Sports Program-** Funds will be used to provide free golf and tennis instruction for youth ages 5-16 twice a week for 6-8 weeks during the summer.

## Mind-Builders receives \$100,000 allocated by Assemblyman Heastie

This funding secured in the state budget will allow Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center to renovate the outer grounds and exterior of the building. These renovations will include a ramp entrance for people with mobility issues and a new surface for the playground for children to play safely. Additionally, the funds will provide for new pavement, shrubbery, a fence, trash receptacles, benches and bicycle racks.

## Heastie announces \$86,815 to support the Doe Fund's Clean Streets project on White Plains Road

Assemblyman Heastie has secured funding to fully implement the Doe Fund's "Ready, Willing & Able Program" for the year. Since 2003, the Doe Fund has had a work crew along White Plains Road from Gun Hill Road to 233rd Street that collects trash and keeps the sidewalks and streets clean.

The busy commercial corridor of White Plains Road between Gun Hill Road and 233rd Street are once again litter-free through the hard work of the people of the Doe Fund's "Ready, Willing and Able" initiative. The Doe Fund is a not-for-profit homeless service organization that provides permanent solutions to homelessness through paid work and a host of other social services.

"White Plains Road is a wonderful place to live and shop, but like many neighborhoods in New York City, keeping a handle on the litter problem can often be a challenge," said Heastie. "With the Ready, Willing & Able Crews working along White Plains Road, our streets are clean again."

## Heastie leads way to new law to improve access to vital breast cancer screenings

Assemblyman Heastie announced a new law to make breast cancer screenings more accessible and improve insurance coverage to promote early detection (A.10679). This new law continues the Assembly Majority's commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

"Early detection is critical. This law will expand access to breast cancer screenings with no cost-sharing so that New Yorkers receive preventative care sooner and are able to act," said Carl Heastie. "By making these vital screenings more available and affordable, we can help ensure more cases are caught and treated early."

Screenings can detect breast cancer in its earliest stage, when it is the most treatable. This bill will prohibit annual deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance payments for screening and diagnostic imaging for the detection of breast cancer, including diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs. This legislation also requires more hospitals and clinics to offer extended hours of screening for those who work full time. In addition, it extends the right to four hours of paid leave for breast cancer screenings to New York City public employees.



**Assemblymembers Jeff Dinowitz, Rodneyse Bichotte and Carl Heastie meet with members of the famous Tuskegee Airmen.**

### **Heastie allocates \$20,000 for New York Public Library**

At the conclusion of session, Assemblyman Heastie was able to secure additional funding to support the Eastchester, Edenwald and Wakefield libraries. These funds will be used to purchase books, audio and video items.

### **Heastie allocates \$10,000 to Unity Neighborhood Center, Inc.**

This funding will be used to purchase materials and supplies to expand services in P.S. 87 and P.S. 21. This program provides instruction in dance, drawing and painting to children of the Northeast Bronx.

### **Legislature passes law to require schools to test drinking water for lead**

Assemblyman Carl Heastie announced that the Legislature passed legislation requiring the state health and education departments to create statewide guidelines for school districts and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) to test drinking water for lead. Under the measure, costs associated with testing and remediation will be eligible for reimbursement by the state (A.10740). Additionally, if lead is present, then safe drinking water must be provided and parents need to be notified of the test results in a timely manner.

High lead levels have been linked to impaired learning and brain damage in children. “The health of our students is too important to put at risk,” Assemblyman Heastie said. “When a child is drinking from a school water fountain, parents should feel 100 percent confident that the water is clean and safe.”

### **Heastie leads the Assembly by negotiating new heroin and opioid prevention laws**

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie announced the Assembly passed laws to improve the treatment and prevention of heroin and opioid addiction, which has reached epidemic levels in New York and throughout the nation. The legislation builds on previous efforts by the Assembly, which included \$189 million in this year’s state budget for treatment and prevention initiatives as well as safe drug-disposal programs.

“Heroin addiction is ravaging communities across the state, and it’s clear that we need to take action now in order to save lives,”

said Assemblyman Heastie. “These new laws will limit initial painkiller prescriptions and ensure people can get the treatment they need to beat addiction.”

The legislation takes steps to combat the heroin crisis by educating doctors as well as individuals who are prescribed opioids to, among other things, advise them of the risks of addiction, preventing the risk for misuse by limiting the amount of opioids prescribed and further requiring coverage for inpatient care (A.10727).

The measures will:

- mandate three hours of education on pain management and palliative care for prescribers to be completed every three years;
- require insurance companies to provide coverage for a minimum of 14 days of inpatient treatment without prior authorization;
- set a seven-day limit on a patient’s first prescription of opioid medication for acute pain; and
- require pharmacists to provide consumers with educational materials regarding the dangers of addiction, availability of treatment and prescription disposal options when they are dispensing a controlled substance.

The legislation also expands access to addiction treatment. One measure increases the maximum time an individual incapacitated by drugs or alcohol can be brought to a treatment facility for detoxification services from 48 to 72 hours and requires those facilities to provide specific information in their discharge planning to help ensure individuals are connected with treatment after they detox (A.10725). It also requires insurers to provide five days of coverage for withdrawal treatment and eliminates the need for prior authorization by managed care companies for buprenorphine and Vivitrol – drugs used to treat opioid dependence.

Another piece of legislation will allow social workers and certain other licensed professionals to administer Narcan – a drug which counteracts an opioid overdose – in an emergency (A.10726). It would also require the state to issue quarterly reports on overdoses and Narcan use, on a county-by-county basis, and require hospitals to implement discharge planning for patients who have – or are at risk for – a substance use disorder.



Assemblyman Carl Heastie meets with members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority during their lobby day.

### Heastie secures \$50 million in additional capital for colleges

As part of negotiations for a budget cleanup bill at the end of session, Assemblyman Carl Heastie was able to secure additional capital funding for public universities. The funding is in addition to the capital funding secured in the 2016-17 budget and will help our colleges deal with aging infrastructure. The new appropriation includes \$20 million for the City University of New York and \$30 million for the State University of New York.

### Heastie secures \$20,000 in education funding to support the Education Through Music Program

These funds will be used to provide music instruction for children at P.S. 68 and P.S. 169. The instruction will help young children develop an appreciation and understanding for music at an early age.

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