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Assemblyman

Summer 2013

Luis Sepúlveda

Reports to the People

Dear Residents of the 87th Assembly District,

The legislative session is now behind me—no more budget discussions, debates on legislation that will affect the lives of all New Yorkers, and no more trekking back and forth to Albany...until the winter, of course, where I expect to continue my streak of **perfect attendance** since being elected. This will provide me with the opportunity to travel around the district, attend events, and give me more time to speak to those who are most important and vital to me as a public servant—YOU.

This looks to be an active season for my office as we try to facilitate services and events that seek to enhance the collective well-being of our neighborhoods. We'll be conducting town hall meetings concerning people with disabilities. Several mammography van events will be forthcoming. Multiple blood drives in August will be conducted at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. We will also be conducting a daily book giveaway all summer long at my office in conjunction with a Summer Reading Challenge. I have long noticed that too many children neglect to keep up with their reading during the summer months, so this is a way to help encourage them to be more proactive in that pursuit. And the coup de grace will be a recognition reception in the fall for the most dedicated readers. This is just a small sample of the events we'll be involved with; we're excited for the things to come...

As with every summer, to all: be safe, have a good time at the pools, beaches, and amusement parks. During my travels throughout the 87th Assembly district, I hope to see you out there enjoying the heat and sun right along with me!

Luis R. Sepúlveda
Assemblyman
87th Assembly District

Join us for some fun in the sun!

People with Disabilities Town Hall

Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Parkchester Library
1985 Westchester Avenue
Kick-off to our Disability Council

“Team Sepúlveda” Food Bank Volunteer Day

Tuesday, July 2 from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Food Bank for New York City

Stratton Park Town Hall Meeting

Public & Fire Safety/Community Forum
Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Noble Mansion Community Room
1500 Noble Ave., Bronx, NY 10460

Mammography Screening (for uninsured or underinsured females age 40 and over)

Tuesday, July 16 from 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Castle Hill (location TBD) **by appointment**

Mammography Screening (for uninsured or underinsured females age 40 and over)

Monday, July 22 from 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Van Nest (location TBD) **by appointment**

Free Civic Seminar — All Ages

Tuesday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m.
Parkchester Branch Public Library
1985 Westchester Ave., Bronx, NY 10462

Transit Police National Night Out

Free Food & Games — All ages
Police, Fire & EMS Information
Tuesday, August 6 from 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Parkchester Train Station

Blood Drive

Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1891 McGraw Ave., Bronx, NY 10462

Disabled Action Day

Free Activities and Information
Saturday, August 31 at 1:00 p.m.
Parkchester Train Station, Bronx, NY 10462

Book Drive

Please donate new or gently used children's books (from pre-K to 8th grade)
“Please donate a book today, it'll make a difference in a child's life tomorrow”
All summer long, contact our office for more information.

** Be sure to visit our office to view our most up-to-date job listings. You can also view our job listings on Assemblyman Sepúlveda's Assembly website <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Luis-R-Sepulveda>*

Get Involved in Your Community!

Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

The monthly meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Love Gospel Church
475 Van Nest Ave., Bronx, NY 10460
bernferrara@gmail.com; (646) 228-8570

Community Board 6

The general meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. (July & August no meetings – summer recess)
Call the office before attending meeting to confirm the location.
1932 Archer Ave., Bronx, NY 10457
7th Floor; (718) 579-6990

Community Board 9

The general meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (July & August no meetings – summer recess)
Call the office before attending meeting to confirm the location.
1967 Turnbull Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473
2nd Floor; (718) 823-3034; www.nyc.gov/bxcb9

Community Board 11

The general meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (July & August No Meetings – Summer Recess)
Call the office before attending meeting to confirm the location.
1741 Colden Ave., Bronx, NY 10462
(718) 892-6262; www.nyc.gov/bxcb11

NYPD 43rd Precinct Community Council

The Council meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Call the precinct before attending meeting to confirm the location.
900 Fteley Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473
Community Affairs: (718) 542-6325

NYPD 48th Precinct Community Council

The Council meetings are held every last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Call the precinct before attending meeting to confirm the location.
450 Cross Bronx Expressway, Bronx, NY 10457
Community Affairs: (718) 299-4522

NYPD 49th Precinct Community Council

The Council meetings are held every last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Call the precinct before attending meeting to confirm the location.
2121 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461
Community Affairs: (718) 918-2032

PSA 8 (Housing Precinct) Community Council

The Council meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Call the precinct before attending meeting to confirm the location.
2794 Randall Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465
Community Affairs: (718) 409-5743

What's Happening in the 87th...



Assemblyman Sepúlveda and Senator Diaz honored Parent Coordinators and PTA Presidents at an Appreciation Banquet.



Recently, Assemblyman Sepúlveda hosted a town hall meeting to discuss parking garage concerns with local Parkchester residents.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda poses with UFT Borough Representative, Jose Vargas, and volunteers at UFT's UCAN Day of Service.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda posing with an elementary school student at a local event in Parkchester.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda provided a speech that inspired middle school students at PS 36's College and Career Readiness Celebration.



In this photo, Assemblyman Sepúlveda is posing with his State Committeewoman, Barbara Brown, far left, and one of his constituents, at a local BBQ the Assemblyman sponsored.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda recently held a block party for his constituents. He is featured here with his State Committeeman, William Rivera.



This month, Assemblyman Sepúlveda participated in the 2013 National Puerto Rican Day Parade. We captured a glimpse of him showing a little patriotism towards his Puerto Rican roots!



For Mother's Day, Assemblyman Sepúlveda celebrated with the seniors at Castle Hill.



Featured here with Councilwoman Annabel Palma, Senator Gustavo Rivera and others, Assemblyman Sepúlveda supported the Food Bank for New York City and JP Morgan Chase's initiative to offer free tax assistance services to his constituents.



Featured here is Assemblyman Sepúlveda united with DREAMers at Baruch's NYS Dream Act Rally.



In support of one of his local baseball little leagues, Assemblyman Sepúlveda recently attended the annual Castle Hill Little League Parade.

Capitol Chronicles...



Assemblyman Sepúlveda met with a group of correctional officers of the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association to discuss legislation that would make the throwing, tossing, or expelling of saliva or other bodily secretion or excretion at or on an employee of a correctional facility, an aggravated harassment of an employee.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda recently met with John Darin, President and CEO of NADAP, an organization that has been working on helping districts with more job creation. They are both featured here posing with Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer.



Featured here are Assemblyman Sepúlveda and Senator Charles Schumer discussing ways they could collectively better serve their community.



In an effort to help pass legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$9.00, Assemblyman Sepúlveda is captured arguing that the passage of this legislation would benefit hard-working low-wage earners in his district and the entire state of New York.



A few representatives from the Northwest Bronx Housing Organization recently visited Assemblyman Sepúlveda's office to discuss safe and affordable housing.



A group of Bangladesh-American lobbyists recently met with Assemblyman Sepúlveda to discuss a few matters that are important to the Bangladesh community. To name a few, Eid Holiday for Muslim students in the NYC School District, the establishment of the New York State Muslim American Advisory Council, and providing Halal meals to Muslim students in NYC schools.



Along with other Assemblymembers, Assemblyman Sepúlveda attended a conference in support of the DREAM Act. This act would provide immigrant children a fair and equal opportunity to earn an education in the United States, the land of opportunity!



Assemblyman Sepúlveda recently introduced two of his constituents, Stephon Odom, and Shahriar Hussain, to the New York State Assembly. Stephon was named the 2013 Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for being a mentor and a role model to his peers and for all of his community service. Shahriar was recognized for all of his dedication and community service. Kudos to both!



Senator Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr. recently held the 2013 Puerto Rican Abrazo. Featured here are Assemblyman Luis Sepúlveda, District Leader Julia Rodriguez and Councilman Andy King.



In this photo, Assemblyman Sepúlveda was asked to be Acting Speaker Pro Tempore for part of session by Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, the Speaker Pro Tempore in the State Assembly.



Assemblyman Sepúlveda and his family spending a little quality time in between sessions.



Featured here is Roslyn Johnson. After a long battle with cancer, she succumbed to the illness last September. Roslyn was a mentor and a great friend to Assemblyman Sepúlveda. She was very involved in the West Farms community and earned the respect and admiration of many. Roslyn, you are missed!

What I Am Up To...

Waiving College Application Fees for Those in Need

A college education should be accessible to all students. City universities should not hinder a low-income student's application if they are recipients of public assistance. As such, I have pressed for an application fee waiver for these applicants. People should not be precluded from consideration if they are unable to pay a processing fee.

Removing Statute of Limitations for Child Abuse Victims

Childhood sexual abuse is one of the most inconceivably horrendous crimes. A statute

of limitations can prevent victims from ever gaining justice. Regardless of when the act occurred, anyone who engages in these despicable acts should always be held accountable for their crimes. A victim of abuse should feel empowered to report the abuse, thus, I favor removing the statute of limitations for child abuse crimes.

Increased Penalties for the Prostitution of Minors

Prostitution of minors is a tragic issue that has become widespread throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these crimes oftentimes escape prosecution. When

these depraved individuals are caught, they should be charged with the highest penalties our judicial system can exact. It is for this reason that my colleagues and I in the State Assembly ultimately sought to pass this bill.

Expunging of Arrest Record for Innocent Individuals

Oftentimes innocent individuals are ostracized merely for having a record. For a mere arrest, many of these individuals find it difficult to reenter society and find employment. We in the Assembly sought legislative protection for those who have not been formally indicted to have their record expunged. It

is unjust to hinder an individual's progress when they have not been convicted of a crime solely because they appear on a database.

Community Board Empowerment

I fully support giving community boards the power to revoke liquor licenses from undesirable establishments that are detrimental to the community. Empowering community boards will provide residents of that district the collective will to actively dictate what is deemed socially acceptable. As a legislator who has pushed for the suspension of liquor licenses in my own district, I believe in the power of the Boards.

Equitable Treatment of Tenants

With so many accounts of landlord abuses within our city, the Assembly has voted in favor of tenants being given a voice when it comes to negotiating the terms of their rental processing. Tenants will be able to delay payments when emergency repairs have not been processed within a 24-hour period facilitated by a written notice.

Insurance Coverage for Ovarian Cancer Screenings

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most deadly cancer. It is imperative that health insurance companies acknowledge this disease. As

such, I deemed it necessary for insurance companies to cover the costs for comprehensive screenings for women. Screenings can offset the mortality rates.

Providing Genetic Screenings for Breast, Ovarian, Prostate, Colon and Lung Cancer

In a similar initiative to provide extensive screenings for New York City residents, I co-sponsored this bill to mirror the Ovarian Cancer Screening bill. Insurance companies should also cover genetic screenings for breast, prostate, colon and lung cancer. All

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of these types of cancers regrettably affect many of the constituents in my district. To proactively address the prevalence of these cancers, genetic testing is important. Finding out one's predisposition to getting any of these cancers is as relevant as getting annual checkups.

Domestic Violence & Immigrants

Domestic violence within immigrant communities continues to be an ignored social problem. It is a phenomenon that often goes unreported because victims remain silent out of fear, shame and/or cultural



Assemblyman Sepúlveda is captured expressing his support for early voting legislation. Many seniors and working families are very often unable to cast their vote because of time constraints. The Assemblyman believes that early voting would increase voter participation thus allowing voters to participate in the democratic process.

stigma. Unfortunately, penalization based on immigration status also hinders the State's ability to address this issue. This is why I joined my colleagues in ratifying bill A.5364. Focusing directly on the crime as opposed to the victim's or witness' status can empower victims to speak up and prevent these crimes from continuing to plague our communities.

Decriminalization of Marijuana

To mitigate the NYPD's controversial "Stop and Frisk" policy, I have advocated in Albany for the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana. Oftentimes, because of stereotypes and racial bias, the residents of my district have been harassed by officials. I am vehemently against these practices and have voted in favor of this bill. By passing this legislation, those of us who support this bill anticipate that many of our young men and women will not be persecuted unjustly by police officers and those that are accountable, are given reasonable sentences. Recently, I helped pass this bill.

Direct Relationship

In order to deny a person employment or a license based on a criminal record, there

must be a direct relationship between the specific duties or responsibilities of the job or license, and the nature of the criminal conviction, and such connection must create an unreasonable risk to property or public safety. I believe everyone deserves a second chance in life.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten for Our Children

I believe all children should have access to high quality pre-school and programs and are not segregated by income. This bill allows the city to tax individuals earning half a million dollars or more to pay for universal pre-kindergarten for all children.

Labeling of GMO Food Ingredients

With so many illnesses emerging as a result of consistently ingesting genetically modified foods, I explored the repercussions of not informing customers of the risks associated with these foods. Food corporations should provide their customers with a list of all GMO materials found within their products. Consumers have the right to choose whether they want to purchase these foods or not.

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1973 Westchester Ave., Bronx, NY 10462 • 718-931-2620 • Fax: 718-931-2915

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 432, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5102 • Fax: 518-455-3693

sepulvedal@assembly.state.ny.us • <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Luis-R-Sepulveda>



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Luis Sepúlveda
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The Sepúlveda Team



Row 1 (left to right) Kenneth Thomas, Chief of Staff; Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo, Deputy Chief of Staff; Oshrie Zak, Counsel to the Assemblyman; Jazmine Lopez, Executive Assistant; Lettisha Teasley, Constituent Liaison; Samiha Tashneem, Administrative Aide; **Row 2 (left to right)** Ashley Torres, Albany Intern; D.O. Interns Vaishali Hernandez; Sheila Butler; Erika Benson; Maksuda Khatoon; and Jazmine Parra

¿Sólo habla español?

Tenemos personal en nuestra oficina que le puede ayudar en su idioma natal.

আপনার ভাষা কি বাংলা? কে নাও অসুবিধা নাই! আপনার বক্তব্য অনুবাদ করবনে আমাদের একজন সহকর্মী আপনাকে সার্বকক্ষণিক সর্বো দতি আমরা প্রস্তুত