



Assemblywoman

STACEY PHEFFER AMATO

Legislative and Community Report to the 23rd Assembly District

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Dear Neighbors,

It has been my honor to represent you for my first New York State Assembly Legislative Session this past year. I will continue to work tirelessly for each of you in Ozone Park, Lindenwood, Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel, Rockaway Beach, Belle Harbor, Neponsit, Breezy Point, Arverne Far Rockaway, and Bayswater. This edition of the Legislative and Community Report to the 23rd Assembly District includes updates from this past legislative session and highlights from the past year within the district. This legislative session was not only intensely busy, but extremely productive.

Your thoughts, input and other important issues are valuable to me, and I welcome your viewpoints. Please feel free to contact my office by phone, email, or social media, and sign up for our regular email updates by sending a note to amatos@nyassembly.gov or by calling my office at 718-945-9550.

STACEY PHEFFER AMATO
Member of Assembly, 23rd District

2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

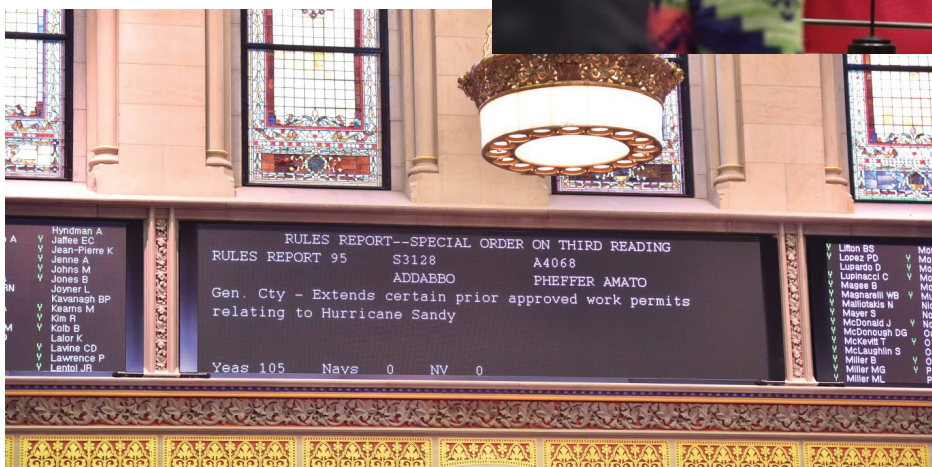
The 2017 legislative session ended this past June, in which the Assembly and the Senate worked to adopt or reject hundreds of legislative proposals. That being said, much remains to be done and I look forward to continuing to advocate for many of these unresolved issues in 2018.

First Bill Signed Into Law. The Assembly and Senate unanimously passed a bill that I sponsored with Senator Addabbo which grants a two-year extension to Chapter 100 of the Laws of 2013. Chapter 100 provides exemptions for Breezy Point work permits for resiliency and recovery in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Five years after Hurricane Sandy made landfall, many Breezy residents are still attempting to rebuild their lives and their homes in the community they love. Considering the delays that thousands of our residents have been subjected to under Build It Back, Rapid Repair and other programs at the City level, it was so urgent that we give our residents at least two more years to rebuild with relief from red tape. Extension of this legislation will continue to enable our homeowners to more expeditiously progress through the rebuilding process and return their families home.

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Making Information More Accessible to NYS Veterans. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato sponsored a bill for NYS Veterans to help make it easier to access resources online. Pheffer Amato's bill, numbered A.5165, was the first sponsored by a Freshman Assemblymember of the Class of 2017 to pass the chamber. This bill makes it easier for Veterans and their loved ones, caretakers and community to get access to services throughout New York State. It requires the contact information for each Veterans' Home to be placed on the website of the Division of Veterans' Affairs.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato sponsored legislation providing for Breezy Point work permits for resiliency and recovery in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. The same bill passed the Senate and was signed by Governor Cuomo into law.

Additional Budget Highlights:

- **\$103 million** in funding for 4201 schools for the blind and deaf;
- **\$20 million** for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers – an increase of \$5.7 million;
- **\$1.5 million** in restorations for the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE), for a total of \$13 million, to provide career training and job placement services, as well as \$250,000 for an enhanced credentialing program;

- **\$1 million** to restore funding for adult literacy education, for a total of \$7.3 million;
- Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP): **\$35.5 million**, a restoration of \$5.9 million;
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): **\$32.2 million**, a restoration of \$5.3 million;

- Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge program (SEEK): **\$28.1 million**, a restoration of \$4.6 million;
- Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP): **\$15.8 million**, a restoration of \$2.6 million;
- Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP): **\$11.9 million**, a restoration of \$1.9 million;

- College Discovery Program: **\$1.3 million**, a restoration of \$225,000;
- **\$87.9 million** for SUNY Health Science Centers to help support top-notch teaching hospitals across the state; and
- **\$60 million** for Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC), a restoration of \$5 million.

Investing in our Children's Education. The 2017-18 state budget increases education aid by \$1 billion for a total of \$25.7 billion, a 4.1 percent increase from last year's budget, reaffirming the Assembly Majority's unrelenting commitment to putting every student on their path to success. The budget also increases Foundation Aid by \$700 million for a total of \$17.2 billion.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato with local students who participate in student government at Scholars' Academy.

Supporting our Public Libraries. This year's budget restores aid to public libraries by \$4 million dollars to ensure they can continue to provide vital services and resources to residents.



Ozone Park Library Reopening this past year.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato co-sponsored a safety program with the NYS Masonic Safety ID (MSID) Program to provide a free child ID for children and safety tips for parents.

Making College Affordable. The state budget provides funding to establish the Excelsior Scholarship to make SUNY schools tuition-free for New Yorkers who earn less than \$100,000 annually. Students who attend a private college in New York and earn less than \$100,000 annually would also be eligible for a scholarship award of \$6,000. After year one the average household income increases to \$125,000.



Transit Options for South Queens: Reactivating the Rockaway Beach Rail Line (RBRL), also known as Queens Rail, may be the best and most permanent fix for our transit issues.

This past year, Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato announced new momentum on an evaluation of the possibility of reactivating the long-dormant RBRL, a high policy priority for Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato. Though the evaluation itself has been pushed back from a June release date until the winter, there have been two critical victories: (1) the inclusion of specific criteria in the final report that are meant to better illustrate the feasibility of the proposal; and (2) most crucially, that the MTA, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), and New York City Transit (NYCT) will be jointly requesting and securing an outside contractor to help conduct the evaluation, thereby putting all key agency stakeholders on the same page and ensuring their mutual investment in giving the proposal a full and fair hearing.



Familial DNA Authorized in NYS. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato fought this past year for the implementation of Familial DNA Matching (FM) in NYS as a crime fighting tool. The NYS Commission on Forensic Science officially adopted the guidelines permitting the use of FM in June. This makes NYS the eleventh state to allow the use of familial DNA matching. Phil and Cathie Vetrano, parents of Karina Vetrano, remained vocal advocates for the forensic technique throughout the process.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato and a working group she convened marked the five-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy with a list of legislative recommendations for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Over half of all Americans live in a county adjacent to coastline, and climate scientists expect flooding issues to worsen worldwide over the next several decades. Pheffer Amato has been a strong advocate for equitable flood insurance for all NYS residents and is a sponsor of A6350 which would create a NYS Flood Insurance Association.



Keeping Seniors Safe and Informed: Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato has worked tirelessly to bring resources and information to seniors of the 23rd District. Pheffer Amato has been a strong advocate for seniors, and as the 2018 Legislative Session approaches will continue to keep senior residents informed about health care, transit, veterans' affairs and more.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato and Hank Iori, President of the Belle Harbor Property Owners Association inspecting the beach erosion. Pheffer Amato has been a strong advocate for resiliency measures in our community.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato with the Commanding Officer from the 100th Precinct on National Night out Against Crime 2017. The 23rd Assembly District encompasses the 100th, 101, and 106th Precincts.



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato dispersed over 500 Summer Reading Awards throughout her district. Pheffer Amato did her first Summer Reading program as a Member of the State Assembly this summer, starting in May.



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato was installed this past February as a Deputy Grand Marshall for the 42nd Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, the second-largest St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City.



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato introduced a bill during Legislative Session requiring 45 days' notice before homeless housing is placed in a community. The bill would require that elected officials and community boards be made aware of any plans, making sure that through community conversation, the overall impact can be lessened and that vital services required by the homeless are actually delivered.



Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato meeting with Shalom Task Force, a widely-respected, volunteer-led nonprofit organization that addresses issues of domestic violence, works to ensure healthy marriages and families, and provides support, guidance and total anonymity to those in problematic relationships.



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato was honored to provide turkeys and corned beef donated by Stop and Shop this past year for St. Patrick's Day and Thanksgiving for Veterans from the St. Albans Veterans' Affairs Center, held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Broad Channel.



Mobile Breast Cancer Van hosted by Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato to provide free mammograms to women across the community.

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Chair, Child Product Safety of the Consumer Affairs Committee

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