



Reports to the Community

Summer 2024

Serving the partial or entire communities of:

Briarwood, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia



A Message From
**DAVID I.
WEPRIN**

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. This summer has been a vibrant, busy time in the 24th Assembly District, filled with activity, cultural events, conversations, and celebrations.

The 2024 Legislative Session, which concluded on June 8th, saw us adopt many common-sense legislative initiatives that are now being considered by Governor Kathy Hochul and signed into law. I'm proud to have passed 13 bills this year and I'm a prime co-sponsor on many more that will benefit all New Yorkers. Governor Hochul has signed important measures into law including protecting our youth from harmful online content, retail theft prevention measures, and innovative regulations for lithium-ion batteries and e-scooters.

Like many residents throughout the five boroughs and across the New York Metro Area, I was pleasantly surprised by Governor Kathy Hochul's decision to "indefinitely pause" the implementation of congestion pricing. As the countdown to the June 30th implementation neared, everyday New

Yorkers did what we do best: we spoke up for ourselves and said we won't accept a bad deal! I applaud Governor Hochul for having the courage, not just to listen to us, but to take a tough stand against this misguided policy. New Yorkers should not have to pay the price for the MTA's shortcomings and I will explore alternative revenue streams. I will continue to fight against this unfair congestion pricing tax.

I am also pleased to report that the NYC budget included full restoration of \$58.3 million for the library systems. This funding will help the Queens Public Library support their programming and staffing, and reopen the Hillcrest branch that so many of us use.

My staff and I are ready to assist you should you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Both of my District Offices – 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows and 111-12 Atlantic Avenue #5 in Richmond Hill – are open 5 days a week. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us by phone, mail, email, or an in-person visit. You can call the Fresh Meadows District Office at 718-454-3027 and the Richmond Hill District Office at 718-805-2381, or email my office at weprind@nyassembly.gov.

Be well and enjoy these final weeks of summer!

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly

No Congestion Pricing!

My opposition to the congestion pricing program has been long standing and unwavering for almost two decades. I fought the policy as a member of the New York City Council, and I am still in the fight as your representative for New York's 24th State Assembly District. I have held and attended multiple press conferences in Albany, Queens, and Staten Island to call for a full elimination of congestion pricing. Congestion pricing is not the answer and we need to find alternative revenue sources for the MTA without burdening New Yorkers.



Assemblyman Weprin joins multiple stakeholders and bipartisan elected officials to oppose the implementation of congestion pricing, including the United Federation of Teachers, United Firefighters Officers Association, and the Trucking Association of New York.

Youth Involvement

Organized by the League of Women Voters, this spring I had a student from my district, Reem Khalifa, follow me for their Annual Student Shadow Day. She was able to see what a NY legislator does on a daily basis. I also partner with the Cross Cultural Internship Program from FUSIA yearly to host an intern in my district office to promote cultural exchange between the US and other countries. This year's FUSIA intern is Audrey Loo standing with another of my interns, Adira Muskat, who attends Brandeis University. I am always happy to share the experience of being in the New York government with the next generation.



Assemblyman Weprin with Audrey Loo, Adira Muskat, and Governor Hochul

Cracking Down on Retail Theft

This year's 2024-2025 State Budget creates new protections for retail workers and small business owners and enacts targeted strategies to fight organized retail theft. These new protections include increased criminal penalties for anyone who assaults a retail worker and \$5 million in tax credits for small business owners to invest in added security measures. The budget also makes it illegal to foster stolen goods and authorizes prosecutors to combine the value of stolen goods when bringing a case against thieves. I was proud to support and vote for these pro-worker, pro-business measures.



Assemblyman Weprin with Governor Kathy Hochul and Senate and Assembly colleagues

Maha Lakshmi Mandir Community Center

Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. and I joined the leadership of the Maha Lakshmi Mandir to tour their construction site for a new community center. Once completed, this center will offer a much-needed space in Richmond Hill for workshops on mental health and wellness, domestic violence prevention, cultural expos, and partnerships with local schools and organizations to offer after-school programs and tutoring. I look forward to the completion of this project and the many community services it will provide.



Karan Singh, Mike Singh, Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Janet Ramkaran, Executive Member of the Maha Lakshmi Community Center, LuLu Singh, Ravi Doobay, Assemblyman Weprin, and Rudy Toolasprashad

Celebrate Israel Day Parade

This year's Celebrate Israel Day Parade was different. There was a call for the hostages kidnapped on October 7, 2023, to be released. Families of the hostages spoke and elected officials along with spectators heeded the call to "Bring Them Home." I want to thank the NYPD for providing advanced security measures to ensure that there were no disruptions or disturbances.



Assemblyman Weprin with Congressman Tom Suozzi

Visiting the Nova Exhibit & Survivor Testimony

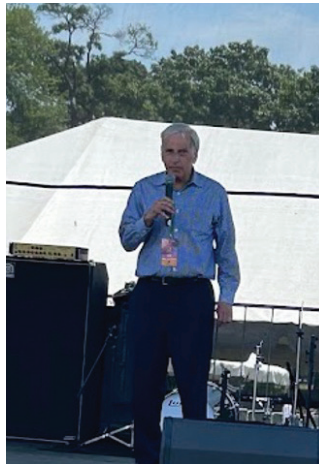
I had the opportunity to visit the Nova Music Festival Exhibition while it was in NYC. I viewed footage of the October 7th massacre in southern Israel and saw artifacts from the Nova music festival attack. It was somber and deeply troubling to learn about this terrible attack, but I also found the exhibit to be a moving experience. I joined community members at the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates to hear Lahav Deri share his harrowing story of survival in the face of Hamas's brutal attack. I continue to stand with our leaders in Washington to demand that we free the hostages who are still being held captive by Hamas.



Assemblyman Weprin at the Nova Exhibition

Juneteenth Celebrations

As a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, Asian Caucus, I celebrated Juneteenth by attending a flag raising ceremony in Harlem to commemorate the end of slavery in the U.S. after the Civil War at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building. I also attended a Juneteenth celebration at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. It was a day filled with cultural festivities, music, and community spirit. Local BIPOC-owned business owners and sponsored partners held an array of activities and had items for attendees of all ages to enjoy.



Senator Robert Jackson, Assemblyman Weprin, Assemblywoman Michelle Solages, Senator Cordelle Cleare, Senator John Liu, Assemblyman Al Taylor, and Assemblyman Steve Raga

Rain Barrel Giveaway

I was proud to partner with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection for our annual rain barrel giveaway at Cunningham Park & Phil “Scooter” Rizzuto Park. The barrels help conserve water which can be used for many purposes. We should all do our part for conservation!

Assemblyman Weprin with Harpreet Singh Toor, DEP staff, and a rain barrel recipient at Phil “Scooter” Rizzuto Park



Members of my staff and summer interns at Cunningham Park

Protecting Our Kids Online

As a cosponsor, I was proud to join Governor Hochul as she signed the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act (A8148A) to require social media companies to restrict addictive feeds on their platforms for users under 18 as well as the New York Child Data Protection Act (A8149A) to prohibit online sites from collecting, using, sharing, or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18. Since the pandemic, our youth have become more attached to their devices than ever before. These bills will help safeguard our youth when they go online.



Assemblyman Weprin, Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia, Assemblywoman Michelle Solages, Melinda Pearson, President of NYSUT, Senator Andrew Gounardes, Michael Mulgrew, President of UFT, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, NYS Attorney General Letitia James, Assemblyman Steve Otis

Fighting for LGBTQIA+ Community

I stood with Governor Hochul as she signed a package of bills including A8834B, which I sponsored. As Chair of the Committee on Insurance, I re-established that insurance companies cannot discriminate based on race, religion, age, color, nationality, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or prescribed medication. This bill codifies Department of Financial Services regulations prohibiting discrimination against individuals who were prescribed pre-exposure prophylaxis, otherwise known as PrEP, medication for HIV prevention, with respect to life, accident, and health insurance coverage. We still need to fight for LGBTQIA+ rights and challenge discrimination wherever we see it.



Assemblymember Tony Simone, Councilmember Erik Bottcher, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, Assemblyman Weprin, Governor Hochul, Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, MTA Chairman Janno Lieber, and Congressman Jerry Nadler

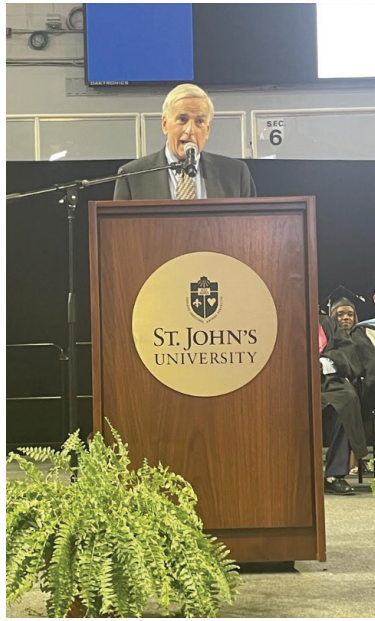
Street Co-Naming in Richmond Hill

I joined Councilmember Lynn Schulman for a street renaming in honor of Sheikh Hamoud Saeidi who was tragically shot and killed last July while walking to his Mosque. Hence forth, Jamaica Avenue and 109th Street in Richmond Hill will be known as Sheikh Hamoud Saeidi Way. May his legacy live on and his family follow in his ways.



Commencement Ceremonies

I had the honor of addressing the graduating classes of 2024 at Richmond Hill High School and the Queens High School for Teaching, Liberal Arts, and the Sciences. I encouraged the students to follow their dreams and not give up when life gets hard. We are proud of all that they have accomplished.



Celebrating the ADA at Queens College

I gathered with the Queens College Committee for Disabled Students (CDS) and the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) for their annual celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This year marked the 34th anniversary of the signing of the ADA. As the former Chair of the Task Force for People with Disabilities, I am committed to promoting and ensuring that accommodations and support services are available for students with disabilities.



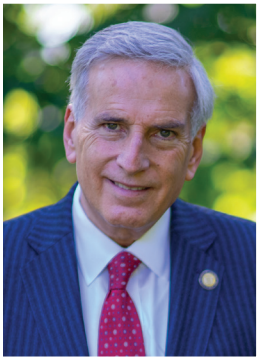
Giving to the Community with River Fund

I visited River Fund during one of their weekly distributions to the elderly and disabled community. Through their efforts not only do they distribute 1.2 million pounds of food per month, but they also connect those in need with educational, vocational, and health services. I'm very pleased to have safety net organizations like River Fund operating in the 24th Assembly District.

Assemblyman Weprin gathers with volunteers including Community Board 9 Chair Sherry Algreto [far left], River Fund Director of Programs Karina Izquierdo [second from left], and River Fund Founder & CEO Swami Durga Das [second from right]



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblyman
DAVID I. WEPRIN

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Community*



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Celebrating Memorial Day in Queens

It was a privilege to once again join the Queens community in honoring our fallen service members. I joined Mayor Eric Adams and American Legion Post 1424 for the 2024 Forest Hills Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade. Later in the day I marched in the 103rd College Point Memorial Day Parade with local leaders like Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. Queens always shows up to pay our respects to those who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.



Assemblyman Weprin, Mayor Eric Adams, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, and Council Member Lynn Schulman march in the Forest Hills Memorial Day Parade



Assemblyman Weprin and Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz march in the 103rd College Point Memorial Day Parade