

**November 22, 2019**

Greetings –

Today I sent a letter to the Chair of the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) along with 14 of my Assembly colleagues to urge them to not only reject National Grid’s proposed rate increase, but also to initiate a penalty proceeding for their infliction of extreme, foreseeable and unnecessary harms and losses to business and residential customers in the areas affected by their coercive and self-imposed gas moratorium. National Grid’s behavior has been nothing short of disgraceful since May when they first instituted this moratorium without consultation with elected officials or warning. [My letter follows the news last week that Governor Cuomo is giving National Grid until next Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> to demonstrate a real plan to connect new customers, otherwise he said that he would revoke their license to operate its downstate gas business.](#) The fact is that National Grid’s tactics have been coercive and that any prudent company would have had other short-term alternatives to their dirty and dated natural gas pipeline. It’s time to ensure we protect our environment, by enacting a moratorium on all new natural gas pipelines. We must make sure the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act becomes a reality and that we, at a minimum, mitigate 85% of our fossil fuel needs by 2040.

**Early Voting Hearing**



As a member of the Election Law Committee in the Assembly, I took part in a hearing this week with the Board of Elections from both the State and City to debrief the first early voting period in New York’s history.

I voted early, like many of you, and found the experience to be pleasant and the poll site to be well run. We in the legislature must continue to stay on top of the Board of Elections to ensure that this positive experience continues in future higher turn-out elections, like the Presidential Election in 2020, and that any kinks in the system are worked out. Additionally, it's always my focus on the legislative side to make sure we continue to make it easier for more voters to vote – so I will be working on various legislative initiatives throughout this upcoming session to accomplish that goal.

### **Public Campaign Financing Commission**

Next week the New York Public Campaign Financing Commission will render its **binding recommendations**. I am a strong supporter of New York developing a robust small-dollar matching campaign finance system, but the commission is likely to create something ineffectual and unworkable that will probably gut minor parties. I didn't support the creation of this commission from the start. It was cooked up behind closed doors just prior to the budget vote in April and it abdicates the legislature's law-making authority. [It's why I voted no on the budget and said this on floor of the Assembly:](#)





ICYMI – [here is my oped on the Commission in the New York Daily News, with Senator Julia Salazar.](#)

### **Street Safety on Coney Island Avenue and Ocean Parkway**

On Monday, Councilmember Brad Lander and I brought officials from the New York City Department of Transportation, as well as police officers from the 66<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> police precincts to PS 889/MS 890 in Kensington to discuss street safety issues along Coney Island Avenue and Ocean Parkway.



One of the issues that I flagged and have discussed with MTA, DOT and NYPD are the businesses along Coney Island Avenue that constantly utilize the parking lane, a traffic lane and even the sidewalk for their personal business. This regularly creates safety hazards for pedestrians, buses, bicyclists and other motorists. Businesses that are not obeying the laws and are making our streets more dangerous must be held to account. Following Monday's town hall, I personally attended the 66<sup>th</sup> police precinct community council meeting on Thursday and spoke to Commanding Officer King about these issues. It's critical that they are addressed properly. There is a 66<sup>th</sup> Precinct Sector D Neighborhood Coordinating Officer meeting taking place on December 4th at PS 889/MS890. If you are concerned about these issues, I hope that you can attend to make your voice heard. Details below:

<p><b>BUILD THE BLOCK</b> Neighborhood Policing &amp; Safety Meeting</p>	<p><b>66 PRECINCT SECTOR D</b> KENSINGTON AND DITMAS</p>	<p>For accommodations regarding any disability, please contact Lieutenant Michael Bergenbaum at (718) 851-5615 or Michael.Bergenbaum@nypd.org at least 72 hours (three days) prior to the event. (By 12/1/2019)</p> 
<p>The NYPD officers serving your community invite you to a discussion of the public safety challenges in our neighborhood.</p> <p>With neighborhood policing, the Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), and the Steady Sector Officers who work with them, have been given more time and opportunity to collaborate with residents in identifying and solving local quality of life conditions and crime concerns. The same officers are assigned to our community each day, so these officers learn the neighborhood, its challenges and potential, and the people who call it home.</p> <p>This is a new way of doing business for the NYPD, and we need your help to make it work. We want to hear from a broad range of voices about what it will take to make all the residents of our neighborhood feel safe and secure. Please join us for what we hope will be a lively and productive discussion.</p>		
<p><b>MEETING DATE:</b> Wednesday, December 4, 2019</p> <p><b>MEETING TIME:</b> Doors open at 6:30 PM for refreshments Meeting starts at 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>MEETING SITE:</b> Public School 889 21 Hinckley pl Brooklyn, NY 11218</p> <p><b>SPONSORED BY:</b> YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION OFFICERS Police Officer Karol Smiarowski Police Officer Viviane Perrone</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/nypd66pct">https://www.facebook.com/nypd66pct</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/nypd66pct">https://twitter.com/nypd66pct</a></p>	<p><b>GOAL</b> TO IDENTIFY POLICING &amp; PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY</p>	 <p><b>NYPD</b> New York City Police Department</p>

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

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