

**Assemblyman**  
**William COLTON**  
 Spring 2010

**FIGHTING FOR US  
 AND OUR COMMUNITY**

**Colton Supporting Education**



Assemblyman Colton is seen here meeting with some of the District 21 teachers. Colton is fighting to restore education funding after the governor proposed an unprecedented cut of \$1.2 billion. The cut is on top of the failure to include promised increases under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court case, to make-up for decades of short-changing New York City schools.

**Colton Encourages Arrive Alive Prom Pledge**



Assemblyman Colton is seen here being presented with a Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) cap from Brooklyn Director Mary Jane Marra. With the help of MADD, the Assemblyman encouraged juniors and seniors throughout the district to sign the "Arrive Alive Pledge." Under this pledge, a teenage student promises that they will not drink and drive, and in case of an emergency, the parent agrees to be a designated driver.

**Colton Working for Our Community**



Assemblyman Colton is seen here at a toy drive with Steve Chung, Co-President of the United Chinese Association, and Marlboro residents. The Assemblyman's number one priority is serving his community and bringing joy, hope, and guidance to all of the neighborhood residents.

**Brooklyn Italian Soccer Club Gives Colton Man of the Year Award**



Assemblyman William Colton is shown receiving the Man of the Year Award from the Brooklyn Italian Soccer Club dinner host Vincent Lagamba and Sal Rapaglia, President of the Eastern NYS Amateur Youth Soccer Club. Assemblyman Colton received the award in appreciation for his constant support of youths and soccer programs in the neighborhood, including those run by the Brooklyn Italian Soccer Club at Dreier Offerman Park.

## COLTON COLLECTS 5,000 PETITIONS IN SUPPORT OF *FREE* STUDENT MetroCards

When the MTA threatened to eliminate free student metro cards, Assemblyman Colton came out in strong opposition to the proposal stating, "Education must be our top priority. It is the responsibility of the state and city to ensure reliable transportation for our students and to support their education in every way."

In a successful effort to unite the community around opposition to the proposed cut, Assemblyman Colton launched

a neighborhood-wide petition drive and collected some 5,000 petitions. The Assemblyman strongly believes that the community should raise its voice on issues which affect their children's future and the future of the state. As a former teacher, Assemblyman Colton understands the stress that students face and eliminating free transportation would be an unnecessary obstacle to our children's education.

## COLTON PROTECTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

### Colton to the MTA: Stop the Screech

Assemblyman Colton sent a letter to the MTA on behalf of a local business owner Louis Gellman, demanding that the MTA significantly reduce the awful screeching sound coming from the trains as they approach his 2050 Stillwell Avenue auto services shop, in the vicinity of the 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station.

### Long-Term Exposure to Noise Bad for Health

Current New York State law requires the MTA to perform an annual Noise Abatement Study. The study requires the MTA to list the measures it is taking to reduce the level of noise.

Assemblyman Colton is currently investigating the possible MTA failure to comply with required noise abatement studies and is demanding that they comply with such noise reduction measures immediately.

### Colton to the MTA: Cut the Waste

Assemblyman Colton also points out that excessive screeching is the sound of taxpayer's money being wasted. "It is in the best interests of the MTA to reduce the wear and tear on these tracks and subway car wheels, so it can



*Assemblyman Colton personally visited the site and took decibel readings and confirmed that the sound levels were outrageously high and a nuisance to Mr. Gellman's customers and other residents.*

prolong the use and prevent unnecessary repairs and expenses. State and city governments are cutting costs at every corner and the public authorities must follow suit," the Assemblyman stated.

## COLTON HELPING SENIORS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

### Access to Home Ensures Access to Independence

The Access to Home program provides help with the cost of adapting homes to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, to enable them to live safely and comfortably in their home, avoiding institutional care. The maximum amount of the grant is \$25,000 and can be used to install wheelchair ramps and lifts, expanded doorways, stair glides, support bars for the bathroom, and much more.

Recently, Assemblyman Colton secured a grant for a disabled constituent who can now continue to enjoy the

independence of living in his home where he and his wife have lived for most of their lives. Assemblyman Colton is committed to improving the quality of life for all constituents and wants to help other elderly or disabled residents remain in their homes.

Funds are limited for this program so interested individuals should contact the **Assemblyman's Albany office** at **518-455-5828** for further details.

## Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)

Assemblyman Colton's Community Office Helps Seniors Apply for Rent Assistance and Other Affordable Housing Programs

Please Call: (718) 236-1598

### Eligibility

- ✓ Occupies a rent regulated unit or Co-op
- ✓ Paying at least 1/3 of net monthly income for rent
- ✓ Maximum annual income less than \$29,000
- ✓ Head of household must be age 62+



## COLTON EXPOSES TAX UNFAIRNESS BY LAUNCHING TOP 250 TAX CHEAT WEBSITE

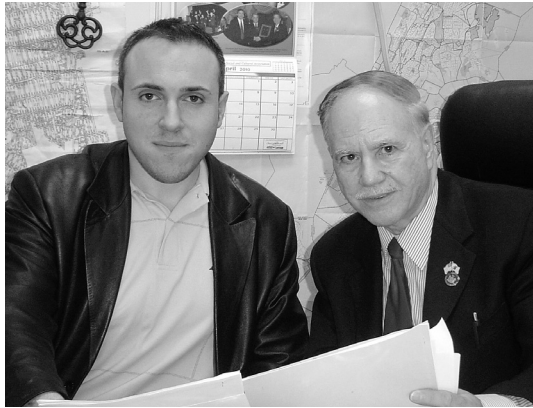
### Colton Exposes Billions in Delinquent Taxes

Less than a year ago Assemblyman Colton exposed some \$14 billion dollars in uncollected tax warrants, much of it from ongoing businesses and wealthy individuals. He then introduced a tax delinquent bill (A.7381), requiring the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to post the top two-hundred and fifty individual and business tax delinquents on their website.

Assemblyman Colton introduced this bill to ensure hard-working families weren't footing the bill for tax cheats failing to pay their fair share.

### Tax Cheat Website Implemented

Since last fall, the Assemblyman negotiated with the Department of Taxation and Finance to get the program up and running. After months of planning, the Department implemented a user-friendly database of tax delinquents on their website at: <http://www.tax.state.ny.us>.



*Assemblyman Colton is shown here with community leader Mark Treyger, who alerted the Assemblyman to the billions of delinquent tax dollars going uncollected.*

### Pursue Financial Giants for Unpaid Taxes

Assemblyman Colton has recently been in the news calling on the state and city tax departments to aggressively pursue bankruptcy court claims for the \$1.9 billion in taxes owed by the financial giant Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc. In a letter sent to the state Tax Commissioner Jamie Woodward Assemblyman Colton wrote, "The taxpayers are the most consequential creditor Lehman has and these monies must be demanded to prevent the terrible cuts to our school children, seniors and families which are being imminently threatened." The Bankruptcy Court is considering a plan by Lehman Brothers to repay to its creditors up to forty-four cents on the dollar.

*"This website is the first step in establishing a fair tax system which does not overly burden hard-working families, our children, or our seniors. We should not be burdening the tax-paying families by requiring them to pay more or reducing services for our school children, seniors, or our healthcare, while tax delinquents refuse to pay their fair share."*

— Assemblyman Colton

## COLTON WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE LEGISLATURE TO PREVENT VIOLENT CRIME

### Introduces Bill to Ban Undetectable Knives

Assemblyman Colton recently introduced a bill (A.10036/S.6938) which would ban the sale and possession of knives that cannot be detected by a metal detector. The bill is modeled after a law in California and is meant to keep these knives out of the hands of dangerous individuals or even terrorists that might want to bypass security and harm the general public.

"These weapons present a security risk wherever metal detectors are used to prevent violence or acts of terror. It is troubling such weapons are easily accessible online, or through mail catalogues, and are often advertised as being non-magnetic and razor sharp. We must be vigilant by preventing criminal activity and by acting decisively before tragedy strikes," the Assemblyman stated.

### Sponsored Law Banning Internet Predators from Social Networking Sites

Assemblyman Colton has worked to protect minors from an alarming danger by internet predators. He was a sponsor of the E-STOP legislation which passed in 2008, extending restrictions on sex offenders' access to social networking sites. In cases of high level sex offenders, it banned their use of sites which could be used to contact minors. A sex offender now faces strong felony penalties if they violate any of the conditions in the law.

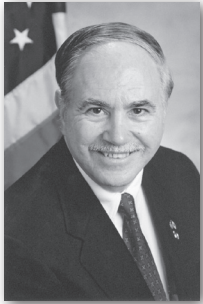
### Hosted D.A. Program on Internet Safety for Children

In continuing the fight to protect our children against internet predators and cyber bullying, Assemblyman Colton co-sponsored an event with Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes on April 29th to raise awareness about the use of the internet to harass and potentially harm children. Assemblyman Colton encourages all parents to be engaged with their children on these matters and intervene when they feel their child's safety is at risk.

*Assemblyman Colton is pictured with neighborhood resident Todd Dobrin, who uncovered the danger posed by these knives.*



*Assemblyman Colton is pictured with Assistant District Attorney's Chris Laline and Alexander Gurevitch from the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.*



**A Message to Veterans  
from  
Assemblyman  
William Colton**

*The more than 1.1 million veterans and their families living in New York State are a powerful voice advocating for better veterans' programs and benefits. As your Assemblyman, I have supported the creation of numerous veteran benefit packages that directly help veterans and their families.*

*These programs and benefits include expanding property tax exemptions, reducing utility rates for veterans' organizations, giving veterans priority status in job training and employment opportunities, creating a program to assist WWII vets earn their high school diploma, and higher education grants to vets and children who lost a parent in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars.*

*I am truly grateful for your contributions to our country and pledge my continued dedication to the needs of veterans and our brave young men and women serving overseas at this time. If you have any questions or concerns please contact my community office.*

Very truly yours,

Assemblyman William Colton

**Veteran Resources**

**NEED HELP APPLYING  
FOR BENEFITS?**

**Call My Community Office:  
718-236-1598**

- ✓ Federal, State and Active Duty Benefits
- ✓ Education Scholarships
- ✓ Preferential Employment
- ✓ Financial Benefits
- ✓ Tax Exemptions
- ✓ State License Discounts
- ✓ Disability Benefits

**NYS Division of  
Veteran Affairs**

**1-888-838-7697 (VETSNYS)  
[www.veterans.ny.gov](http://www.veterans.ny.gov)**

**MetroCard Mobile Sales Outreach**

**MetroCard Mobile Sales Staff will assist those who are eligible:**

**Seniors 65+**

Senior citizens 65 years of age and older can apply for an MTA Reduced-Fare MetroCard and can receive a temporary card the same day. Proper proof of age, such as a Medicare Card, is required.

**Seniors with Disabilities**

People with qualifying disabilities with a Medicare card and a valid photo I.D., such as a driver's license, can apply for a Reduced-Fare MetroCard and receive a temporary card the same day.

**People with Disabilities**

People with qualifying disabilities without a Medicare card can also apply. No temporary card will be issued and the applicant must first meet all qualifying criteria. Please note that the application processing may take up to 8 weeks.

**Reduced  
MetroCard Dates:**

- Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**
- Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**
- Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**
- Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Time:**

**10 A.M. -  
12 NOON**

**Location:**

**Assemblyman  
COLTON'S  
Community Office**  
155 Kings Highway (between  
West 12<sup>th</sup> and West 13<sup>th</sup> Streets)  
Brooklyn, NY 11223-1026  
(718) 236-1598

*Summer Earthfest  
2010*

*Presented by:*

**Urban Divers Estuary  
Conservancy**

The Enviromedia Mobile  
will be at Bensonhurst  
Park on Sunday:

**June 27<sup>th</sup>,  
July 18<sup>th</sup> and  
August 29<sup>th</sup>**

From 1PM-5PM

Bring the whole family to  
experience the traveling nature  
and Maritime Museum made  
possible with the support of  
Assemblyman Colton!

**For more info call:  
347-224-5828**

**ASSEMBLYMAN COLTON'S**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVING YOU**

**155 Kings Highway (Between West 12<sup>th</sup> and West 13<sup>th</sup> Street) • 718-236-1598**

**E-mail: [coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:coltonw@assembly.state.ny.us)**

Monday-Wednesday ..... 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Thursday ..... Noon to 8 P.M.  
Friday ..... 10 A.M. to Noon