



Assemblyman **Simcha Eichenstein**



**Winter 2019
Update**

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Dear Neighbor:

As the new year approaches, we in the State Legislature look forward to the upcoming 2020 legislative session and to addressing the many issues that affect New Yorkers. I am proud of what we've accomplished on matters that directly impact our neighborhoods, but there is still much to be done.

I am humbled by the feedback and support I've received from many of you. Our community is wonderful in so many ways and it's an honor and privilege to be representing you in the State Assembly.

My dedicated staff and I are here to serve you and are always willing to help. Feel free to reach out to us with any concerns or comments. Our office is located at 1310 48th Street, 2nd Floor. We can be reached at district48@nyassembly.gov, or you can always feel free to call us at (718) 853-9616.

I look forward to continuing to serve you with integrity and honor.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, 48th District



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein testifies at the MTA Board Meeting.

Residents Welcome F Express Subway Service

Subway service just improved for some commuters who ride the F train. That's because the MTA recently launched express F train service during the morning and afternoon rush hours which will significantly reduce the commute time. Two Manhattan-bound F trains will be running express in the mornings and two Brooklyn-bound express trains will be in service during the afternoon rush hour.

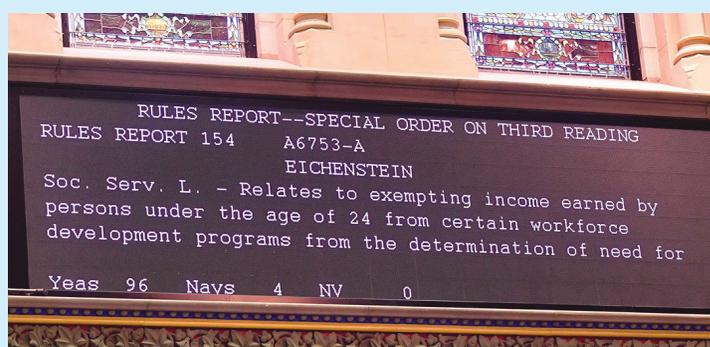
Assemblyman Eichenstein has been pushing for the MTA to come up with a plan that would reduce travel time for his constituents who ride the F train and are frustrated by the long and tedious trip. While Assemblyman Eichenstein applauds the decision of the MTA to initiate the express service, this can only be a first step and he will continue to fight for additional express service on the F line.

Governor Cuomo Signs Assemblyman Eichenstein's Summer Youth Employment Program Legislation Into Law

New Law Will Ease Financial Burden on New York Families

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed into law Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein's legislation exempting the income of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) from a family's household income as it relates to public assistance. This legislation, now law, will eliminate the difficulties for young adults from low-income households that were unable to participate in SYEP, due to the risk of their household losing its public assistance. "I am thrilled that more young people will now be able to take advantage of these hugely beneficial summer employment experiences," said Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. Last year, approximately 75,000 young adults in New York City alone gained valuable work during the summer months through SYEP. Locally, in Assemblyman Eichenstein's district, over 12,500 youths were enrolled in SYEP last year, through two providers: National Society for Hebrew Day Schools and the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. This new legislation means that families will now be able to continue receiving public assistance services they qualify for regardless of their children's participation in SYEP. Previously, income earned through

SYEP could push a family above the income cut off for public assistance. This led many parents to restrict their children's participation in SYEP. Now that there is a law exempting the income from SYEP from the calculation of household income as it relates to eligibility for public assistance, young adults can be free to participate in this valuable summer employment experience without fear that their family will lose their most vital government assistance.



Voting on Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein's Legislation on the Assembly Floor.

Our Neighborhoods Must Be Counted in the Upcoming 2020 Census

Assemblyman Eichenstein Hosted a Meeting of Census Officials and Local Leaders At District Office

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein hosted over 30 Borough Park and Midwood community leaders at his district office to strategize and plan for the upcoming 2020 census. At the meeting, which included Joli Golden, a Partnership Specialist from the U.S. Census Bureau and the New York City Director of Census Julie Menin, Assemblyman Eichenstein addressed the need for residents of our communities to participate in the census next year.

Only 49% of the residents in the Borough Park area and only 57% of Midwood residents responded to the 2010 census, one of the lowest response rates in New York City. Census data determines how hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding is distributed and an underrepresented district can significantly reduce a community's services.

Census Bureau representatives explained that any personal information gathered at a census remains confidential and that all residents are required by law



to participate. Census responses are sealed for 72 years after each census, ensuring the greatest level of privacy. A committee will be formed to address census outreach and several local pop-up sites are planned that will significantly help district residents to respond to the census in a swift and efficient manner.

Are you frustrated with a bureaucratic agency? Our district office is here to help you.

Here are a couple of the ways we recently helped constituents overcome the bureaucratic red tape:

Department of Sanitation Withdraws Summons

Members of Congregation O.S. take pride in the appearance of their synagogue and are generally very careful to maintain the cleanliness of their property. So they were surprised to discover that they were issued a summons for debris on the synagogue's front sidewalk.

A surveillance video on the day of the summons clearly showed that the mess in front of the synagogue was a direct result of negligence on the part of a sanitation worker. A bag of garbage tore open during trash pickup and spilled all over the sidewalk. Instead of cleaning up the debris, as is proper procedure, the worker walked away from the mess. Not surprisingly, a summons was issued shortly afterwards.

Congregation O.S. shared the video with Assemblyman Eichenstein's office and we in turn presented it to the DSNY as evidence. The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) was contacted and the summons was ultimately withdrawn. The summons was removed and the Department acknowledged that procedures were not properly followed.

Civil Service Exam Rescheduled

In order to advance in his career, Mr. P was obligated to take a mandatory civil service exam. But the exam was scheduled for Saturday, and Mr. P was unable to attend due to his religious restrictions. He requested special permission to have his test administered on Sunday instead, but he was denied. Worst of all, he would have to wait four years until the next exam was scheduled.

Mr. P reached out to Assemblyman Eichenstein's office for help. Our staff was on the case. We contacted the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) multiple times and explained that this is religious discrimination. Finally, special authorization was granted so that Mr. P could indeed take the exam on Sunday. His religious beliefs were properly recognized and accommodated.

"It's expensive enough here. It's only fair that the city take care of its sidewalks and trees. This change will help make our neighborhoods and streets safer and save homeowners money."

– Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein

ABC 7 NY

Sept. 10, 2019

New York City to take responsibility for sidewalk damage caused by city trees

Under the Trees and Sidewalks Program, New York City will:

Cancel liens against homeowners for damage caused by city trees and review all outstanding sidewalk violations

Complete 5,500 urgent repairs over the next three years

Expedite the re-evaluation process for homeowners in the process of selling or refinancing their homes

To sign up for the program or learn more, visit

www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/trees-sidewalks-program or call 311.

Hundreds Participate in Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein's Free Community Events



Hundreds of local residents participated in two free events hosted by Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. On October 28, over 125 residents of Borough Park and Midwood took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of their electronic waste, and on October 30, over 150 people came to Assemblyman Eichenstein's district office to take advantage of the paper shredding event. Both events were held as a service to the community and free of charge. Many constituents expressed their appreciation. "Our documents and papers were accumulating for a very long time," said Hindy, who lives in Midwood. "Thank you Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein for giving us this opportunity."

Assemblyman Eichenstein Participates in Panel Discussion at Agudath Israel Legislative Breakfast

Assemblyman Eichenstein Attributes His Success to His Yeshiva Education



Over 150 community leaders, yeshiva representatives and government officials attended the Agudath Israel of America Annual Legislative Breakfast in September. This year's breakfast was focused on addressing the benefits of yeshiva education and reaffirming a parent's constitutional right to choose the best schools for their children's education.

The highlight of the program was a panel discussion in which Assemblyman Eichenstein participated alongside other distinguished, proud graduates of the yeshiva education system.

In his remarks, Assemblyman Eichenstein credited his yeshiva education for preparing him for a career in public office.

"Yeshiva education is a rigorous education. There is critical thinking involved and literacy skills are there as well." His Talmudic education, said Assemblyman Eichenstein, helped prepare him for his role as a

New York State legislator. "I read legislation, we debate legislation, we argue and we negotiate. Talmudic law may not be the law of the land but the critical thinking concepts are the same."

Assemblyman Eichenstein went on to denounce SED's proposed regulations. "We have to ask ourselves what is really going on here," he wondered, given that the NYC Department of Education has recently committed to a plan of culturally responsive education for its public schools yet the State Education Department does not seem to consider the culture of the yeshiva system.

Assemblyman Eichenstein acknowledged that this completely unnecessary crisis is by far the single greatest challenge facing the yeshiva community, and unequivocally demonstrated his commitment to an education steeped in tradition and values, something that no yeshiva parent is willing to forgo.



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1. Assemblyman Eichenstein along with Councilman Chaim Deutsch visits Club Nissim, a social day program for Holocaust survivors, at the Boro Park Y.

2. Assemblyman Eichenstein hands out free meals to children at Dome Park together with Met Council CEO David Greenfield and volunteers. He is joined by Assemblyman Robert Carroll and Councilman Brad Lander.



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Assemblyman Eichenstein discusses High Holiday safety and security measures with local NYPD precinct.



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4. Assemblyman Eichenstein presents proclamation at Boro Park JCC ribbon cutting ceremony.

5. Assemblyman Eichenstein visits P.S. 180 in Borough Park.



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Assemblyman Eichenstein delivers remarks at Hamaspik HomeCare ribbon cutting ceremony.



Assemblyman Eichenstein joins a 100th Birthday celebration at Ateret Avot Senior Living, in Midwood.



Boro Park JCC computer class held at Assemblyman Eichenstein's district office.