

IMPROVING OUR LIBRARIES

Libraries provide resources to New Yorkers regardless of age, race, or economic status. This year, the City will increase funding of all three library systems by \$39 Million, allowing for all library branches to be open six days per week. Six-day service will make our libraries' resources available to more New Yorkers.

Libraries in our district will also be improved. We allocated \$180,000 to make the Queens Library Astoria branch ADA accessible, making that branch inclusive for all. We also allocated funding to ProjectArt, Little Orchestra Society, and Queens Page to Stage for arts and music programming at the Queens Library branches.



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL • 250 BROADWAY • 30TH FLOOR • NY, NY 10007



NEWS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

COSTA CONSTANTINIDES

SUMMER 2015

22nd District, Queens

22nd Council District, Queens

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



Through Participatory Budgeting, community members directly decide how to spend \$1 million or more on community improvements to parks, schools, libraries, streets, and more. Community members discuss local needs at Neighborhood Assembly meetings and then develop proposals to meet these needs. Through a public vote, residents then decide which proposals to fund.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLIES: ALL TIMES ARE FROM 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Sept. 16 – Bohemian Hall, 29- 19 24th Ave., Astoria

Sept. 17 – Boulevard Gardens Assembly Hall, 51-42 30th Ave., Woodside

Sept. 21 – Bulova Corporate Center, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., East Elmhurst

Sept. 30 – Astoria Houses Community Center, 4-25 Astoria Blvd., Astoria

For information on meeting dates and ways you can get involved please visit our website at council.nyc.gov/pb

REAL MONEY! REAL PROJECTS! REAL POWER!





COSTA CONSTANTINIDES

22nd District, Queens

Dear Residents of the 22nd District:

We've been busy working in City Hall to implement a balanced and fiscally responsible budget for Fiscal Year 2016. The budget includes funding that will bring educational, environmental, and recreational improvements to our district and our city. Please visit our website Council.NYC.gov/Costa for more information.

I look forward to working with you as we move forward with these new projects and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Costa

Council Member
22nd District, Queens

KEEPING OUR STREETS SAFE

Keeping our streets safe was a top priority for the City Council during the budget negotiation process. The city will hire 1,300 additional police officers, and move over 400 officers from desk duty. The additional officers will make our neighborhoods safer through community policing.

A REVITALIZED WATERFRONT

Improving access to and use of Astoria's waterfront has been a top priority for me. Our waterfront should work better for all residents and we have been working to utilize its resources. In June it was announced that ferry service will come to our district in 2017, providing a vital transportation option for our residents to connect with Manhattan, Long Island City, and Roosevelt Island's new technical university. The ferry will help transform how we think about

moving around our city and will be accessible for the cost of a MetroCard.

Borough President Melinda Katz and I collaborated to further transform our waterfront by allocating over \$2 million to construct an eco-dock at Hallets Peninsula. For a community that has been cut off from the waterfront for decades, this dock would provide hands-on educational and recreational opportunities to our residents. The eco-dock

would also provide the opportunity for environmental and marine programming for students, as well as a kayak launch for the community.

I also secured \$1.21 million for improvements at Hallets Cove Playground along the waterfront - \$1 million from Borough President Katz and \$210,000 from my discretionary budget. I allocated \$350,000 to NYCHA Astoria Houses for upgrades to its basketball court.



NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

Photo credit: William Alastriste



I'm proud to have been appointed as the new chairman of the Council's Environmental Protection Committee. I look forward to continuing our vision to make our city greener and more sustainable. The stakes are high for our city and our planet, and continued bold policy relating to our environment will lead us to stronger, sustainable NYC.

We have already made great strides in environmental policy and I plan to help us push even further in reducing our carbon emissions and combating climate change. In 2014, the City Council unanimously passed my legislation to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. As committee chair, I will work to implement policies that raise awareness of climate change and lower reliance on fossil fuels.

Additionally, I will continue my work in the Council on improving our air quality and reducing asthma. The number one reason a child in our district goes to the hospital under the age of 14 is asthma. I introduced two bills this session to protect our air quality. INT. 703 and INT. 712 would require the city to conduct annual air-quality surveys, and to open the city's cooling centers during poor air quality days to keep our vulnerable populations out of harm and improve our overall public health. A permanent online listing of all city cooling centers will give our residents the information they need to keep themselves and their families safe. In this new role as the Environmental Protection chair, I will make improved air quality a top priority.

KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN



Continuing our work to keep Astoria clean was an important part of this year's budget. We allocated \$68,000 to The Doe Fund to sweep the sidewalks of major thoroughfares throughout the district including 30th Avenue, Ditmars Boulevard, and 31st Street. We also allocated \$15,000 to the Queens Economic Development Corporation and additional funding to Central Astoria Local Development Coalition for graffiti cleanup throughout the district. If you see graffiti around the district, contact our office at (718) 274-4500 so that we can have it removed.

This year the Council enhanced its successful NYC Clean Up initiative to \$5.3 million citywide and we will use the additional funding for expanded sidewalk sweeping and graffiti cleanup services.

INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE



Mount Sinai Queens has been providing world-class healthcare to residents of Astoria for the past 16 years. Its current expansion project will soon add even more advanced technologies and high quality facilities. We helped secure \$2.3 million in funding from the City Council Queens Delegation and Speaker Mark-Viverito for a robotic surgeon that will help perform minimally invasive surgeries that save lives.



A DOG RUN IN ASTORIA



As part of Participatory Budgeting, we allocated \$500,000 to build a dog run at Triborough Lot C under the RFK Bridge. The project will receive an additional \$500,000 in funding from Borough President Melinda Katz and State Senator Michael Gianaris. This additional funding will add to the potential scope of the dog run construction.

IMPROVEMENTS AT ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE PARK IN JACKSON HEIGHTS

We allocated almost \$400,000 to the historic One Room Schoolhouse Park in Jackson Heights. The upgrades will include improvements to the sitting area and enhancements to the community garden space. Improving parks bring even greater improvements to the community that surrounds them. Upgrades at One Room Schoolhouse Park would not only preserve the park's rich history, but would also provide a restored green space for the entire Jackson Heights community. Providing high quality recreational and leisure resources to all residents of our district will make our neighborhood thrive, benefit our air quality, and protect our environment.

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE 21 CENTURY

Ensuring our children have access to the tools they need for their future was a priority during the budget process. A total of \$1.145 million was designated for school technology upgrades such as smart boards, laptops, and tablets. \$900,000 of my discretionary capital budget was split evenly among the 15 public schools in our district for this technology. In addition, as part of Participatory Budgeting, \$245,000 will be allocated for additional technology upgrades at several schools.

This budget includes increased resources for children citywide through universal in-class school breakfast

for elementary school students and funding for 52,000 summer youth jobs.

We also made investments to improve our school campuses allocating \$200,000 to create a music room at P.S. 2 for children to receive arts education and \$250,000 to renovate bathrooms at P.S. 151.

I have also allocated \$50,000 to study the feasibility of installing solar panels at P.S. 122. Solar panels would help us reach our city's commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050 and would also allow children to learn first-hand about 21st century green technology.

