

## STAYING UP TO DATE ON LEGISLATION IN 2015

Over the past year, the New York City Council has proposed several pieces of legislation that directly impacts the quality of life for residents of not only District 11, but for all New Yorkers. The following are introductions to look for in 2015 that Council Member Andrew Cohen currently sponsors:

- **Introduction 214:** a local law providing legal counsel for low-income tenants who are subject to eviction, ejection or foreclosure proceedings.
- **Introduction 434:** amending the New York City Administrative Code to make the “gun offender registry” open to the public online and via automatic email notifications.
- **Introduction 435:** amending the New York City Administrative Code to require the Department of Education to report information regarding students receiving special education services.
- **Introduction 460:** amending the New York City Administrative Code to require 311 operators to connect any caller seeking veterans’ suicide prevention services with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs Crisis Line whereby veterans, their families and friends are referred to counselors with expertise in military service-related mental health issues.
- **Introduction 544:** prohibiting the use of wireless communication devices while operating a bicycle.

## HAPPY HANUKKAH 2014

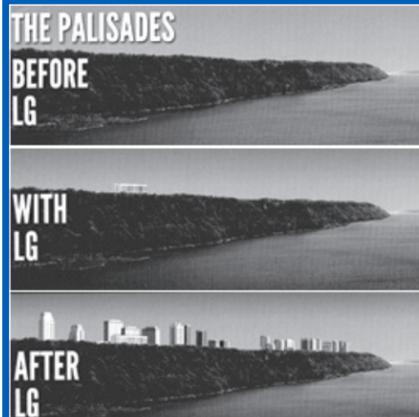


Council Member Andrew Cohen joins Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. to celebrate the third day of Hanukkah.

## PRESERVING THE PALISADES

The Palisades is a natural beauty, the view of which has been preserved and conserved for the benefit of the people of New Jersey and New York alike. That is, until now.

Council Member Andrew Cohen sponsored, with 27 of his colleagues in the City Council, Resolution 251. This resolution calls upon the Borough of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey to withdraw the variance it issued to the LG Corporation (LG) allowing them to build its new headquarters to exceed the thirty-five foot height limit under existing zoning laws and reverse the subsequent change that would allow any future structures to be built over thirty-five feet without variance.



NEWS FROM COUNCIL MEMBER



WINTER 2015

# ANDREW COHEN

11th District, Bronx

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## NEWS UPDATE • WINTER 2015

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER



# Andrew Cohen

11TH DISTRICT, BRONX

## DEAR NEIGHBOR,

As I start my second year as your Council Member, I wanted to send you this update on what has been accomplished in the past year and what to look forward to in the coming year.

I was able to secure capital funding for many of our local parks. A new playground is in store for the northwest corner of Van Cortlandt Park and a skate park will finally be coming to the Williamsbridge Oval. My goal for 2015 is to work, in a concerted effort with the community, to develop designs for the new park facilities and fast track their construction.

At the Council, we passed significant traffic safety legislation that has resulted in the lowest number of fatalities across the City in the last 100 years. The spring is budget season and I will continue to fight for funding our youth, senior and other local programs.

I am proud to announce the opening of my new district office at 277 West 231st Street. It was a priority from day one to have an office that was easily accessible to the entire district. Now people can take the bus or subway, drive or walk, to the office and meet with me or my staff. My office is here to help; if an issue or problem is important to you, then it is important to us.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Cohen**  
Council Member

@ANDREWCOHENNYC



## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT NYC'S SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST

With two Specialized High Schools in District 11, Council Member Andrew Cohen does not believe that changing the admissions criteria is the solution to diversifying the student body at the Bronx High School of Science or the High School of American Studies at Lehman College. It is the Council Member's belief that changing the admissions process to a multi-measure application approach means opening the door to subjectivity, in an otherwise objective admissions standard – one standard, one test, for everyone.

Council Member Cohen participated in a hearing at City Hall on Dec. 11 and is dedicated to implementing changes that will lead to greater diversity and an equitable representation of African-American and Hispanic students at our Specialized High Schools, as well as bridging the educational gap throughout our public school system.

The Council Member is committed to greater access to test prep and greater awareness in our middle schools about the opportunities offered in New York City's Specialized High Schools.

## INDIAN FIELD TO SEE BASEBALL DIAMONDS REPAIRED AND EXPANDED



Council Member Andrew Cohen is joined by Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Senator Jeff Klein and members of the Woodlawn Boys and Girls Club at Indian Field.

Surrounded by local families, community leaders Council Member Andrew Cohen and State Senate Coalition Co-Leader Jeff Klein announced an allocation of \$3 million in capital grants secured in this year's state and city budgets for Indian Field in Woodlawn. The grant will be used to establish a new baseball diamond and completely reconstruct an existing turf area that suffered from chronic flooding, resulting in numerous rained out baseball games.

**"As a member of the Parks Committee, I know the importance of providing quality amenities in the community. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the City Council to ensure that parks projects will be completed on time and within their budget. This is a restoration project the residents of Woodlawn have needed for quite some time and I happy to help put the project in motion,"** said Council Member Cohen.

## IMPROVING BUS SERVICE FOR THE NORTH WEST BRONX

Along with Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz and Senator Klein, Council Member Andrew Cohen has requested that the MTA permanently add buses to the Bx7 and Bx10 bus routes, as well as extend the Bx3 and M100 routes farther north into the Bronx. These permanent improvements, along with the bus countdown clock at the West 231st Street bus stop from capital funds allocated at the beginning of Councilman Cohen's term, will drastically improve the severe overcrowding conditions and extreme wait times that commuters are currently experiencing.

## NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



### PARTICIPATORY BUDGET UPDATE

There was a strong response from the community members that attended District 11 Neighborhood Assemblies and contributed ideas. Almost 200 project ideas were submitted, which included park improvements, additional garbage bins on street corners, security cameras and bus countdown clocks.

In March, Council Member Cohen will hold Community Expos, where members of the community can learn about the project proposals that will be included on the ballot. Residents will be able to vote the following month. Follow Councilman Cohen on Facebook and Twitter for updated information on where and when community expos will be held. Your vote counts!

Residents of District 11 will have the opportunity to vote for project proposals from April 11th through Sunday April 19th. Voting sites will be located in libraries, community centers and other public facilities. A full list of these locations will be distributed in the weeks before the voting period.

## SOMOS CONFERENCE 2014



While attending this year's SOMOS Conference in Puerto Rico, Council Member Andrew Cohen caught up with Carmen Yulin Cruz, the Mayor of San Juan.



Council Member Andrew Cohen joins his Norwood neighbors for a Participatory Budgeting Neighborhood Assembly.

## NEW DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATION

On Dec. 9, Council Member Andrew Cohen was joined by members of the community, as well as Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz at the grand opening of his new district office at 277 West 231st Street.

Since the opening of the new district office several members of the community have visited for help in resolving an array of issues, as well as to receive free notary service.

## KINGSBRIDGE WELCOMES NEWLY OPENED BROADWAY PLAZA

What was once an unused parking lot has now been developed into a shopping center that can be used by the entire community!

In October, Council Member Andrew Cohen joined his fellow elected officials at the ribbon cutting of Broadway Plaza in Kingsbridge. With tenants such as TJ Maxx, Sports Authority, Party City and Aldi, now there is a place for residents of all ages to shop for what they need without having to travel outside of the neighborhood.

**"The opening of Broadway Plaza is a huge success and marks a positive change for the Northwest Bronx,"** said Council Member Cohen.

