

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



In May, I sponsored, along with my colleague Peter Koo of Flushing, a bill that would improve the enforcement of the State's law requiring English to be included on business signs. Then in June, Councilman Koo and I introduced a bill that would close the many loopholes in the State's existing signage law.

Our laws require that 60% of the words on a business sign be in English, and mandates that the store's name, owner's name, address and contact information be prominently displayed in the English language.

This will make these areas safer by making sure police and firefighters can respond to these stores quickly, even if they don't speak the language spoken by the owner. It will help these stores appeal to a broader base of consumers, since most New Yorkers and tourists speak and read English. And it will protect consumers, who should have the right to know where they are buying their goods and services.

SAVE ENGINE 306

Like many of my neighbors, I was shocked when I found out that the City wanted to close Engine 306 in Bayside. I let the City know what I thought about this decision at a large rally in front of the firehouse on June 1. About 400 concerned citizens came out and had their voices heard. I was joined by many of my colleagues in government, including Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, Assembly Members Grace Meng and Edward Braunstein, and Council Members Peter Koo and Elizabeth Crowley.

If Engine 306 closes, this area will have the second-longest response times of any neighborhood in the borough. When it comes to fire response, seconds count. Thirty seconds could be the difference between life and death. I appreciate that we are in a fiscal crisis, but the amount of money saved is marginal compared to the billions we spend on agencies and pet projects that don't save lives. We are continuing to work with Speaker Quinn to prevent this closure.



The City is playing with fire in Northeast Queens. I am determined to save Engine 306 and keep our families safe.

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SUMMER 2011

News from Council Member

DANIEL J. HALLORAN

REPRESENTING: Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Bayside, College Point, Douglaston, Flushing, Little Neck, Malba and Whitestone



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* Tuesday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

First Saturday of each month

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



News 2011 from Council Member

DANIEL J.

HALLORAN



Dear Neighbor,

I hope 2011 has treated you well. I'd like to take this time to fill you in on what's happening in City government.

As your Council Member, I've made it my priority to make sure that residents of Northeast Queens get the City services we deserve. Our district shoulders the second highest tax burden in the City. We should get City services to match - but often, we don't.

As you'll read in this newsletter, I fought against the closing of a critical fire engine company in Bayside, helped co-op owners in their battle to be fairly taxed, and helped to restore and preserve a war memorial in Douglaston.

In the meantime, my office is working hard to protect the families of this district. We've helped thousands of Northeast Queens residents in their dealings with City government.

If you need help with a government-related issue, call my office. We'll make sure your voice is heard and we'll do all we can to resolve the matter in your favor.

Sincerely,

Dan Halloran
Council Member, District 19

OUR HEROIC FIREFIGHTERS



You don't need to look far from Engine 306 to see that firefighters save lives. Firefighter Antonio Velez from Engine 320 in Auburndale saved the life of twelve-year-old Jesse Iacovetta on the morning of January 19. Velez rescued the boy from a fire on 202nd Street, then had the frame of mind to re-enter the home to save the family cat. Both Jesse and his cat have fully recovered.

It was my distinct privilege to honor Firefighter Velez with a City Council proclamation for his bravery. **Our firefighters are true heroes.** They risk their own lives to save others. This is why we must preserve our local fire engines. Every second counts, and thanks to the bravery of Firefighter Velez, young Jesse Iacovetta is alive today, healthy and playing Little League baseball.

CO-OP OWNERS DESERVE THEIR FAIR SHARE

Co-op owners were hit with a shocking increase in their appraised property values this year, which the Department of Finance blamed on a convenient "glitch," that resulted in residential co-ops getting assessed at a rate comparable to commercial properties on Northern Boulevard. This increase is a hidden tax on co-op owners, plain and simple.

There are many co-ops in my district, and I've often said that they are the last bastion of the middle class here in New York City. But co-ops are taxed differently than any other form of housing, and that has to stop. I've worked with my colleagues on all levels of government

to cap the annual amount a co-op assessment can increase, and I'm calling for an audit of the Department of Finance to find out what really caused this mess.

I'm honored to be the co-founder, along with my colleague Mark Weprin, of the City Council's Condo and Co-op Caucus. This caucus has the interests of co-op owners in mind.

If your assessment has skyrocketed in value for no apparent reason, call my office. We succeeded in getting over 70% of such assessments reduced, and we can work for you.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT: DOUGLASTON

Douglaston is home to the historic Douglaston World War I monument right next to the LIRR Station. Unfortunately, this monument has felt the effects of the elements for several decades, and today it is worn and weathered.

When leaders of local civic groups brought this to my attention, I asked the City to restore the monument. Unfortunately, the City wasn't sure which agency was responsible for its maintenance. I'm not concerned about who gets the credit; I just want the monument restored to its former glory. Today, I'm working with the City to make sure that happens. Our veterans deserve a monument that can be a point of pride for the community.



SAFER STREETS, ONE STOP SIGN AT A TIME

15th Avenue in Whitestone had been long plagued by speeding cars that careen through the five-way intersection past P.S. 79. This endangered countless school children and residents of the community.

In March, my office worked with the City to conduct a study on how we could best slow down traffic at this intersection. And on March 5, at my urging, the Department of Transportation installed a four-way stop

sign at this intersection and a "Stop Ahead" sign on 147th Street to slow down traffic approaching the school.

It's my responsibility to protect both these school children and the many residents of Whitestone who walk and drive past this intersection daily. I take this responsibility seriously. This four-way stop will improve the area's quality of life and make it a safer place for everyone.



EARLY DETECTION

I brought this truck, funded by the Brain Tumor Foundation, to Whitestone for a few days in May. The truck provided free brain scans for my constituents.



BAYSIDE HILLS RALLY

I joined residents of Bayside Hills in opposing an irresponsible conversion of a single-family home in that neighborhood. This development would change the neighborhood's unique residential character.



LIBRARY KIDS

Along with my colleagues, I spoke out strongly against proposed cuts to our City's library budget. This spring, I was joined by Council Member Jimmy van Bramer at City Hall for a rally to save our libraries.