

WEPRIN'S WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LAW ENACTED



Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn (front, left), Council Member Mark Weprin (front, center) and Amardeep Singh, Director of Programs, The Sikh Coalition (front, right) stand with supporters of the Workplace Religious Freedom Law following its unanimous passage by the City Council.

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has signed into law a bill sponsored by Council Member Mark Weprin to strengthen the City's Human Rights Law with respect to religious practices in the workplace.

Similar to the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the law requires employers to provide a reasonable accommodation of a religious practice, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the employer. Council Member Weprin's bill redefines what qualifies

as an undue hardship and offers greater protection for religiously observant employees than what is currently available under the federal standard. Council Member Weprin believes that Americans should not have to choose between practicing their religion and performing their job, provided that the religious observance will not stop the employee from doing his or her job safely. The new law will lead to appropriate accommodations being granted and will strengthen religious freedom.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Council Member Karen Koslowitz, Chair, Committee on Economic Development, and Council Members Diana Reyna, Mark Weprin, Peter Koo, James Sanders, Stephen Levin, Margaret Chin, Mathieu Eugene, and Julissa Ferreras, members of the Small Business and Economic Development Committees, participated in a tour that highlighted successful manufacturing operations in the City. Pictured here is their stop at Acme Smoked Fish Corporation, a family-owned business based in Brooklyn. Adam Caslow, Vice President of Acme Smoked Fish Corporation, is pictured at center.

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NEWS UPDATE • WINTER 2012

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

MARK S. WEPRIN

KEEPING NEW YORKERS SAFE



Council Members Vincent Ignizio (left) and Stephen Levin (right) look on as Council Member Mark Weprin speaks about his carbon monoxide detector replacement bill.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has signed into law Council Member Mark Weprin's bill that requires property owners to replace existing carbon monoxide detectors with ones that provide audible warning chirps when they are about to cease operating.

Carbon monoxide is a highly toxic gas that causes two hundred deaths per year in the United States. That is why Local Law 7 of 2004 requires building owners to provide and install at least one approved CO alarm within each dwelling unit. The

problem that has arisen since the requirement took effect is that many CO detectors are nearing the end of their operational lives and older models have no audible indication that they are about to cease to operate. Fortunately, newer CO alarms are designed to chirp when it is time to replace them; this simple design improvement can mean the difference between life and death. Council Member Weprin introduced the measure to require the new detectors because he believes that it is incumbent upon the City to take action to ensure public safety.

MARK WEPRIN VISITS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER



At the command center of the New York City Office of Emergency Management in Brooklyn, Technology Committee Member Mark Weprin and Technology Committee Chair Fernando Cabrera toured the facility and learned about the systems that keep New Yorkers safe during emergencies.

IN THE COMMUNITY

PARKS DEPARTMENT REPLACES VANDALIZED TREES ON HILLSIDE AVENUE



Council Member Mark Weprin joins local civic leaders to condemn the triple arborcide on Hillside Avenue in Floral Park.

After Hurricane Irene swept through the city, three young oak trees were vandalized in front of two stores on Hillside Avenue in Floral Park. The damages totaled more than eleven thousand dollars. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation worked with the New York Police Department to investigate this serious crime and Council Member Weprin offered a thousand dollar reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. In addition to Council Member Mark Weprin's thousand dollar reward, the Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces offered a two hundred dollar reward for any information leading to an arrest. Unfortunately, the law enforcement authorities did not find the responsible party. However, the Parks Department replaced the trees in a timely manner to help keep our community green.

ALLEY POND PARK PLAYGROUND TORCHED



Council Member Mark Weprin was outraged over the torching of a playground located in Alley Pond Park, at the intersection of Springfield Boulevard and 76th Avenue in Oakland Gardens. Thousands of local children use the playground; parents with young children were seen approaching the park and were unable to use the playground due to damage caused by the fire. Immediately after learning about the conflagration, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation initiated an investigation. Council Member Mark Weprin, upset that the children of our community lost access to a beautiful and safe place to play, received assurances from the Parks Department that the refurbishment of the playground will occur soon.

SCHOOL REPORT

Council Member Mark Weprin, a constant advocate for our local schools, regularly visits schools throughout the district to speak with students, teachers, principals, and parents.



Council Member Mark Weprin addresses students and parents at Irwin Altman Middle School 172Q.

Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation participants at Public School 46Q, the Alley Pond School, welcome Council Member Mark Weprin.



SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Students at The Child Center of New York's afterschool program at Public School 188Q welcome Council Member Mark Weprin.



At Public School 162Q, the John Golden School, Council Member Mark Weprin offers words of wisdom to student candidates before they address their fellow classmates to seek their votes for Student Council.



Students who participate in the New York Junior Tennis League program at Public School 205Q, the Alexander Graham Bell School, listen to Council Member Mark Weprin. NYJTL runs the program with funds provided by Council Member Weprin.



Council Member Mark Weprin visited two afterschool programs in Eastern Queens to celebrate the twelfth annual Lights on Afterschool, a national effort by the Afterschool Alliance to highlight the importance of afterschool programs across the United States. Council Member Weprin joined students, teachers, and parents at the Samuel Field Y's afterschool program at Public School 115Q in Floral Park and at The Child Center of New York's afterschool program at Public School 188Q in Hollis Hills. He noted that afterschool programs are vital to keeping our children safe and active when the school day ends and, at a time of economic uncertainty, families rely on these programs.

GLEN OAKS VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

Assemblymember David I. Weprin and Council Member Mark Weprin honored the volunteers and staff members of the Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps (GOVAC) at a special Pre-Hospital Save Award Ceremony. The event recognized the exemplary efforts leading to the successful resuscitation of Ted Rabinowitz, an active Emergency Medical Technician and GOVAC officer.



REMEMBERING 9/11



At a September 11th memorial service at North Shore Towers in Floral Park, Council Member Weprin spoke about the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, their profound impact on our country, and how New York has rebounded in the decade since.

FAIRWAY OPENS IN DOUGLSTON

Mark Weprin welcomed Fairway Market to Douglaston. Council Member Weprin worked with the community to defeat the proposal to open a Best Buy at the site and was instrumental in helping to get a world-class supermarket to open instead.

Howard Glickberg of Fairway (far left), Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik (second row, left side), Council Member Mark Weprin (at podium), Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (second row, leaning forward), Senator Tony Avella (second row, right side), Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (front, right).

