



Council Member **KAREN KOSLOWITZ**

29th District, Queens

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK CITY
COUNCIL

118-35 Queens Blvd, 17th Floor
Forrest Hills, NY 11375
Phone: 718-544-8800
Fax: 718-544-4452

250 Broadway, Suite 1872
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-788-6981

2010 ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING RULES:

- Memorial Day*** May 31, Mon
- Independence Day*** July 4, Sun
- Independence Day (Observed)*** July 5, Mon
- Feast of the Assumption** August 15, Sun
- Labor Day*** September 6, Mon
- Rosh Hashanah** September 9-10, Thurs-Fri
- Idul-Fir** September 10-12, Fri-Sun
- Yom Kippur** September 18, Sat
- Succoth (2 Days)** September 23-24, Thurs-Fri
- Shemini Atzereth** September 30, Thurs
- Simchas Torah** October 1, Fri
- Columbus Day** October 11, Mon
- All Saints Day** November 1, Mon
- Election Day** November 2, Tues
- Diwali** November 5, Fri
- Veterans Day** November 11, Thurs
- Idul-Adha** November 16-18, Tues-Thurs
- Thanksgiving Day*** November 25, Thurs
- Immaculate Conception** December 8, Wed
- Christmas Day (Observed)*** December 24, Fri
- Christmas Day*** December 25, Sat
- New Year's Day (Observed)*** December 31, Fri

- Council Member Koslowitz Wants to Hear From You -

What are the most important issues facing you today?

What laws would you like to see in place in New York City?

The following is a location of a pothole in need of repair _____

The following is a location of a street light in need of repair _____

The following is a location in need of graffiti removal. Please list any other concerns or matters here that you would like the Council Member to address _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Please return to
COUNCIL MEMBER KAREN KOSLOWITZ at:
118-35 Queens Boulevard, 17th Floor,
Forest Hills, NY 11375
or email Koslowitz@council.nyc.gov



Dear Neighbor:

I would like to thank you for your dedication to our wonderful community. While much has changed in the world since I last served in the City Council, my commitment to the people of this district remains as strong as ever.

I would like to take this opportunity to report on activities that have occurred in the community and provide you with an update on the 29th Council District.

It has been a busy time in the district and at City Hall. With all the challenges we face during this tough economic climate, we must continue to make sure that both effective policy and the services needed for the district are carried out. I am proud to report that I will again be serving as the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, allowing me to focus on protecting the interests of consumers. I am also serving on the Committees on Education, Finance, Rules and Privileges, Ethics, and Aging.

Serving the constituents of this community is my top priority and I will continue to fight for the services we deserve and rely upon. Due to the threat of budget cuts, many of these important programs may be in jeopardy. From cuts to senior centers, schools, and public transportation, we must all stand together to demand that core services are kept intact. I need your help and voice in demanding that our quality of life stay strong.

Over the years I have worked hard to improve our parks, schools, senior services, roads, and shopping districts. I am looking for your ideas to find ways to enhance our community. On the back of this newsletter you will find a form allowing you to send in your information and ideas.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent you in the City Council. As always, my office is open and available to you. Please contact me or my staff if you are in need of assistance. My office is located at 118-35 Queens Boulevard, 17th Floor. Every Wednesday from 6pm-8:30pm the office will be open for those in need of guidance on landlord-tenant matters. You can reach my office at (718) 544-8800 and via email which is Koslowitz@council.nyc.gov. Please visit me on the web at: <http://council.nyc.gov/d33/html/members/home.shtml>

I wish you all the best and look forward to a strong relationship over the next four years as your voice in the New York City Council.

Karen E. Koslowitz

SWEARING IN AT QUEENS THEATER IN THE PARK



Council Member Koslowitz, with grandson Ian and granddaughter Lauren, is sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Allan B. Weiss.

On January 31st, 2010, I was sworn in as the City Council Member for the 29th District by Queens County Supreme Court Justice Allan B. Weiss. The inauguration event took place at Queens Theater in the Park, and was attended by family, friends, and elected officials from all levels of government. Those in attendance included: Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Anthony Weiner, Comptroller John Liu, Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, State Senator Toby Stavisky, Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, former Council Member Melinda Katz, and Assembly Member Michael Den Dekker.

From 1991-2001 I represented the constituents of the 29th District. Since that time I served as the Deputy Borough President of Queens. This experience gave me an appreciation for the rich cultural diversity of Queens and an understanding of the needs of each community. I learned then what I still know now: the constituents are my bosses.

One of the major initiatives I am planning to accomplish is the creation of a parent advisory group, composed of parent leaders from all the schools in the district. This group will address problems within our educational system in order to find solutions. Another project that I will be working to create is a district wide diversity exchange program that will allow people from different cultures and backgrounds to gain a greater understanding of each other.

While I know that there are serious challenges facing New Yorkers these days, I am confident of the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. If we all work together, anything is possible because this is New York.

Council Member Koslowitz and her family: granddaughter Lauren, grandson Ian, son in law Rob, daughter Marcia, daughter Heidi, and son in law Scott.



HIGHLY QUALIFIED COUNCIL STAFF TO WORK HARD FOR THE 29TH DISTRICT

I am pleased to announce that a highly qualified group of individuals have joined my staff. Each person brings their unique strength and experience

Greg Lavine, Chief of Staff –brings over 10 years experience in public policy and the political process. In 2009, he served as campaign manager for Council Member Koslowitz. He started his career working in constituent services for the governor of Delaware and as a legislative assistant to the Delaware State Senate. From 2007-2008, he worked at the United Nations. A graduate from the University of Delaware, he is currently completing his Masters in International Relations from the New School.

Vicky Morales, District Director - brings more than 15 years of knowledge and expertise in government and community relations to the office. She served as Chief of Staff to former Council Member Melinda Katz from 2002-2009. Prior, she was Special Assistant for Women's Issues to Queens Borough President Claire Shulman. Vicky has worked in the private sector for two years specializing in government relations and political fundraising. She began her career in public service working in the New York State Assembly in 1994.

Allison Bernstein, Scheduling Manager/Constituent Relations - a lifelong resident of Forest Hills, she first entered public service as District Director to former Council Member Helen Sears where she worked on community relations and constituent issues. Allison is currently pursuing her Bachelors in Liberal Arts from Touro College.

JR Nocerino, Community Liaison – has been an active and dedicated member of the community for the past 10 years. As founder of Kidz Care Junior Civic Association, JR initiated a group of 10 youngsters within the community to volunteer their time for the betterment of their neighbors. He also serves as the community affairs liaison for PS 144 PA Board and coaches the FHYAA girl's softball team.

Barry Goldstein, Councilmanic Aide - is an attorney with 35 years in practice, with a private practice specializing in personal injury accident cases, and various civil matters and litigations. He provides constituents with general guidance for legal issues that they may encounter. He previously worked for Council Member Helen Sears (for 8 years), and prior to that with Council Member Koslowitz (for 10 years) in the same capacity. He is a former Counsel to the NY State Assembly Judiciary and Election Law Committees. He attended the NYC public schools in Forest Hills, and received his Bachelor's Degree at Queens College and his Juris Doctor Degree at Brooklyn Law School.

Richard Mumith, Councilmanic Aide - is a recent graduate of Fordham University with majors in Economics and Finance. He Started his career as a Foreign Service Aide to US Department of State for 2 ½ years. He later entered the private sector on Wall Street where he worked in the investment management sector before beginning his work in public service.

OFFICE HOURS FOR CONSTITUENTS DEALING WITH LANDLORD-TENANT ISSUES

I am pleased to announce office hours for constituents in need of guidance dealing with landlord-tenant issues and other similar type matters.

Office hours will take place from 6pm to 8:30pm every Wednesday at my District Office located at 118-35 Queens Blvd, 17th Floor (entrance on 78 Crescent). Barry Goldstein, a Queens based attorney, who is an expert in landlord-tenant issues, will be available to discuss matters with constituents. He can also be reached at that time at the district office at (718) 544-8800 or at bgoldstein@council.nyc.gov.

RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK 2010 PROVES TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS



Council Member Koslowitz speaks with students at JHS 157 for Respect for All Week. (with Principal Vincent Surachi and Assistant Principal Mrs. Kim West)

On March 11th I participated in Respect for All Week 2010 at Stephen Halsey J.H.S. 157. Speaking to over 300 students from the 7th thru 9th grades, I explained the importance of the program. Using the great diversity in the auditorium I asked the students to look to their left and to their right. This exercise allowed them to stop and recognize that their friends come from all different backgrounds. I was very impressed with the questions and conversation that ensued, as we discussed the importance of Respect for All Week.

Respect for All week ran from March 8th to March 12th. The program is designed to focus all city schools on the importance of promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for their students. Led by Principal Surachi and Assistant Principal West, Stephen Halsey J.H.S 157 promoted Respect for All Week each day with different speakers, interactive events, and cultural activities

METROPOLITAN AVENUE CAMPUS UPDATE

After 19 years in the making, the Metropolitan Avenue Campus is finally a reality. The campus will open up with two schools in the fall of 2010: The Queens Metropolitan High School (9-12) and the Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (6-12). The Queens Metropolitan High School will be led by Marci-Levy Maguire and open with 350 students in grade 9 this fall. The Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (D28) led by Damon McCord will open with grades 6 and 7 in September and use the Outward Bound focusing on science, technology, and sustainability. In a victory for students and parents, both Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi and I fought hard to make sure the Queens Metropolitan High School will be a locally zoned school. In 2010 the school will first accept students in the designated zone, followed by students who reside in District 28 and 24. After both zones, the school will be open to all Queens and New York City residents.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

As Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, I am proud to report on two major pieces of legislation:

The **Tenant Fair Chance Act**, which was signed into law, will assist tenants in accessing reports that many landlords use to determine a tenant's suitability for housing. A tenant screening report is a type of consumer report that lists a person's housing court history. Often landlords use these reports to determine whether to rent to a tenant. Federal law permits tenants to receive one free copy per year of their tenant report yet many people are unaware of the existence of tenant screening reports and how to access them. Furthermore, there are hundreds of national companies that prepare tenant screening reports making access to these records exceedingly confusing.

Because housing court data is reported by name, not social security number, the reported information may not even be about the prospective tenant, but may be connected to another tenant with the same name. As a result, a tenant can be denied an apartment because they are thought to be another tenant with a similar or same name. With the passing of this legislation, tenants will have a chance to see their tenant screening reports and correct any inaccurate information.

Process Server Reform will put an end to "sewer service" or improper and inaccurate court filing notifications. In the past year because of the increase in recession-driven debt cases, an overwhelming number of complaints have come from consumers who have not been properly

served. The bill will require licensed process servers to: pass an examination regarding proper service of process in New York State; use an electronic device such as a GPS, to record the time, date and location of every service; retain records of each process served for seven years and make these records available to the DCA commissioner upon request; and post a bond for \$10,000 or, if an individual is unable to obtain a surety bond, pay into a trust fund administered by DCA for the purpose of covering unpaid fines and judgments.

I have also introduced a bill that will **empower small business owners** by providing them with stronger tools when dealing with city government. The **Business Owner's Bill of Rights** will list the rules that inspectors have to follow – and how an owner contacts a supervisor or requests a hearing for a ticket. Business owners need to know what to do if they feel they've been wronged.

Other important legislation that I am co-sponsoring:

- **Stronger protection against gang initiation (Int 0001-2010)**
- **Improved services for children who qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (Int 0003-2010)**
- **Requiring the Department of Education to distribute information on obtaining a library card to all students (Int 0059-2010)**
- **A law in relation to strengthening leaf and yard waste recycling (Int 0157-2010)**



COUNCIL MEMBERS VISIT ISRAEL

In February I had the great privilege of joining Council Speaker Christine Quinn and many of my colleagues on a wonderful and incredibly educational trip to Israel. It was a personal journey that I will cherish and value for my entire life. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council, we spent five days visiting sites from Tel Aviv to Safed to Jerusalem. We met with the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Danny Tirza, the Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, the Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, and the Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar. I found observing and participating in the day to day life in Israel to be both a fascinating and moving experience.

Free Summer Concerts

Queens Symphony Orchestra, with the assistance of funding from my office and the New York City Council, will be holding free concerts throughout this summer. The dates and times are still being worked out. Please call the **Queens Symphony Orchestra at 718-326-4455** or check with my office at the beginning of July.

The Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce will sponsor three free outdoor concerts this summer on:

Thursday, August 12, 2010 @ 7:00pm
Thursday, August 19, 2010 @ 7:00pm
Thursday, August 26, 2010 @ 7:00pm

Concerts will be held on 70th Road between Queens Blvd. and Austin Street.

Come enjoy an evening of music and take advantage of the wonderful shopping along Austin Street. *Performances are Rain or Shine*

The **Queens Jewish Community Council** will again sponsor the Wednesday evening "Jewish Music Under the Stars" concert series on:

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 @ 7:00pm
Wednesday, August 18, 2010 @ 7:00pm
Wednesday, August 25, 2010 @ 7:00pm

Concerts above will be held at Cunningham Park located at 196th Street and Union Turnpike. Please bring your own chair. *Performances are Rain or Shine*

National Nite Out Against Crime —

On Tuesday, August 3, 2010 Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz will join community residents and the New York City Police Department in the 27th Annual National Nite Out Against Crime.

The National Nite Out Against Crime is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for anti-crime efforts, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnership. It also sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Locations to be determined. For further information please contact your local precinct or Councilwoman Koslowitz' district office at **718-544-8800**.

UPCOMING EVENTS