



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Antoine M. Thompson

Senator Thompson Delivers \$20,000 To The Italian Festival Of Buffalo

ANTOINE M THOMPSON July 21, 2009

Buffalo, NY- On Saturday, July 18, 2009, New York State Senator Antoine M. Thompson (D-Parts of Erie & Niagara Counties) held a press event and check presentation at the Italian Festival of Buffalo at 1207 Hertel Avenue.

"I am happy to be able to contribute to keeping the tradition of the Italian Festival alive," states Senator Antoine Thompson.

Senator Thompson's press event was held to present a check for \$20,000 to help support the Italian Festival of Buffalo. The festival includes events such as a bocce tournament, Italian idol, the Miss Italian Festival pageant, Sorrento cooking stage, the Russ Salvatore Scholarship Award and more. The funding helps to provide more events and entertainment for everyone that comes to celebrate the Italian heritage.

This year's festival, which marks thirty-three years of celebrating the Italian community, will feature a replica of Mount Vesuvius, which includes hourly eruptions. The Italian Festival began in 1976 on Connect Street and was moved to Hertel Avenue, "Little Italy", in 1988.

"We are happy that Senator Thompson could give us \$20,000 in funding this year. Our sponsorship was low and without this funding, the festival wouldn't be possible on this large of a scale. We are very appreciative to Senator Thompson for what he does for us and for all of the nationalities that reside in Buffalo," said Carmen Palma, President of the Italian Festival.

This year's Italian Festival also congratulates six Flags of Fame honorees; Charles Griffasi, Paul C. Catalano, Dennis DiPaolo, Carm Palma, Salvatore Buscarino and Franklin J. Spina.