**For Immediate Release**

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**Senator Parker Welcomes Umair Khan**

**The Senate’s First Pakistani American Lawyer**

(Albany, NY) Senator Kevin Parker (D-21), is delighted to welcome Umair Khan into his legal department. Khan will be working as Assistant Counsel in the Majority Whip office. He received his Bachelor’s Degree from Cornell University and his Juris Doctor at Albany Law School where he was an Associate Editor of the Government Law Review and filed two amicus briefs with the United States Supreme Court. Prior to law school Umair served as a policy advisor to two Members of Congress. “Umair was not only the best person for the job,” said Senator Parker “but I am proud to hire the first Pakistani American lawyer in the New York Senate.”

When Umair’s parents emigrated to the United States over 25 years ago they never dreamt that their eldest son would enter public service. His easy going, gregarious manner masks Khan’s abiding commitment to advocacy and progressive politics which led to him to found the Congressional Muslim Staffers Association an organization dedicated to educating staff and Members Congress on Islam & the Diversity Pipeline Initiative while he was still in school.

“Umair gives me an insight as a member of my leadership staff but also provides me a greater understanding of the needs of the Pakistani American community,” said the Senator “who are one of my key constituency groups. I look forward to his contributions and working together to advocate on behalf of a population who are underserved by the legislative process.”

For more about Senator Parker visit <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/kevin-s-parker>

 **About Senator Parker**

Senator Parker represents Brooklyn’s 21st Senate District, which encompasses Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Ditmas Park, Midwood and Borough Park, Senator Kevin Parker has been an outspoken advocate for the 311,000 constituents he serves. Since his election into the Senate in 2002, Senator Parker has remained committed to fighting for equitable rights for all, ensuring that his diverse district obtains necessary resources to help grow and sustain small businesses, higher education, and highlighting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Senator Parker serves on several Senate committees, including Codes; Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business; Finance, and the New American Task Force. Having solid roots in Central Brooklyn, and having lived and gone to junior and high schools in his district, Sen. Parker’s commitment to the lives of his neighbors and constituents is his primary objective. Not only does Sen. Parker have the distinction of being the youngest African American elected into the state senate but he has also been recognized for his commitment to public service with the Legislative Leadership award.

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