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MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JAMES SANDERS JR.
SENATOR, 10TH DISTRICT

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Dear Friend:

It has been an outstanding privilege to serve as your representative in the New York State Senate throughout this year. After being sent to Albany from the New York City Council, it was my hope to hit the ground running in the state capitol and give the residents in the 10th Senatorial District the strong and effective representation that you deserve. To that end, from day one as you will see in this newsletter, I have made it a priority to emphasize jobs for the community, connecting residents to the various resources state government has to offer, tackling discriminatory practices, addressing important quality of life issues (including health and safety), pushing for legislation and various policy initiatives that will directly benefit southeast Queens, and bridging the gap between community residents and elected leaders.

We have made some very important strides on the critical issues impacting constituents in the 10th Senatorial District including minority and women owned business's development and opportunities, Education, Health, and Superstorm Sandy recovery and rebuilding. There is still much more work which needs to be done to really see the district that we call home reach its full potential, and to see each life from the youngest to the oldest lived with complete enjoyment.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the upcoming year. As always, my office is always open to you. Feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. The number to the office is (718) 523-3069.



Sincerely,

James Sanders Jr.
State Senator, 10th District

INJUSTICE IN FLORIDA: WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

On Tuesday, July 16, 115 concerned community members, civic leaders, and other organizations assembled at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in South Jamaica. We assembled a panel of the most preeminent minds in law, civil rights, and community organizing, including:

- Norman Siegel, Esq., former director of American Civil Liberties Union
- Professor Leonard Baynes, a civil rights scholar at St. John's University School of Law
- Richard Washington, Esq., a solo practitioner criminal defense lawyer
- The Rev. Philip Craig, Director of the Queens Chapter of the National Action Network
- Russel Cheek, of the Black Institute



Senator James Sanders Jr. with Attorney Richard Washington, a Representative of the Black Institute, Counsel Steven Behar, Professor Leonard Baynes, and Civil Right Activist Norman Siegel.

The panel spoke on behalf of where they felt the case went wrong, the community spoke their mind on the issue, and next steps were formulated moving forward from this injustice.

Mr. Siegel felt that the court asked for too high of a charge to begin with; if they charged him with manslaughter instead of second degree murder, "there is whole other conversation going on in the courtroom," he noted. Additionally, because the jury was comprised of five white women, and one Hispanic woman, the panelists stated that the jury was not representative and could have influenced the ultimate decision.

Community members noted vast frustration and disgust with the outcome of the case. Others stated that the verdict got their families and friends talking about race relations in America.

In moving forward from the case, community members shared what they will do to make a difference. Some said they would write checks to those institutions dedicated to improving race relations in America. Others wanted to canvass community organizations to have more conversations about the case, and even ask the media to honor Trayvon Martin in some fashion.

I will be forming a Justice Committee to help correct injustices on a local level and beyond. They will help facilitate conversations about the issue at hand, and how we can move forward from the issue. To get involved, please contact my office at (718) 523-3069.

LEGISLATION

Protecting Ourselves from Severe Weather

It's apparent that weather is becoming more severe as time goes on. The need to be armed with the proper tools to protect ourselves against severe weather events is growing. This is why I introduced bill number S-5790, requiring the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to provide recommendations on the implementation of tornado warning systems in the state. New York State is increasingly inundated with tornadoes, including New York City - 9 tornadoes have occurred in ten years, with none ever recorded prior to 1985. Additionally, studies are showing that the possibility of hurricanes will increase over time.

The numbers show why I am calling on the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to study how we can introduce tornado warning systems across New York State - *to keep us all safe*.

This bill has passed in both houses - the Senate and the Assembly and was recently signed into law.

Knowing Your Rights

Everyone who uses social services is entitled to certain rights, however, not all agencies display these rights in their offices conspicuously or prominently. I introduced bill number S-5426A, an act to amend the social services law, in relation to public notice of basic rights, to ensure that applicants to social services can

make better informed decisions about benefits, and also ensure that employees at these agencies can better serve the public.

End Taxes Loopholes for Big Corporations

In April, I teamed up with Assemblyman David Weprin, and introduced legislation which would eliminate a property tax exemption for Madison Square Garden, a \$4.4 billion corporation. This tax exemption could send as much as \$16 million dollars back to areas that need the money the most like education, safety, and health.

Introduction to the Sanders Series

The Sanders Series was created to bring Albany downstate: to connect residents in the 10th Senatorial District with State resources. Residents will have the opportunity to interact with representatives from respective organizations, and receive more information on programs of interest in a fashion that strengthens community bonds, provides entertainment, and promotes community empowerment.

Sanders Series: Sanders in the Streets

The Sanders Series was kicked off at Sanders in the Streets, bringing State resources to Rochdale Village. Aptly named for its location in a parking lot, 13 state agencies were in attendance including Empire State Development, New York State Department of Finance and Taxation, New York State Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, New York State Department of Veteran Affairs, and more.

Senator Sanders with representatives from NYS Departments of Veteran Affairs and Taxation & Finance, respectively.



Corruption vs. Conspiracy

In light of the accusations of corruption being predominantly pointed at minority officials, I hosted a debate at the *Black Spectrum Theater*, on Friday, May 10, examining whether these accusations were grounded in corruption of the individuals in office or a conspiracy by higher powers targeting minority officials. Three participants debated on the side of corruption, and three debated on the side of conspiracy. Through a final vote of a raise of hands by the audience, the verdict was corruption.



Senator James Sanders Jr. hosting debate on corruption and conspiracy.

2013 YEAR SNAPSHOT:

- **January 1, 2013** Senator James Sanders Jr. began his first official day as New York State Senator of the 10th district. Senator Sanders took the official oath of office on January 8, 2013 in Albany, New York. However, the Senator wanted to share this momentous occasion with his existing and new constituency, commemorating this occasion at York College.
- **February 21, 2013** Far Rockaway Listening Tour: Senator Sanders invited the Mayor's Office and other Sandy relief agencies along with concerned residents and community organizers to answer: What can the Senator do to make things better for you and the community in which you live? The Senator addressed concerns of a Far Rockaway filled auditorium, mostly surrounding the impact of Super Storm Sandy.
- **March 1, 2013-Bayhouse Listening Tour** In a more intimate setting, Senator Sanders addressed the concerns of some residents of Medomere at the Bayhouse eatery, at the edge of his district. Senator Sanders wants all of his constituency to know that he cares.
- **May 31, 2013- the Cedar Manor Board of Directors** Senator Sanders believes he is the conduit between his constituency and the State of New York representatives, so Senator Sanders had a meeting with the Cedar Manor Board of Directors, Ms. Edie Smith, President and Delilah Green, Vice President and residents to address some of the issues plaguing their community. Senator Sanders invited NYS representatives as well as member of the 113th Precinct.
- **June 22, 2013-NYS Information Assistance: What Can NYS Do for You?** Constituents from the Rochdale area joined the Senator to receive vital information from these NYS agencies: **Office of Mental Health; NYS Office of Children & Family Services; NYS Department of Civil Service; NYS Office of Veteran**

Affairs; NYS Consumer Protection Agency Empire State Development Corp.

- **July 25, 2013 Financial Literacy Seminar:** Senator Sanders, a former resident of the Rockaways understands the needs of the community which is why he decided to bring in some much needed resources to the residents of Far Rockaway. On July 25, 2013, Senator Sanders directed the financial professionals, both public and private, institutions to educate on Banking, Saving & Spending Money, Credit, Borrowing & Debt Pathways To Homeownership.
- **July 14, 2013-Immigration Forum**-The Senator aims to ensure that issues concerning the varying parts of his district are addressed. On July 14 of this year, Senator Sanders hosted an Immigration Forum for his constituency in the Richmond Hill area.



- **August 21, 2013-Job Fair**-Senator Sanders sponsored a job fair in the Jamaica section of Queens, in order to assist potential applicants with job search needs. Senator Sanders is aware of the obstacles currently facing the unemployed. Senator Sanders wanted to ensure that all skill levels were represented as he had representatives from companies such as Citibank, Queens Library, FDNY, NYPD, Walgreens and Resorts World and White Castle for on site interviews. This job fair was heralded as a success by job fair applicants.

- **October 19, 2013-Job Fairs** I have always made creating economic opportunities for Queens residents my highest priority. On October, 10th and 19th I hosted Job Fairs in Far Rockaway and Jamaica. These events marked our third job fair since I took office in January. Employers such as Devry University, The Durst Organization, and Millennium Development provided opportunities to Queens residents seeking diversified employment opportunities. To date, our office is enjoying confirmed success of our job fairs as we consistently receive calls of gratitude from our job fair applicants.



- **Fall 2013 Grand Openings of the District and Satellite Offices**
District Office-October 24, 2013
Far Rockaway Satellite-November 7, 2013



- **November 7, 2013-Legislative Clergy Breakfast** On November 7, 2013, Senator James Sanders Jr. sponsored a breakfast at La Bella Vita restaurant for the Interfaith leadership of the Richmond Hill community. The Senator led the leadership in prayer giving homage to the victims of Superstorm Sandy near the anniversary of the tragedy.

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR James Sanders Jr.

Winter • NEWSLETTER



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- Later following prayers from the Hindu, Christian, Moslem, Sikh and Jewish faiths, Senator Sanders was able to focus the attention of his audience, comprised of Rabbis, Bishops, Pandits, Reverends, Imams and Pastors towards addressing existing resources for religious and private organizations, meant to enable organizational growth, while sustaining and creating jobs in the community.
- **November 12, 2013 Affordable Care Act Seminar-** It has been one month since key parts of the Affordable Care Act went into effect. Yet still, many of the 47 million who are currently uninsured but eligible for the Affordable Care Act do not know how to enroll in it. My office held an information session on the Affordable Care Act at the Jamaica Multi Service Center. Residents were educated on the impact of the Affordable Care Act and how to choose the best healthcare plan for themselves.
- **Additional Events You May Have Heard About**
Our Back-to-School Giveaway, Business to Business Walking tour and our Fundraiser are just some of the events we have developed. If you would like to be a part of our volunteer team



or if you would like to keep up with our office, please contact my district office at 718-523-3069. We would also like to have your input on issues plaguing your community or possible events you would like to see in your part of the district.

- **Back-to-School Giveaways**
- **Business to Business Walking Tour**