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October 2011 Newsletter

Senator Shirley L. Huntley

10th. Senatorial District

A Message To My Neighbors

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The most recent legislative session which ended June 24, 2011 was both very rewarding and challenging. As you may or may not know there were a multitude of reforms and legislation passed and issues discussed and resolved within the New York State Senate.

- Ethics reform was passed to reaffirm and gain back the trust residents in New York have in the New York State Legislature.
- Strengthening rent regulations, for thousands of families in New York City and surrounding counties which marks the first time in almost 30 years that rent laws have been strengthened to provide greater protections for tenants.
- Passing a 2% property tax cap, that will help middle class families save money in New York.
- Restorations for critical services were won such as funding for education aid, funding for schools for the deaf and blind, summer school programs, Title XX funding for seniors, homeless programs, funding for SUNY & CUNY, and reforms to the juvenile justice system.
- Working together with the Governor, the state has established 10 Regional Economic Councils, which will bring together business, government, and academic leaders in every region of the state to serve as a coordinated point of contact for efforts to stimulate economic development and create jobs.

Undertaking and eventually closing a \$10 billion budget deficit resulted in difficult choices and decisions. However, I truly feel that New York State can operate effectively and responsibly in the present and in the future, so our children do not have to inherit billions of dollars in debt. It is critically important we focus on issues that affect the everyday lives of New Yorkers, and there are several key initiatives that I will continue to focus on through the remainder of my term; some of these include:

- I am currently in the process of evaluating the possibilities of implementing mobile and cost effective health facilities around Queens to ease the crowds of people in emergency rooms and waiting areas of surrounding hospitals.
- As a parent, and grandparent I will continue to fight against school closures especially in communities of color that are already facing disproportional education services and funding.
- The rates of bullying and teen suicide that affect our youth must be decreased and prevent further incidents in our schools and community.
- Ensure that seniors are able to afford prescription drugs, and keep community centers and programs that are centered around them open.

Sincerely,



Senator Huntley's Legislation Legislation that passed the Senate

- 1.) **Senate Bill 3016A**-Would require criminal history record checks for each prospective operator, employee, or volunteer of certain providers of mental health or developmental disabilities services who will have regular and substantial unsupervised or unrestricted physical contact with clients of such providers.
- 2.) **Senate Bill 3022**-Prohibits disruption of a funeral procession by making it illegal for a driver of a motor vehicle to unreasonably interfere with the orderly progression of the funeral procession.
- 3.) **Senate Bill 3078**- This bill clarifies that the discharge of a resident from a community residence licensed or operated by the Office of Mental Health (OMH) or the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) shall be governed by the regulations of those agencies, respectively, and shall not be considered to involve a relationship of landlord and tenant.
- 4.) **Senate Bill 3168**- This bill would authorize the release of certain records of deceased residents of facilities certified or operated by the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Key Legislation that I have Introduced

- Senate Bill 5450**-Sickle Cell Treatment Act of 2011 include primary and secondary preventative medical strategies, treatment, and services, including genetic counseling and testing, for individuals who have Sickle Cell Disease in the City of New York and for no more than five counties.
- Senate Bill 3065**- Queens Bus Audit Bill This bill would require select public authorities, operating in the County of Queens, to provide increased public accountability, security, and ridership for surface bus transportation in Queens.

I will continue to create, pursue, and pass legislation that will help the residents of the 10th Senatorial District in a myriad of ways. Additionally, as Ranking Member of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee I have sponsored numerous bills that helps those who may be disabled and their families.

Religious Leaders Breakfast

On May 19th Senator Huntley hosted a contingent of religious leaders at St. Luke's Cathedral Multi Purpose Center. Leaders from all different faiths and denominations enjoyed a breakfast and conversed about pending issues within their respective communities and particular concerns they may have. The Reverend Al Sharpton was the special guest speaker and spoke on a number of topics including civic involvement. The various leaders shared ideas, and identified ways they could help improve their neighborhoods.



Women of Distinction

On May 24, 2011 Diane C. Ganz was the recipient of the New York State Senate 2011 Women of Distinction Award. A lifelong native of Queens, she continues to serve Forest Hills and Community Education Council #28. Ms. Ganz's commitment to learning extends far beyond the classroom. In 1999 she assumed duties as an Educational Liaison with the United Federation of Teachers/Department of Education teacher centers in Queens. Under Ms. Ganz's leadership, her school received two union awards for service. During this tenure she was recognized for her guidance and leadership skills when presented with the Neil Shanahan Award.

New York State Senate Resolutions



Janice Sara Reiff was honored posthumously for her dedication as a teacher and UFT representative for over 38 years.

Arlene Kwartowitz accepted the award for her sister Janice Reiff and the lasting impact she had on her community. She was President of her Tenants Association, and was a member of the Jewish Labor Committee, educators chapter, as well as the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America, and the Cancer Research Foundation; furthermore, she was a union activist and a member of the

Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica Estates in Queens. Janice Sara Reiff leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended.

Senator for a Day

On June 1st Senator Huntley hosted Samantha Mohammed from Public School 160 as “Senator for a Day” in Albany. Senator Huntley spoke with “Senator Mohammed” about the responsibilities of being a State Senator, and what she does on a daily basis. Senator Huntley spoke with other students from P.S. 160 as well and told them about the importance of attaining a good education, civic duty, and helping improve their community.



Veterans Hall of Fame



On June 14, 2011 Jackie L. Wilson was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame. Sergeant Major Jackie L. Wilson had a distinguished 24 year career in the United States Army Reserve. He served active duty in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm 1990-1991. During his illustrious service to the United States Army Reserve, Mr. Wilson received many awards and decorations including: the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Components Medal 1st OLC, National Defense Service Medal, South West Asia Service Medal, W/3 Bronze Service Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NCO

Professional Development Ribbon with Number 4 Device, and the Army Service Ribbon. He is the Jr. Vice Commander of Post 5298 VFW and works with the Post Youth Recreation Program.

Family and Friends Day

On August 20th at Roy Wilkins Park, Senator Huntley celebrated her 5th Annual Family and Friends Day in conjunction with the Friends of Roy Wilkins Park. Games, rides, food, and prizes were part of the festivities as well emphasizing the importance of teamwork, education, and parental involvement. This was also the 3rd Annual Family and Friends Day for the Friends of Roy Wilkins Park.



Back to School



On Friday, August 26th Senator Huntley held a back to school event in conjunction with La Bella Vita Restaurant. Book bags, pens, markers and other school supplies were given out as well as free pizza to all those who attended. As we embark on a new school year, the community, parents, and especially students must make a concerted effort to pursue their educational goals to the best of their abilities.





Senior Luncheon

On Monday September 12, Senator Huntley held her 5th Annual 'Oldies but Goodies' Luncheon at the Rochdale Village Community Center. Over 800 people attended the event and enjoyed music, lunch, and dancing. Numerous community leaders, and elected officials attended the event such as New York

State Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook, New York State Senator Eric Adams, New York City Public Advocate William DeBlasio, and New York City Councilman Ruben Wills. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed each other's company.




Legends of the Fall

Upcoming Events

October 15th
Coat Drive at Proctor Hopson
VFW Post #1896



October 22nd
Black College Expo
York College

November 22nd
Operation Giveback

December 22nd
Make- A- Wish Event

Hurricane Irene

The devastation left by Hurricane Irene along the east coast has impacted thousands of families. Many families and communities must rebuild and cleanup the destruction left behind. Once the hurricane neared New York City it became a Tropical Storm, but still caused havoc. New Yorkers especially those residing in Queens experienced and are still feeling the aftermath of flooding, downed trees, power outages, and property damage. Residents should contact their insurance company, agent or broker to get answers to specific questions about their policies. Consumers who need further help should feel free to contact the New York State Insurance Department's Consumer Services Bureau at 800-342-3736.



Senator Huntley as Grand Marshal for the Rosedale Jets Parade



Senator Huntley with students from P.S. 47



Senator Huntley speaks with housing advocates about renewing rent control laws



Senator Huntley awards a Proclamation to R&B superstar Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds