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## MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER *Senator Shirley L. Huntley's Constituent Corner*



**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR**  
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FACEBOOK: Shirley L. Huntley



Dear Friends,

During these difficult economic times, it is vital that we keep state government and the yearly budget balanced and efficient. Likewise, we understand that groups and organizations throughout New York State are going through the same economic climate using due diligence and dedicated efforts to provide vital services to the residents of our respective communities. As your New York State Senator, I am working on your behalf to ensure that the 10th Senatorial District gets its fair share.

However, please be aware that there are cuts and/or reductions to programs and services around the state. I will continue to do my best to insure that these services and programs can continue at a level that benefits the most amount of people, while at the same time maintaining the state's fiduciary responsibilities.

The issue of budget cuts affecting working class families has also been discussed at length in the Southeast Queens community. The community has been very proactive in displaying their anger and discontent towards the budget cuts that will affect their families, jobs and daily lives. Protests have been held in the community in regards to Senior Centers and Day Care Centers closures. There has been much contempt over the loss of jobs and high cost of living. There is no denying that the State is in a fiscal crisis, and New Yorkers from all over the state are working hard to endure these trying times.

Many residents of the 10th Senatorial District have voiced their opposition against Governor Cuomo's budget proposal that aims to reduce financial support for many programs that assist residents of Southeast Queens. There have been various rallies and Town Hall meetings to give constituents an opportunity to share their opinion of this budget. However, our residents have taken the opportunity to voice their concerns beyond the borders of Southeast Queens: parents, students, teachers, administrators, students from York College, Seniors from the Rochdale Village, Brooks Memorial, and Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Centers as well as children, staff and day care providers have visited me in Albany and voiced their opinions. Those who have visited have not only showed concerns about the proposed budget cuts but also shared personal stories about how they will be affected by the intended cuts. I understand that these are hardships that many others are facing and want to reassure citizens that we are doing what we can to alleviate the burden.

Having heard these concerns, I, along with other representatives have spoke out on many occasions against the cuts on Mental Health and Developmental Disability, Department of Education, Seniors, Children, and Social Services agencies. We have argued against these severe cuts that New York City constituents are facing while millionaires are not equally sharing the burden.

As of March 31st, the state budget was completed and contained many cuts which I strongly disliked and disagreed with. The \$132.5 billion budget implemented reductions to education, healthcare, mental health, and many other areas which affect the lives of middle and low income New Yorkers. I want to reiterate that the Governor proposed these cuts and the Senate Majority simply followed along. As a member of the Senate Minority, we fully realized the impact these cuts would have on working class families and fought against them.

During these difficult times we must work together to help each other through communication, cooperation, and collaboration. Addressing and solving the issues our community and New York State face are vital components to ensuring our children can succeed in the future. If you have any further concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at either of my offices.

Sincerely,

Senator Shirley L. Huntley

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The New York State budget was completed on time this year and was approximately \$132.5 billion dollars and closed a \$10 billion budget deficit.
- The United States Census Bureau stated in their data that the borough of Queens only grew 0.1% and New York City by 2.1% in population from the year 2000-2010.
- New York City could stand to lose millions of dollars in federal aid and possibly two or more congressional seats since they based off population.
- The New York City School District which has over 1.1 million children is the biggest and most diverse in the nation; our new school chancellor must ensure academics and parental involvement are at the forefront of his agenda.

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOMAS WHITE, JR.



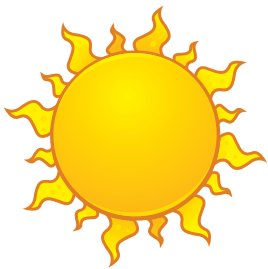
Senator Shirley L. Huntley introduced a resolution in Albany on April 12, 2011, on the floor of the New York State Senate commemorating the life of Thomas White, Jr. A native son of Southeast Queens, Thomas White, Jr. fought hard for the residents of South Jamaica throughout his lifetime; his illustrious career and service exemplifies the values of all who dream to make a better life for themselves and those around them. As the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Queens Village Committee for Mental Health for Jamaica Community Adolescent Program, Inc. (J-CAP), one of the largest and most effective alcohol and substance abuse residential treatment programs in New York State. He helped to reclaim over 20,000 young men and women who have suffered the effects of abuse, misuse and addiction. In addition, as the New York City Councilman from the 28th Council District in Queens, Thomas White, Jr. served three terms and worked tirelessly to responsibly serve and represent the residents of his district.

## COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CHIEF ARTHUR B. HILL



On February 24, 2011 Senator Huntley awarded a proclamation to the family of Chief Arthur B. Hill who was a proud New Yorker who served his country in World War II for four years. He rose through the ranks of the New York City Police Department and eventually became first African-American commander of the Support Service Unit which was formerly known as the Special Operations Division; he oversaw NYPD Tactical Patrol Force, Aviation, Emergency Service, and Harbor Patrol Units. During his illustrious career Chief Hill received two commendations, three Meritorious and, three excellent police Duty Awards. Arthur B. Hill distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community. His commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors.





## NEW FACILITY FOR YOUTH AND TENNIS

On March 12, 2011 Senator Shirley L. Huntley, Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe, and William Briggs, Founder and Executive Director of Queens Youth and Tennis Academy celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony.



The event took place at Roy Wilkins Park and celebrated the opening of an indoor bubble sports complex to be used for youth tennis. The event was attended by several local officials who wanted to emphasize personal achievement and physical fitness to the children in our community.

*"The educational, physical, and mental well being of our children will ultimately decide the success and future of our nation, communities, and families."*

## YORK COLLEGE VISITS ALBANY

On March 15th students from York College visited Senator Huntley in Albany to discuss a myriad of topics affecting them.



The students spoke of improving infrastructure and academic quality in the university that would enrich not only the students and the university but the community as a whole. They also expressed concerns about the possible effects proposed budget cuts to the university would have on them if the recommended budget proposal is passed by the state legislature.



## SENIORS VOICE THEIR CONCERNS

On March 15th, nearly 100 members from Rochdale, Brookdale and Alpha Phi Alpha senior centers visited Senator Huntley in Albany to discuss the proposed budget cuts. The seniors voiced their concerns about the possible senior center closures if Governor Cuomo's plan to reduce New York State's deficit passes. Senior centers are not only a place for its members to gather but also offers meals, plan field trips and social functions and provide health information. Many elderly people rely on senior centers to keep them informed on current events around the community and even around the world. We hope to keep these centers open so that they not only benefit the seniors but the community as a whole as well.

## DAY CARE RALLY

On March 22nd, over four hundred residents from around Queens attended the Town Hall Meeting hosted at York College by Assemblyman William Scarborough and the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council. Many organizations and elected officials were present to support the "Child Care, Education, and Public Safety" campaign which focuses on fighting budget cuts, fee increases, and preventing the closures of Child Care Centers. Day care centers are vital to the community because they are a safe haven for children to be in while parents are at work. Children are provided not only with a place to play but also with care and nurturing that many children would not receive if they were not in day care programs. Child care centers are the first source of care outside of the home and are vital to the community because they help shape our children's future.

## BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



On Thursday, February 24, 2011 Senator Shirley L. Huntley held a Black History Program for seniors at the Baisley Park Houses in recognition of Black History Month. This program reflected on numerous contributions that have shaped and benefited the community, the state and the nation. Sixty seniors from the community attended the luncheon, where they were commended on the value and importance of their contribution to making Southeast Queens a vital part of New York City and the Great State of New York. It was very fitting that the Boulevard on which the Baisley Parks Houses are located was named after the First Queens African American New York State Assemblyman Guy R. Brewer.

## CELEBRATING WOMEN

Women's History Month, celebrated annually during the month of March, honors the strong, brave and intelligent women in our history who have worked tirelessly and devoted much of their efforts to improve the lives of women in their communities. Women such as Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony and Angela Davis are famous for their efforts to promote equality for women in America. There are many more women in our present day who are working diligently to advance the rights of women, and men, everywhere. Our community has many women who work every day to support their families, their neighborhoods and most of all, remain committed to enhancing women's rights. We must continue to honor the courage and dedication of the women who come from all walks of life have on us, be they your mother, sisters, cousins or friends. In May, I will be honoring Diane C. Ganz, an extraordinary woman in our community, at a Women of Distinction ceremony in Albany.

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!



## Upcoming Events

### May 19th

Religious Leaders Breakfast at St. Luke's Cathedral Senior Center

### May 20th

Pre-Memorial Day of Remembrance at South Jamaica Houses

### May 25th, June 8th, 15th, 22 and 30

Not for Profit workshop with Councilman Leroy Comrie at York College

### June

Congratulations to the Class of 2011

### August 20th

Family and Friends Day at Roy Wilkins Park

### September 12th-17th

Senior Appreciation Week and Senior Luncheon at Rochdale Village

**CONTACT MY DISTRICT OFFICE FOR ANY UPDATES OR NEW EVENTS**

## OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS OF THE 10TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

The residents of my district routinely display special characteristics that enable them to succeed, teach, and help their fellow man. In the near future I will take considerations from residents of the district about people they know who have gone the extra mile to pursue achievement, whether it be in the classroom, workplace, or in the community. The candidates can be students at any grade level, business owners, employees, community advocates, seniors, and a host of other people. Making a difference and setting a positive example for others to follow has been one of the key initiatives the Southeast Queens community has embraced! Contact my district office with your nominations.



Senator Huntley at the public budget hearing for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities on March 2, 2011



On March 15, 2011 Senator Huntley met with members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Jamaica, Queens Branch in her Albany Office



Senator Huntley and Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services look at flavored alcoholic drinks targeted toward minors during a hearing on April 12, 2011