

Senator Perkins Winter 2017 Newsletter



I was blessed and honored by your support in the recent election and overwhelmed by the positive feedback in the form of you sending me back to Albany with 95% of the vote! It has always been my honor to serve, to listen and to demand action on issues of importance to our community such as reforming our criminal justice system, enshrining health care as a human right, and making sure our environment is pristine for future generations.

The times we live in are challenging and we now face an uncertain future in terms of the direction of the Federal Government. These are the moments that will test our strength and resolve and they are a call to action! Far from fighting against something, we continue to fight for a society that embodies the core principles of equality, fairness, compassion diversity and human rights.

This newsletter is designed to generate feedback from the folks that really matter—YOU! It is always important to connect with you, whether it is in the streets, in our office, out at meetings or events, or through a survey, as contained in this newsletter. It's very important

for me to know what is on your mind, from the election of Donald Trump, to the issues affecting you most in your daily life, the role of the NYPD, what can be done about gentrification, and quality of life concerns, such as scaffolding.

I look forward to hearing your concerns and ideas and using them to move forward in a rational, productive and principled way. Please fill out this newsletter and return it to us via mail, in person at one of our offices or complete it at our website: perkins.nysenate.gov. In the interim, I wish you, your family, friends and all your loved ones the most joyous, blessed, peaceful reflective holiday season.

As a legislator, my main priority is to address the concerns of my constituents. We often hear that housing, income inequality, policing, and health care are concerns in the community. What do you consider your top 5 concerns to be? Please be specific in the spaces provided below.

In light of the recent presidential election results, there has been a lot of fear, anger, disappointment, and confusion circulating throughout parts of the country. While the election results were very surprising and concerning to many, others may believe that positive change is possible under a new administration. Regardless of your political views, I invite you to share your thoughts and concerns regarding the recent presidential election results in the space provided below.

Scaffolding: The Found Art of New York City or The Anatomy of Annoyance?



Are scaffolds taking over New York? As New Yorkers, should we embrace scaffolds as a part of New York or are they truly a nuisance? Why do scaffolds even exist in the first place? These are all questions that come to our collective attention when exploring the 30th Senatorial District and our neighborhoods of Harlem, East Harlem/El Barrio, the Upper West Side, Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights and Morningside Heights.

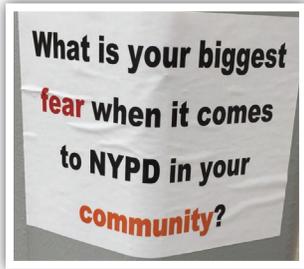
The mandatory presence of scaffolds traces back, in many ways, to the tragic death of a college student in 1979—Grace Gold—who was struck and killed by a large piece of falling masonry in Morningside Heights. A year after the incident occurred, the City enacted Local Law 10 which mandated the installation of scaffolding and a sidewalk shed whenever restoration work was in effect and was deemed necessary. Over time, this law was expanded to require inspections of side and rear facades as well as the full inspection of buildings that are six stories or higher every five years. Owing to many factors, including

building owners taking time to comply with the law, scaffolding has found a permanent home on many city streets.

Last year, the Governor signed a bill that Assemblyman Rodriguez and I sponsored requiring the Housing Authority to remove all needless sidewalk sheds and scaffolds that have been lingering around for years even when construction was not taking place. While our legislation removed many miles of unnecessary scaffolding, it only addressed a fraction of the global issue.

I welcome you to take a walk through our neighborhoods and reflect on the sheds and scaffolding that are taking over our community. I invite you to share your thoughts with me in the space below on whether or not we should embrace scaffolds as a part of our environment or if they are in fact hiding the true beauty of New York City. Please also feel free to submit pictures or content to: scaffoldingfeedbackSD30@gmail.com.

Policing The Police



I was walking through the district and I happened upon this sign concerning the NYPD. It motivated me to reflect that policing in the interest of the common good and for the purposes of public safety is supposed to be of benefit to society. Many of us can think of times when the NYPD came to the aid of ourselves or a loved one, through a simple act like checking on an elderly relative or helping a young child get to school. However, we also know, through so many unfortunate incidents, such as the murder of Eric Garner, or the railroading of the Central Park Five—that law enforcement often abuses and harms members of the community they are sworn to protect. As a policymaker and elected official, it is important for me to know your thoughts on the NYPD, including your biggest fears and stories of their successes. Please share them in the space provided or submit your thoughts at our website.

**What are your biggest fears, hopes, and/or expectations when it comes to NYPD in your community?
Share your thoughts in the space below:**

My biggest fears, hopes, and/or expectations when it comes to the NYPD in my community are...

Preserving Our Neighborhoods From Gentrification

Gentrification is a complex problem that, frankly, is hurting the heart and soul of our communities. Since we have moved to developing and rehabilitating housing almost exclusively through private market, profit making programs, gentrification has taken off like wildfire in two ways:

New developments almost always create a small amount of affordable units, if any at all, while the great preponderance are market rate.

New developments that bring in market rate tenants cause the price of everything in the area to go up: those in rent stabilized or preferential rate units face increases and are targeted for eviction—through harassment and extralegal means; unregulated rents skyrocket, even the price of bread and milk rise, as does the cost of all services in the area. It is a negative spiral.

One of the latest threats in our community concerning gentrification came to a head in September when over 200 residents of Morningside Heights met with local elected officials to voice our concerns regarding over-development in our community as exemplified by the The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and Union Theological Seminary (UTS) who are in the midst of development deals which will result in two outsize towers, one at 40 stories and the other at 32 stories between 120th Street and 122nd Street that shockingly will provide no units of affordable housing.

A collection of circumstances proliferate in this case: the Morningside Heights area has no meaningful zoning restrictions, which may result in these two new “Towers Of Babel” which could potentially become the tallest structures in the area, overshadowing the majestic grandeur of Riverside Church’s steeple—an Upper Manhattan landmark. The development will take place in an area with already overcrowded schools, transportation needs, and other crumbling urban infrastructure that needs substantial investment. The project, currently in the demolition phase, has been the source of constant noise and air pollution, at times blanketing the area in dust clouds that force neighbors to keep windows shut or risk having the dust infiltrate their homes. Ultimately, the only way we can impact these projects is through collective and coordinated actions. For those wanting to know more about these particular projects, and how to get involved please visit: morningsideheightscommunitycoalition.com

Please share your feedback regarding how gentrification has impacted you and/or your family, as well as your concerns and expectations for the future of your community in the spaces provided below.

Impact	Gentrification has impacted me by...
Concerns	My concerns regarding gentrification are...
Moving Forward	The future I hope to see for my community is...

Senator Perkins welcomes Dr. Choi and members from the Korean Language School to his District Office in Harlem



We are living in a time where, blessedly, diversity and multiculturalism coexist in many positive ways. A great example of this phenomenon is the Korean Language School, which is prominent within our District. Similar to many immigrants from diverse backgrounds, Koreans embody a great sense of pride and nationalism for their language, culture, and traditions and have a great desire to share these treasures with all. With the expansion of Korean language and cultural education in the schools of New York State, we will all be enriched and inspired to share the stories, traditions and history of our people.

Senator Perkins recognizes the Ryan/Frederick Douglass Community Health Center during their ribbon-cutting ceremony



On September 20th, elected officials, community representatives and government officials joined The William F. Ryan Community Health Network to formally open the Ryan/Frederick Douglass Community Health Center, at 128th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. The Ryan/Frederick Douglass Health Center joins the Ryan/Adair Community Health Center as the Network's two locations in Harlem.

The Center offers high-quality primary healthcare and support services to medically underserved members of the Harlem community and beyond. The Ryan/Frederick Douglass Health Center's guiding principle has always been that healthcare is a right and not a privilege. Similar to the Center's guiding principle, Senator Perkins has fought for years in Albany to create "New York Health" which is a Universal Single Payer Healthcare

System for New York State. This proposal will ensure that patients are always placed before profits and each person can live by the maxim, "your health is your wealth." Furthermore, by putting patients before profits, New York Health will revolutionize our healthcare system, address persistent disparities and ensure that care is truly patient-centered, once and for all—just like those who give their time through service at the Ryan Network.

Senator Perkins Co-Sponsors and Participates in Senator Serrano's Free Flu Shot Event



During the month of October, I was proud to co-sponsor Senator Serrano's Free Flu Shot Event in East Harlem, in conjunction with NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez. Senator Serrano partnered up with the New York-Presbyterian Hospital-RiverSpring Health in order to offer free flu shots at his District Office.

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization or even death, if left untreated. Every flu season is different and influenza infection can affect people differently. "Flu season" in the United States can begin as early as October and continue until as late as May. Once someone has the flu, they are more likely to spread the disease to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, this can ensure that less people are affected by this disease. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. Flu vaccines are offered in various locations, including but not limited to: doctor's offices,

clinics, health departments, pharmacies, college health centers, employers, and in some schools.

If you have not already received your flu shot, please visit the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's flu prevention website at www.nyc.gov/flu to identify an affordable provider near you.

Senator Perkins and NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito at the African American Day Parade in Harlem



The African American Day Parade (AADP) is held every third Sunday in September. This year, the African Day Parade, Inc. celebrated their 47th Anniversary of making a meaningful difference in Harlem. Harlem was selected as the site for the parade due to its large representation of African American people, in addition to being proclaimed the historical Black Capital and Mecca of America. The purpose of the parade is to promote unity, dignity and pride amongst the African-American community. It provides a platform for organizations, dignitaries, celebrities, community leaders and musical ensembles to share our history, showcase their talents, inform us of their accomplishments, while also honoring our ancestors and saluting our heritage on this special day. As the Senator who represents the 30th Senatorial District,

which encompasses a great preponderance of Harlem, I was proud to be acknowledged as an Honorary Guest during this year's African American Day Parade. It was great to have the opportunity to reunite with longtime friends and other community leaders such as Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito—Power Through Unity! | Poder A Través De La Unidad.

Senator Perkins at the Susie's Cause National Outreach Health Festival in Harlem



Each year, an estimated 150,000 people are diagnosed with colon cancer and almost 50,000 men and women die from the disease each year. Colon cancer is known to be the second leading cause of cancer related death. Tragically, 50% of cases could be prevented by simple lifestyle changes and 95% of cases can be cured if detected early. The Colon Cancer Foundation (Susie's Cause) was named in honor of Susan Cohan, who battled with colon cancer herself. The foundation's innovative outreach programs have touched the lives of thousands and have led to significant increases in colon cancer screenings. As a way of enlightening underserved communities about colon cancer, Susie's Cause hosts a National Outreach Health Festival every year. The purpose of the Festival is to educate the public about colon cancer as well as break the silence associated with this disease, show people how to reduce their risk and promote overall healthy lifestyle living. About a decade ago, Senator Perkins battled with colon cancer himself. Fortunately, Senator Perkins was able to overcome this battle, win the fight and is now cancer free. It is important for all of us to be aware and informed about the risk factors in developing colon cancer. For more information please visit: https://coloncancerfoundation.org/about_colon_cancer/index.html

Senator Perkins Legislative Accomplishments 2016

Senate Bill 2418—Keeping Our Communities Safe—Makes it easier to charge someone with the E Felony crime of persistent sexual abuse when they commit and are convicted of a sexual assault for the third time.

This legislation:

- Closes a loophole in the present law
- Increases public safety
- Puts persistent sexual assault offenders behind bars

Senate Bill 2460—New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Reform—Provides that NYCHA shall be subject to the review and regulation of the Authorities Budget Office—which will provide transparency and accountability in important financial, land disposition and safety and security matters.

This legislation:

- Ensures financial oversight and accountability at NYCHA
- Scrutinizes land use and land disposition transactions
- Protects and safeguards residents
- Helps create jobs for residents and MWBE's

Senate Bill 6699—NYCHA Scaffolding Reform—Requires NYCHA to get to work in areas that have scaffolding and sidewalk sheds—or take them down—so they do not unnecessarily linger and negatively affect public safety.

This legislation:

- Makes developments safer for residents
- Forces NYCHA to get to work immediately or to take down scaffolding

Senate Bill 6887—New York Road Runners (NYRR) Legislation—Supports the various marathons that are run in New York City each year by allowing out of state health care professionals to practice at these events.

This legislation:

- Supports marathons and half-marathons in all five boroughs
- Ensures the health and safety of participants



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Senator Perkins and staff join representatives from the Korean Language School—in our District Office in Harlem