



GETTING RESULTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

There are many challenges facing our community and there is no shortage of naysayers saying we can't change things—that this is how it's always been done. Yet whether it's working with the Department of Sanitation to implement historic garbage collection changes or the NYPD regarding the ongoing

issue of commercial trucks parking illegally on 21st Avenue, Assemblyman Hikind has proven this mantra wrong time and time again by getting results. Here is a roundup of some of Assemblyman Hikind's work over the recent months.

Banks Continue to Waive Wire Transfer Fees for Holocaust Survivors

Are you a Holocaust survivor and being charged a wire transfer fee for monthly reparation monies? Assemblyman Dov Hikind contacted each bank in the community and renewed their commitment to waive wire transfer fees.

If you need a letter verifying your bank's commitment for this waiver, please contact Assemblyman Hikind's office at (718) 853-9616 for more information.

Anti-Semitism Boils Over on CUNY Campuses



"We must send a clear and unequivocal message that hatred and bias have no place at CUNY," said Assemblyman Hikind at an anti-Semitism rally following protests at Brooklyn College that targeted Jewish administrators on the faculty council board.

After being inundated with phone calls and reading several reports of anti-Semitic incidents occurring on CUNY campuses, Assemblyman Hikind called on Chancellor James Milliken to investigate anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses. The assemblyman demanded the student group Students For Justice In Palestine be suspended immediately from all CUNY campuses following its continued messages of hatred and bigotry toward Jewish students and faculty members, including an unruly protest at Brooklyn College that interrupted a faculty council meeting with chants of "Zionism Out of CUNY." We will continue to monitor the situation and will pursue all avenues to rid CUNY campuses of this hatred.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Improvements to Ocean Parkway Underway

Earlier this year, Assemblyman Hikind met with NYS Department of Transportation's Director of Government Affairs Charles O'Shea, who presented the assemblyman with construction plans to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists along Ocean Parkway beginning in the fall of 2016.

Some of the safety improvements announced in the plan include, new speed display signs, countdown pedestrian signals, traffic signs, pavement markings, high-visibility crosswalks and implementing left turn restrictions along the service roads. The thoroughfare will also receive a makeover in the form of repaved concrete, instead of asphalt, making for much sturdier streets.

Assemblyman Hikind will continue to work with representatives from DOT to remedy any concerns that may arise with the Ocean Parkway construction.



Hikind and O'Shea address issues within the Ocean Parkway construction plan that may be of concern for members of the community.

The Impossible Conquered: Historic Garbage Collection Changes Are Working

Back in March, the Department of Sanitation announced sweeping changes to garbage pickup schedules in certain sections of Boro Park to help alleviate traffic congestion. Luckily the schedule change, which began on April 4, has done wonders in alleviating rush hour traffic. “Trash and recycling pickup on Shabbos was a no-brainer decision that only minimizes traffic congestion. Recycling on off-peak times when yeshiva buses aren’t out picking up students or dropping them off has dramatically improved the quality of so many lives in our community. It’s a win-win for everyone,” Assemblyman Hikind said.

In hosting an appreciation lunch for NYC Sanitation employees and yeshiva bus drivers shortly after the scheduled changes were announced, Assemblyman Hikind thanked Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner Kathryn Garcia and others who played a vital role in altering garbage collection schedules for the community. “We were told that this day would never come, and that resolving traffic congestion in the neighborhood was a long shot. However, we pushed, fought and persevered for the people of Boro Park. It just goes to show what may seem impossible is never truly a lost cause—just a great win for the entire community.”



Assemblyman Hikind thanks a sanitation truck driver for his work in keeping the community clean.



Sanitation workers joined Assemblyman Hikind at an appreciation lunch to mark the sanitation schedule changes.



Assemblyman Hikind gathers with yeshiva bus drivers to celebrate garbage collection schedule changes in Boro Park.

Hikind Says Ban the ‘Bag Tax’

After the New York City Council passed a bill requiring retailers to collect a 5-cent fee on each plastic bag, Assemblyman Hikind, along with Sen. Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) and Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Staten Island), introduced legislation to rescind the efforts of the City Council and protect New Yorkers from being taxed on the use of plastic bags.

“It’s ridiculous that residents are continuing to be nickel and dimed,” said an outraged Hikind. “The idea of charging consumers a nickel for each grocery bag is an unfair tax on hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.”

In the coming months, Assemblyman Hikind has vowed to continue the fight against the City Council’s proposed bag tax, which will be revisited once session resumes in January. “Grocery shopping is already an extreme financial burden for some families, and this unfair tax only adds to that burden,” Hikind said. “It’s ridiculous and must be stopped. The battle is certainly far from over. The only way to rectify the situation is to do away with the 5-cent bag tax altogether.”



Assemblyman Dov Hikind joins fellow elected officials in the fight to block the City Council’s legislation for a 5-cent fee on grocery bags.

Hikind to NYC Parks: ‘Uproot Your Current Tree Planting Program’

Once Assemblyman Hikind was made aware of a citywide effort to forcefully plant more trees along sidewalks and in front of homes, Hikind then toured the streets of his district to get a closer look.

“It is absolutely ridiculous for the City to impose a tree on homeowners,” Assemblyman Hikind told PIX 11 during a tour of the community. “To add insult to injury, the City then informs the homeowners that they’re responsible for the up-

keep and maintenance of the tree and sidewalk. The audacity! What chutzpah!”

Hikind will continue to fight for the homeowners’ right to refuse a tree from being planted in front of their home.



Assemblyman Hikind shows PIX 11 reporter Monica Morales why so many members of the community are concerned with the City’s effort to force trees on homeowners.

Hikind Declares ‘Human Rights Victory’ after Metropolitan Pool Continues Separate Gender Swimming Hours

Assemblyman Hikind announced a major victory for the community after being notified that the separate gender swimming hours program at the Metropolitan Pool and Recreation Center will continue. After being informed from several women within the community of the program’s closing, Hikind called on the City and the Parks Department to be more “culturally sensitive” and accepting of cultural differences.

“I’m so thrilled to learn that New York City and the Parks Department will continue this separate swimming hours program,” Hikind said. “It is a major victory for all women, and I thank Mayor de Blasio, Commission on Human Rights, Rabbi David Niederman, Sam Stern, City Councilman Stephen Levin and Assemblyman Joe Lentol for their efforts in resolving this issue.”



Hikind Promises Quieter Erasmus and Friends Fields... And Gets Results!

After receiving dozens of phone calls complaining of high levels of noise emanating from Erasmus and Friends Fields, Assemblyman Hikind arranged a community meeting to address the quality-of-life issues that had been hampering dozens of families that reside near the fields. Since working with Commanding Officer Kenneth Quick of the 66th Precinct, representatives from Community Board 12, the Mayor’s office, NYC Parks Department, and representatives from Friends and Erasmus Fields, noise levels have dramatically improved.

“It is completely understandable that families and friends want to play games and use the park as a great source of entertainment,” Assemblyman Hikind said. “However, it should in no way jeopardize the quality of life for others.”



Assemblyman Hikind meets with residents of the community over noise complaints.



Assemblyman Hikind joins Captain Ken Quick of the 66th Precinct, Park and Recreation Manager Elizabeth Walsack and Community Board 12 District Manager Barry Spitzer in evaluating Friends Field after several noise complaints were made.

Hikind Ensures Sabbath-friendly Baruch College Commencement

This past spring, Baruch College scheduled their graduation on Friday May 27 at 5 p.m. at Barclays Center, leaving Sabbath-observing graduating students with having to choose between their religious observances and attending commencement. Led by Baruch senior Renee Shemesh, students reached out to Assemblyman Hikind’s office for help. Hikind responded by writing letters to Chancellor James Milliken and Baruch President Mitchel B. Wallerstein asking that the college change the ceremony’s start time to be more sensitive to its students’ religious observance.

“Students and their families shouldn’t have to choose between attending their graduation ceremony and adhering to Sabbath observance,” he said. Through the assemblyman’s persistence and Ms. Shemesh’s petition that garnered over 1,200 signatures in just 24 hours, commencement was scheduled for an earlier time, allowing



Jewish students and families the opportunity to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime achievement without compromising their religious observance.

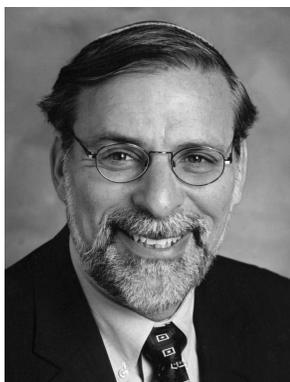
Hikind Addresses Weak Water Pressure in Boro Park

After being inundated with phone calls about weak water pressure that has plagued certain sections of Boro Park, Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) called on the Department of Environmental Protection to address and resolve this quality-of-life issue. Many of the homeowners reside between 45th Street to 48th Street and 9th Avenue to Fort Hamilton Parkway.

Assemblyman Hikind's request comes on the heels of observing firsthand the difficulties homeowners have with common household tasks, like washing dishes and doing laundry, due to a lack of water pressure. While some residents continue to suffer with low to moderate water pressure, others experience water trickling out of their shower heads and faucets at an unbearably slow rate, making it impossible to run multiple water-consuming appliances simultaneously.

"After spending time with numerous irate homeowners, I saw firsthand and can attest to the serious conditions many of these families have had to endure," Assemblyman Hikind said. "To be forced to wait several hours for a bathtub to fill up is absolutely unacceptable. Tenants within the same house are forced to coordinate when they will shower due to weak water pressure in the area. No one should be subjected to a trickling faucet or shower head, especially after a long day's work in the summer months."

Added Hikind: "The lack of water pressure has significantly reduced the quality of life of these residents. I am requesting that the Dept. of Environmental Protection address this issue, and would welcome the commissioner to come see firsthand the conditions that these residents are forced to live with."



Assemblyman
Dov Hikind

Reports to the People
Summer 2016

Get in Touch with Assemblyman Hikind

It's never been easier to contact Assemblyman Hikind about an issue of concern to you or our community.

Assemblyman Dov Hikind

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