



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein



February
2024

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Albany Office: Room 519, LOB • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5721 • eichensteins@nyassembly.gov

Dear Neighbor:

With winter coming to a close, I am hard at work both in Albany and at our district office, representing my constituents' best interests. My colleagues and I work together to fine tune legislation that will benefit you, the residents of my district, as well as all New Yorkers.

Meanwhile, staff members in my district office work tirelessly on your behalf to assist you with your concerns. They are skilled at navigating the bureaucracy of state agencies and have been successful in resolving many issues.

I am pleased to keep you updated on some of the progress we have made, both locally and on the state level. My goal is to represent your interests at all times and I hope that I have succeeded in gaining your trust.

As always, my staff and I look forward to hearing your comments and concerns. Feel free to contact us by phone or by email, or visit us at my district office.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent you in the State Assembly.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, 48th District

NEW YORK STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER VISITS HATZOLAH

Senator Simcha Felder and Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein joined NYS Health Commissioner James McDonald and EMS chiefs as they visited the Hatzolah garage and dispatch center.

The Commissioner interacted with the dedicated Hatzolah volunteers and showed a genuine interest in Hatzolah operations.

"I was delighted to join Commissioner McDonald and his staff at the Hatzolah facility, where these skilled and knowledgeable volunteers displayed their proficiency, excellence, and professionalism," said Assemblyman Eichenstein. "We are all proud of our Hatzolah volunteers and their life-saving efforts, and the Commissioner was clearly impressed by their dedication."



NYPD CELEBRATES MEDAL DAY

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein and Councilman Kalman Yeger were honored to participate in NYPD Medal Day, during which certificates of recognition and service awards were presented to our local police officers in appreciation of their dedication and hard work.

"On Medal Day we express our gratitude to police officers who have performed their duties with distinction," said Assemblyman Eichenstein. "We salute our local law enforcement for their commitment to protecting all New Yorkers."

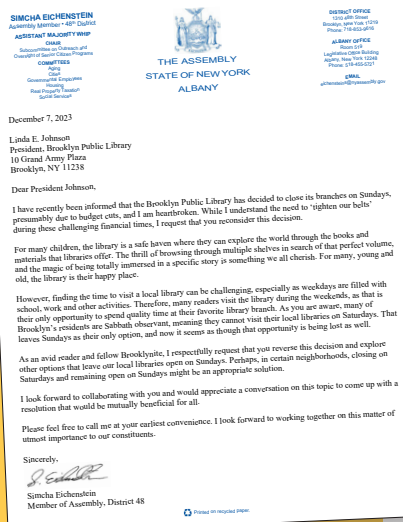


ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN CALLS FOR THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY TO KEEP OUR LIBRARIES OPEN ON SUNDAYS

When the Brooklyn Public Library suddenly announced that it will be closing its local branches on Sundays, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein quickly protested that decision to its president. He explained the crucial importance of the current library hours, especially for young readers and requested that she reconsider.

Assemblyman Eichenstein explained in the letter that many readers only visit their local library during the weekends, spending quality time in their local branch. "As you are aware," wrote Assemblyman Eichenstein, "many of Brooklyn's residents are Sabbath observant, meaning they cannot visit libraries on Saturdays. That leaves only Sundays, and now it seems that opportunity is being lost as well." Assemblyman Eichenstein invited the Brooklyn Public Library's leadership to contact him to discuss the matter and perhaps work out a resolution that would be beneficial for all.

President Johnson contacted Assemblyman Eichenstein a short while later regarding the Boro Park branch, agreeing to his request of swapping the Sunday closure for a Saturday closure. As a result of the Assemblyman's advocacy, Boro Park residents can continue to enjoy their local library on Sundays, starting March 10th. However, the Brooklyn Public Library leadership has not yet agreed to keep the Midwood branch open on Sundays. Assemblyman Eichenstein will continue to advocate for its reopening.



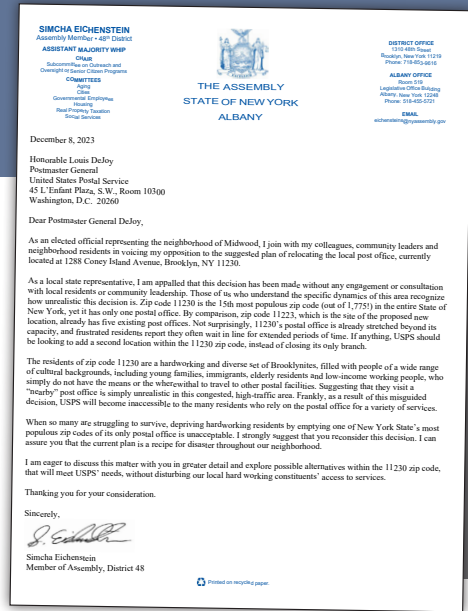
MIDWOOD RESIDENTS DESERVE TO KEEP THEIR LOCAL POST OFFICE!

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN TO U.S. POSTMASTER GENERAL:
MOVING THE MIDWOOD POST OFFICE OVER A MILE AWAY IS NOT AN OPTION!

As an elected official representing Midwood, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein was disappointed to learn about the Postmaster General's decision to relocate the local post office from its current convenient location at 1288 Coney Island Avenue, between Avenue I and Avenue J.

Assemblyman Eichenstein joined other elected officials and community members in expressing his dismay at this decision by penning a strongly worded letter to the Postmaster, explaining how a relocation would negatively affect young families, immigrants, elderly residents and low-income working people.

"As the local Assembly member, I am very familiar with the neighborhood and as such, am appalled that this decision could be made before consulting with the community and its leadership," the Assemblyman wrote while also expressing his desire to meet with the Postmaster to discuss more realistic alternatives.



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein's letter to the United States Postal Service Postmaster, Honorable Louis DeJoy

Dangerous e-bikes and electric scooters must be stopped and taken off our sidewalks.

As low-velocity electric vehicles present a constant hazard to pedestrians, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein introduced legislation (A8471) to amend the vehicle and traffic laws, requiring low-velocity electric vehicle operators to obtain licenses in New York.

"New Yorkers have suffered injuries due to people operating low-velocity electric vehicles carelessly," explained Assemblyman Eichenstein. "This legislation will ensure that these vehicles are operated responsibly and lawfully. The safety of New Yorkers is our first priority."

This proposed legislation would require that electric vehicle operators meet specific testing requirements, wear proper headgear, register with the Department of Motor Vehicles and obtain insurance coverage.

STOP THE MADNESS!

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein introduces legislation to establish licensing, registration and insurance coverage for low-velocity electric scooters, e-bikes and hoverboards



ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN WELCOMES NEW NYPD 66TH PRECINCT COMMANDING OFFICER



NYPD's 66th Precinct recently welcomed its new commanding officer, Captain Kenneth Harrarte, and Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein wasted no time congratulating him on his new position.

Captain Harrarte has served as a police officer since 2006, most recently at the 111th and 112th precincts. "I am confident that Captain Harrarte will bring his excellent skills and his years of experience to this position and that he will serve this neighborhood with distinction," said Assemblyman Eichenstein. "We welcome him to the area and are delighted to have him join us here. I look forward to working with him on behalf of our local constituents."

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN BRINGS THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO HIS DISTRICT OFFICE

Many local residents are in need of official NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) identification or services, but are reluctant to make the trip to a DMV office, which can be time-consuming.

In an effort to make it more convenient for his constituents, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein hosted the DMV at his district office, located in the heart of Boro Park. Representatives of the DMV spent a day at the Assemblyman's office, assisting constituents with issues such as applying for non-driver ID cards, renewing licenses, and more. The event turned out to be a huge success.

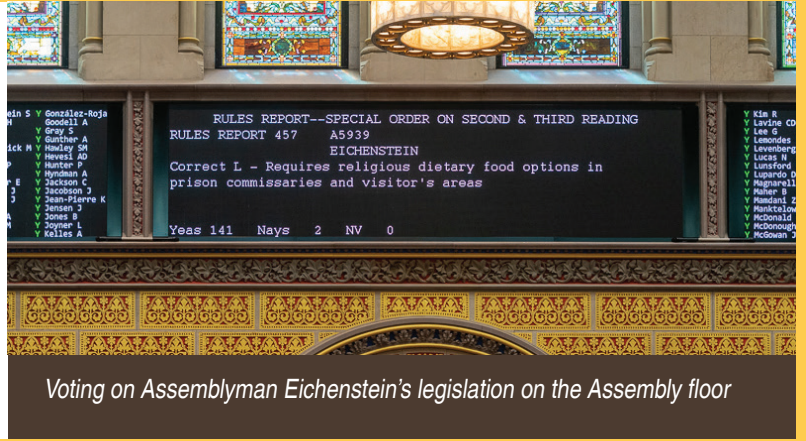
"I am pleased to see so many of our residents taking advantage of this opportunity to visit the Department of Motor Vehicles in a local setting," said Assemblyman Eichenstein. "It was gratifying to have dozens of constituents reaching out to make appointments, and then coming in to resolve their issues quickly and efficiently. I thank the Department of Motor Vehicles staff for their assistance and am looking forward to scheduling additional events in the future."



GOVERNOR HOCHUL SIGNS INTO LAW LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN ENSURING KOSHER AND HALAL DIETARY OPTIONS AT NYS CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

NYS Governor Kathy Hochul recently signed into law a bill sponsored by Senator Jessica Ramos and Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, which will require state correctional facilities to provide kosher and halal food options at vending machines and commissary areas. The new bill (A5939) will amend the current law to include options which would satisfy the special religious dietary restrictions of incarcerated individuals, at prices comparable to other similar food items.

“The religious rights of incarcerated individuals in our state’s prison system will now be properly recognized,” Assemblyman Eichenstein said. “These individuals will finally be able to benefit from food purchased at visiting area vending machines and the prison commissary. I want to thank Governor Hochul for signing this important legislation into law.”



Voting on Assemblyman Eichenstein's legislation on the Assembly floor



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein meets with Kenneth Gibbs, President and CEO of Maimonides Medical Center, during Albany Advocacy Day for Brooklyn's hospitals.



Councilman Kalman Yeger presents the Legislative Leadership Award to Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein at the Bikur Cholim Chessed Organization's 70th Annual Dinner.



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein addresses the volunteers of Flatbush Chaverim at their Membership Appreciation Event, expressing his gratitude for their distinguished service.



Upcoming Events



Assemblyman
Simcha Eichenstein
will be holding a
FREE E-WASTE EVENT

What materials can be dropped off?



ITEMS THAT YOU CAN BRING:

TVs, monitors, computers, laptops, printers, scanners, fax machines, keyboards, mice, VCRs, DVRs, DVD players, small servers, hard drives, satellite boxes, tablets, e-readers, mobile phones, MP3 players, and video game consoles.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

Air conditioners, appliances, batteries, light bulbs, and ballasts.

DATE:
Thursday
April 4th
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

LOCATION:
Assemblyman
Eichenstein's
District Office
1310 48th Street

For more information on this free event or any other community concern, please contact the office of Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein at 718-853-9616.



Assemblyman
Simcha Eichenstein
will be holding a

FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

DATE:
Thursday,
April 11th
10am to 2pm

LOCATION:
Assemblyman
Eichenstein's
District Office
1310 48th Street

For more information on this free event or any other community concern, please contact the office of Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein at 718-853-9616.

ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN JOINS GOVERNOR HOCHUL AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DELGADO IN ANNOUNCING EXPANDED CRITERIA FOR HATE CRIMES



Assemblyman Eichenstein, along with other elected officials, joined Governor Hochul and Lieutenant Governor Delgado as they announced a groundbreaking proposal to significantly expand the list of charges eligible to be prosecuted as hate crimes. These charges include gang assault, graffiti, arson and more.

“We cannot turn a blind eye to the alarming rise in antisemitism and other forms of hate,” said Assemblyman Eichenstein. “All those who commit hate crimes must be brought to justice.”



During School Choice Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein meets with a diverse group of parents and advocates.



Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein joins a meeting with community leaders and Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, President Biden’s Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, hosted by the Boro Park Jewish Community Council. The group collaborated on combating antisemitism and protecting our communities.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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**Assemblyman
Simcha
Eichenstein**



February 2024

ARE YOU FRUSTRATED WITH A BUREAUCRATIC AGENCY?

OUR DISTRICT OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP YOU

Here are some ways we recently helped constituents overcome the bureaucratic red tape:

LC is six years old and suffers from a debilitating inflammatory bowel disease. Although his condition is painful, his symptoms can be greatly reduced when he is treated with a certain injectable medication at high doses.

Unfortunately, the drug is prohibitively expensive and LC’s health insurance company would only reimburse the family for a fraction of the proper dosage, claiming that the higher dosage is not medically necessary. As LC’s condition worsened, Assemblyman Eichenstein was asked to intervene. Staff members reached out to the insurance company’s leadership, explaining the urgent necessity of the higher dosage, while also sending a medical statement from LC’s personal physician.

Soon afterwards, the insurance company agreed to cover treatments at the recommended dosage, bringing hope to LC’s family and doctors that the progression of his disease could be slowed and the prognosis improved.

When Mr. H arrived at the district office of Assemblyman Eichenstein, he was hoping to resolve an issue with his homeowner’s policy. However, he got more than he bargained for when staffers at Assemblyman Eichenstein’s office reviewed his property tax bill and suggested that he apply for a senior citizen’s discount.

The Senior Citizen Homeowner’s Exemption (SCHE) provides reductions of up to 50% on real estate taxes to eligible seniors age 65 and older, with a combined household income of \$58,399 or less, if they apply by March 15th. Mr. H was completely unaware of this program, and was delighted to discover that his property taxes will now be reduced substantially, thanks to the diligence of Assemblyman Eichenstein’s office staff.