



FROM THE DESK OF  
NASSAU COUNTY  
LEGISLATOR  
SIELA A. BYNOE

Legislator for the 2nd Legislative District comprising:  
Hempstead, Lakeview, Westbury, New Cassel, Hicksville, Uniondale,  
Rockville Centre and East Garden City.



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## MESSAGE FROM LEGISLATOR BYNOE

2014 ■ The Year in Review

Dear Neighbor,

Since February of this year, I have had the pleasure to serve as your Legislator. While I'm still new to the job, I am proud of what we accomplished together this year - much of which is highlighted in this newsletter.

With each passing day that I have the honor of representing Nassau County's Second Legislative District, I meet more wonderful people who are doing great civic work on behalf of our communities. I am touched by the welcoming sentiment I receive and thank each and every one of you.

While 2014 has been a wonderful year in so many ways, it has been one that had tough days as well. What I have most enjoyed about being your Legislator is that when things got tough, our community members united and worked to make things better as a cohesive and strong unit.

As you read this newsletter, you will see that I am enjoying my first year as your Legislator and fostering relationships with each community I serve. I look forward to accomplishing even more goals in 2015 so I can better enhance our relationship. I will continue to fight for our civil rights as well as work diligently to foster good police and community relations. As your Legislator, the health, wellness, and personal safety of you and your family are my top priorities. I will continue to be an advocate to ensure our community's needs are addressed.

Sincerely,

### A Call for Unity

On May 9th, I held a community press conference to bring together local elected officials, community activists, spiritual leaders, and concerned citizens to address better relations between the community and law enforcement after allegations of police brutality were reported in Westbury/New Cassel against resident Kyle Howell. I emphasized the importance of coming together as a community. I have been given a seat at the table in the police review process which is looking into these types of incidents. (See below.)



### Police Executive Research Forum & Dashboard and Body Cams



As the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) was responding to allegations of police brutality reported in the Westbury/New Cassel community, on May 19th the Legislature approved a contract between the NCPD and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a nationally-recognized independent police research and policy consultant. PERF is responsible for addressing specific policing issues in the NCPD. They will review the department's rules, policies, procedures, training, and accountability processes. At my request, I had an initial meeting with the consultants in late-June and a follow-up discussion in October. The consultants will work with County Legislators to form community focus groups. The recent tragic events reported by national media about the killing of civilians and police makes this a high priority.

On June 4th I stood with Legislative Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams and Legislator Carrié Solages urging the NCPD to implement a program to require officers to be equipped with and use dashboard and body-worn cameras. The legislation will create a demonstration program with cameras in marked and unmarked patrol cars. Using this technology is a win-win situation. It not only protects our citizens but protects our officers too.

### Backpacks & 'Giving Back'

To foster better police-community relations, in August I joined several colleagues in government to co-host 'The Road to Success' Backpack Giveaway in partnership with the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association, Superior Officers Association, and the Nassau County Detectives Association, Inc. Nearly 50 volunteers from the community worked side-by-side with law enforcement at the Town of North Hempstead "Yes We Can" Community Center to pack school supplies for young people.

Days later, I was glad to see volunteers, County police, and young people from the Nassau County Police Explorers Program (see photo at right) mingling with parents and children as they distributed backpacks at the back-to-school event. Participation in the Explorers Program for youths of color and underrepresented people can create future career paths that can lead to greater diversity and ultimately better relations between law enforcement and our communities.



WHEN YOU FIGHT AGAINST HIGHER TAXES, YOU FIGHT FOR WORKING FAMILIES



In fall 2014, County Executive Ed Mangano and the Republican majority moved to raise your taxes. That is why I voted "NO!" to the proposed 2015 budget. We know that Nassau County continues to struggle financially, but so do working families.

Please know while we fight against the 'Mangano Tax Hike,' we stand by our commitment NOT TO CUT VITAL SERVICES. Being a Nassau County Legislator is about making tough decisions on behalf of our residents. I will stand strong on protecting the important services the County provides.

Remember, Nassau County can do better! We can continue to provide the services that are important to you and your family while still keeping our County an affordable place in which to live, work, and stay!

Promoting Education

WESTBURY:

In a bipartisan effort, Legislator Laura Schaefer and I secured \$50,000 for the Westbury Memorial Library to open its doors to more people with disabilities.



My advocacy on behalf of the Westbury School District resulted in a \$75,000 grant from Nassau County for infrastructure improvements. The grant decreases the school district's expenditures and those savings can be passed on to homeowners by reducing their school taxes!

LAKEVIEW:

I worked in partnership with Nassau County to secure \$127,900 in Community Revitalization Program funding to further enhance the Lakeview Public Library. This funding is going toward a family life center at the library and includes the purchase of computers, software and furniture. Libraries are a fundamental part of our community where young leaders can increase their knowledge and skills!

Environmental Improvement & Safety

HEMPSTEAD:

SECURED \$2 MILLION FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE HORSEBROOK DRAIN REVITALIZATION PROJECT.

For years, residents in the General MacArthur Senior Village, Clinton Court, and surrounding areas endured persistent flooding conditions due to stormwater drainage issues. I am working with the Nassau County Department of Public Works (DPW) to resolve the issue. The drainage study has been completed. On December 1, 2014, I voted for and the County Legislature approved a \$2,000,000 allocation for the design phase of the project. We anticipate the contract for the design phase to begin in spring 2015.



Peninsula Boulevard

The \$1,350,000 road resurfacing project on Peninsula Boulevard from Fulton Avenue to Lakeview Avenue has been completed.

Emergency Management Presentation for Seniors

I worked in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management to host a Winter Presentation for seniors in Hempstead. Attendees received essential information about developing an individualized disaster and evacuation plan and its importance to their safety and welfare in the winter months.

Saving Early Intervention Funding

What is early intervention and why is it so important?

The Early Intervention Program in Nassau County is for young children from birth to three years old who have an identified disability or developmental delay and require intervention.

- I identified \$4,500,000 million dollars in proposed cuts to the program in County Executive Ed Mangano's budget.

I successfully fought to have the cuts restored and shift the focus back on children and their education rather than cost efficiency. When it comes down to cutting costs in our County, it should not be at the expense of our children's education and well-being.



In April 2014, I rode with bus rider advocates and residents to address safety and scheduling issues on the NICE Bus lines in the district. I also worked with my colleagues to obtain a seat on the NICE Advisory Board for a designated representative from the bus rider's union.

Encouraging Our Young People

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE.

That is why I participated with the County's Office of Minority Affairs in hosting a "Youth Workshop" so students could spend an afternoon learning about the legislative process.

My summer internship program was successful. The interns who worked in my Legislative Office gained valuable experience about governmental operations that they will hopefully use to become future leaders.



Presenting a citation to young Thomeek English for his quick thinking and actions to save his mother, Tameka Gabriel's life when she became ill at home in Lakeview.



In fall 2014, I was proud to co-sponsor with my Legislative colleagues, a series of small business development seminars featuring panelists from the U.S. Small Business Administration and S.U.N.Y. Farmingdale's Small Business Development Center.



Providing the Westbury Fire Department with the latest technological equipment is important. That is why I am pleased to announce that I obtained a \$30,000 grant for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras that helps them to virtually 'see through smoke' which helps save lives.