



# Legislative Report

Comprising the 2nd Legislative District:  
Hempstead • Hicksville • Lakeview • New Cassel • Rockville Centre  
Uniondale • Westbury • West Hempstead

[www.NassauCountyNY.gov](http://www.NassauCountyNY.gov)

[SBYNOE@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV](mailto:SBYNOE@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV)

Winter 2017

## A message from **Legislator Siela A. Bynoe**



Dear Neighbor,

We accomplished a great deal together in 2016 and I'm very excited to tell you about some of the initiatives we were able to help implement.

◆ Knowing how important it is for law enforcement to be able to recognize indications of mental health issues, I partnered in advocacy with the Department of Human Services, and successfully persuaded Acting Police Commissioner Krumpter to ensure Mental Health First Aid training is standard policy for all new recruits (*See p. 1*);

◆ Partnering with community leaders and industry experts, our efforts to improve community and police relations through officer training resulted in many joint initiatives and a new Use of Force Policy (*See p. 2*);

◆ As you may already know, in 2015, I introduced legislation to establish a Land Bank. This year the Land Bank received a \$150,000 grant and submitted a \$2 million application to buy, renovate and resell many zombie houses (*See p. 3*);

◆ As the newly appointed Ranking Member of the Finance Committee, I successfully argued against the Administration's proposed increase in security alarm registration fees ;

◆ We are working to gain support for proposed legislation requiring landlords to install emergency back-up generators to provide electricity during power outages to elevators in buildings that house senior citizens and the disabled (*See p 2*.);

◆ Coordinating efforts with various organizations, I helped to provide seminars on housing programs and job fairs (*See p. 2*);

◆ Making companies, such as a local water provider, more accountable is a key priority for my office (*See p. 4*);

◆ Another important goal is to engage students to learn through experiences that I help provide as often as possible (*See p. 4*).

Best wishes for a healthy and successful 2017!

## Championing Mental Health First Aid Training

By working across the aisle with former Legislator Francis Becker to bring Mental Health First Aide to Nassau, Legislator Siela Bynoe illustrated that she understands how important it is for friends and loved ones to be able to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness. She organized and sponsored a series of Mental Health First Aid training sessions with faith-based youth service and community organizations, as well as several school districts, all of which are often the first line of defense in identifying people who need this type of help. These training sessions enable participants to de-escalate emotionally charged situations and make the proper assessments and referrals, while also reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues.

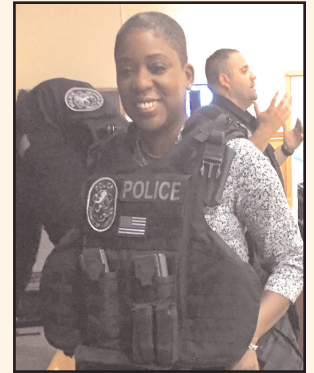
Earlier this year, Legislator Bynoe successfully persuaded Acting Nassau County Police Commissioner Thomas Krumpter to change Police Department policy. It is now part of the Police Academy curriculum for new police recruits to receive Mental Health First Aid training conducted by mental health professionals. By early this year, well over 300 recruits will have received this training.

Legislator Bynoe also partnered with the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund to conduct training sessions for public safety and code enforcement officers, housing authority staff, social service providers and nurses. A generous \$10,000 grant from the Firefighters Fund covered all the costs of the training.

**Legislator Bynoe would love to hear from you with any comments. Please call her at (516) 571-6202 or email [sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov).**

# Helping Police and Community Work Together

At about the same time in May 2014 that the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) was responding to allegations of police brutality reported in the Westbury/New Cassel community, the Legislature approved a contract between the NCPD and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). PERF is a nationally recognized independent police research and policy consultant that was engaged to address specific policing issues in the NCPD. PERF reviewed the Department's rules, policies, procedures, training and accountability processes. As a result of this review, the NCPD recently published a 100-page *Use of Force Reference Guide (Policy and Procedures)*.



Legislator Bynoe worked with PERF to establish a community engagement plan that obtained and used input from residents to help develop the new Use of Force policies. NCPD's updated Policy advises police members to use de-escalation tactics learned in special trainings to avoid or minimize physical use of force.

*Article continued on page 3*

## Facilitating Community Empowerment

Early last year, Legislator Bynoe joined forces with the Hempstead Branch of the NAACP and The Long Island Housing Partnership to host a Housing Seminar for the local community.

The seminar gave residents an opportunity to learn about housing programs from certified counselors who can assist families interested in buying a home or having trouble making their mortgage payments. Programs offered by The Long Island Housing Partnership include down payment assistance, emergency mortgage assistance program (HEMAP), the Employer Assisted Housing Program and the Rehabilitation Emergency Assistance Program (REAP).



***LIHP's Michelle DiBenedetto and NAACP's Bishop David Gates with Siela.***

## Pushing For Life-Saving Emergency Generators

Legislator Bynoe introduced a bill that would require landlords of multi-family dwellings designated to serve seniors and the disabled, our most vulnerable population, to install emergency backup generators to provide electricity to elevators when there is an interruption in the electrical power. This legislation will help protect the health, safety and welfare of residents by allowing them to safely evacuate a building and/or receive medical attention, if necessary.

The bill was pushed forward by Legislator Bynoe after learning of the power outage that affected the seniors residing at 400 Fulton Avenue in Hempstead the summer of 2015.

Legislator Bynoe continues to coordinate with community leaders throughout Legislative District 2 to bring more attention to the bill and communicate its importance throughout Nassau County.

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## Job Fair For Our Most Vulnerable

In conjunction with the Mental Health Association of Nassau County and the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce, Legislator Bynoe held the First Annual Job Fair Networking Expo at the Hempstead Public Library in June 2016.

This job fair, among the first of its kind, offered potential employers and clients of the Mental Health Association of Nassau County to meet and discuss job opportunities.

A few examples are:

- ✱ *Consider verbal and psychological de-escalation techniques before using physical tactics such as take down, kick or martial arts techniques;*
- ✱ *The totality of circumstances, including the severity of the crime, should be considered when deciding the force necessary to maintain control of a person or effect an arrest;*
- ✱ *When physical force is necessary, whenever possible, use intermediate weapons such as tasers, sprays, police dogs and batons instead of handguns;*
- ✱ *After using force of any kind, police will provide aid to ensure the person's health is not threatened.*

To fully understand the processes and tactics well enough to be able to help change policy and speak knowledgeably about police use of force, Siela attended the Nassau County Police Academy for three hours a week for thirteen weeks.

Visit [nassaucountyny.gov/516/District-2---Siela-A-Bynoe](http://nassaucountyny.gov/516/District-2---Siela-A-Bynoe) and click on Use of Force Reference Guide for details on specific policies.

## Creative Cups For a Great Cause

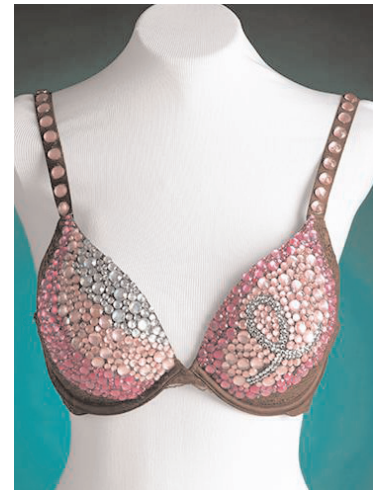
Legislator Siela Bynoe found a lump in her breast through self-examination at the age of 36. Around the time of her diagnosis, she was part of a group of women who were supporting a friend who was coping with her own fight against breast cancer.

Siela and several friends created Women Against Cancer. The group raised money for organizations doing research and counseling.

Legislator Bynoe got involved in the Creative Cups project to raise awareness and work towards a cure for cancer. Hosted annually by Adelphi University's Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program, the project encourages creative expression through the decoration of bras, while also celebrating and showing support for the lives of those affected by cancer.

The "designer" bras are auctioned off at the Creative Cups Gala Auction & Reception. This year's event will take place on Thursday, March 16 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley University Center. All proceeds from the auction and gala help fund Adelphi's Hotline & Support Program each year.

For information on Creative Cups, including attending the March 16 Annual Auction & Reception or otherwise supporting Creative Cups, visit [creativecups.adelphi.edu](http://creativecups.adelphi.edu).



*Siela designed this beautifully ornate bra for the auction, which is featured in the 2017 Creative Cups calendar.*

## Turn Zombie Houses Into Homes

Zombie houses bring down the property values of surrounding homes, are a blight in our communities, act as a magnet for crime and vandalism and create unsafe conditions for families. If renovated, these houses might be purchased by families wishing to own a home.

Legislators Siela Bynoe and Laura Curran sponsored legislation to establish a Land Bank. As a result of their diligent efforts, Land Bank legislation was adopted.

The Land Bank is a nonprofit corporation organized to buy, restore and market abandoned properties. The Land Bank first received a \$150,000 grant and recently applied for \$2 million in grant funding to achieve their goals. Legislator Bynoe also serves as an officer on the Land Bank's Board of Directors to ensure the program operates efficiently and effectively.

Stay tuned for updates on this critical program that will make neighborhoods safer and more appealing.



## Brown Water in Lakeview

After receiving complaints about poor water quality in Lakeview, Legislator Bynoe contacted American Water. After many meetings with President Brian Bruce and his staff, Legislator Bynoe organized a community forum where the Company announced their commitment to invest in infrastructure improvements as part of the corrective action plan in Lakeview and surrounding areas.

Legislator Bynoe is pleased that American Water has responded to this and other water quality issues favorably. Last year, American Water installed a portable treatment plant that removes iron in the water. In addition, several water mains were replaced in 2016 and more are scheduled for replacement this year.

Legislator Bynoe will stay on top of this important issue and provide residents with updates regarding ongoing improvements. She urges residents to report problems to American Water at 877-426-6999.

## Engaging the Youth Through Experience-Based Learning

One of Legislator Bynoe's most important and favorite responsibilities is to help nurture our County's youth by providing experience-based learning opportunities.

Just a few examples of her work include hosting mock legislative sessions with students, participating in career days in schools and sponsoring at least three interns in her office each summer. Legislator Bynoe has also hosted back to school and holiday events throughout her Legislative District.



## Fire Safety: *Be Prepared*

Legislator Bynoe partnered with the American Red Cross and the Hempstead Fire Department to launch a Fire Safety Awareness campaign in Hempstead. After a five-alarm fire burned through a housing complex in Hempstead last winter, Legislator Bynoe hosted a Free Smoke Detector Installation Day. Through this initiative, the Red Cross provided free smoke detectors and fire safety presentations.

Legislator Bynoe is relieved that every home equipped with smoke detectors represents another family that will be safer. She also strongly encourages having an emergency evacuation plan and practicing it with family members so everyone knows how to get out safely.

## Upcoming Mammogram Screening

Legislator Bynoe is pleased to host the Nassau University Medical Center Mammography Screening Van in her district, available to women over 40 with or without medical insurance.

Screenings will be conducted on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 8:45am-12:00pm at Kennedy Memorial Park, 335 Greenwich Street, Hempstead. You need to make an appointment to receive a free screening by contacting Legislator Bynoe's office at 516-571-6202 or [sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov).

