



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin S. Parker

## Senator Parker Reports Dangers of West Nile Virus in Central Brooklyn

KEVIN S. PARKER August 18, 2009

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### **SENATOR PARKER REPORTS DANGERS OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN CENTRAL BROOKLYN**

*Community Residents Urged to Reduce Exposure to Mosquitoes*

**Brooklyn, NY-** Senator Parker today announced that the New York City Health Department has detected West Nile virus in Central Brooklyn. So far, no human threats have been reported however, the Department of Health has issued a statement alerting increased mosquito surveillance in affected Brooklyn area zip codes: 11203, 11207 and 11210.

"It is important for our communities to be alert for signs of the West Nile virus and to be take necessary precautions to reduce mosquito exposure." said Senator Parker. " We need to track it, combat it, and be mindful of this virus' affects especially during the summer months to protect you and your family from the virus."

Although there have been no major life threatening cases of West Nile virus in Brooklyn to date, mosquitoes may be infected with the virus and pose a health risk to the general public. West Nile virus can cause a serious inflammation of the brain or spinal cord, and can also cause a more moderate flu-like illness with headache, fever and extreme fatigue. If you think you have symptoms of West Nile Virus, consult with your physical immediately.

#### **Reducing Exposure to Mosquitoes**

- Use an approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus (not for children under 3)
- Make sure windows have screens, and repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Eliminate any standing water from your property as they are breeding sites for mosquitoes, and dispose of containers that can collect water. Standing water is a violation of the New York City Health Code and can be reported by calling 311.
- Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.

- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Keep them empty and covered when not in use, and drain water that collects in pool covers.
- Report standing water by calling 311 or visiting [www.nyc.gov/health/wnv](http://www.nyc.gov/health/wnv).

### **About Senator Kevin Parker**

*Senator Kevin S. Parker is committed to restoring the overall quality of life for the constituents of the 21st Senatorial District in Brooklyn. A lifelong Brooklyn resident, Senator Parker has been a Flatbush resident for more than 27 years. Having been nurtured, schooled and employed in the district, Senator Parker is intimately familiar with the needs of this ethnically diverse community that consists of 311,000 constituents in several communities which include: Flatbush, East Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Kensington and Borough Park.*

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