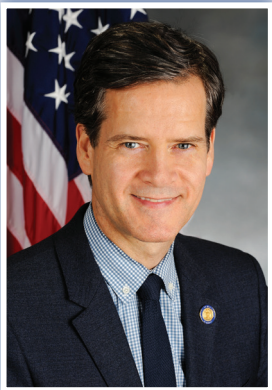


# Senator Brad Hoylman

## WINTER 2015

### LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNITY UPDATE



Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for giving me the privilege of representing you in the New York State Senate. Our neighborhoods all have pressing issues that I've sought to address in Albany through a diverse array of legislative and constituent initiatives, some of which you can read about in this report.

Please contact me at **212-633-8052** or **hoylman@nysenate.gov** if you have any questions or concerns about legislation or want to share ideas. For regular updates, visit my website at **<http://hoylman.nysenate.gov>**.

Also, keep in mind that I can assist you with matters such as housing, healthcare, and benefits/entitlements, and can help you resolve problems with government agencies. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hoylman".

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator  
27th District

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

I hope the 2016 legislative session is more productive than last year's. **While I was pleased to be the prime sponsor of five important bills that passed the Senate in 2015 – two of which were recently signed into law by the Governor – the session was marked by a disappointing lack of progress on numerous subjects.** These areas include the environment, ethics and campaign finance reform, and support for underserved populations.

**In 2015, I was named the Ranking Member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.** Thanks to the inaction of Senate Republicans, New York still doesn't have a codified plan to address man-made climate change, continues to allow dangerous levels of toxins to be used in children's toys and permits the use of microbeads – plastic particles used in cosmetics – that pollute our water and endanger health.

**One bill that the committee *did* pass stands out as an example of how out of touch the Republican majority seems at times to be with environmental concerns.** Last session, the Republicans approved a bill to permit the big game hunting of elk. This, despite the fact that, as I pointed out in committee, the last northeastern elk was killed on September 1, 1877! (The Republicans subsequently dropped the bill from consideration.)

As a Democrat, the challenges of working with a Republican majority on environmental issues will continue in 2016. That said, I'm eager to return to Albany and push for bipartisan support for major environmental legislation such as the Child Safe Products Act (S.5995), my bill to ban the sale or usage of the harmful pesticide glyphosate (S.5471), and my legislation to prohibit the disposal of hydrofracking waste in New York State (S.340).

**Government reform will continue to be a keen interest of mine, too, and is paramount to restoring the public's trust in our state**

**government.** The federal corruption trials of former Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver are grave reminders that much more work is required to clean up Albany. I'll once again push for the passage of my legislation to limit lawmakers' ability to earn outside income (S.34), prohibit campaign funds from being used for the legal defense of corrupt officials (S.338), and require public officials convicted of felonies to relinquish their taxpayer-funded pensions (S.126).

**Since the passage of the Marriage Equality Act in 2011, the Republican-led State Senate has blocked legislation on all LGBT issues.** Pro-LGBT legislation that has stalled in the Senate includes a bill I co-sponsor with Senator Daniel Squadron and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, (S.61A); my legislation I carry with Assembly Member Deborah Glick to ban so-called "gay conversion therapy" for minors (S.121); and my bill to protect LGBT parents and their children by legally establishing parentage for children born through IVF or surrogacy (S.2765).

There are several other notable pieces of legislation important to many of our neighbors that I will once again fight to pass. These include: the Child Victims Act (S.63A), which would expand child sex abuse victims' ability to bring civil suits against their abusers or those who covered up the actions of their abusers, and bills to increase the income allowance threshold for the Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (S.3369) and Disabled Homeowners Exemption (S.3370) from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

I'll also be working on new bills I've introduced since the end of this year's session, including a bill I carry with Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal to ban the importation of endangered animal hunting trophies (S.6072), and gun legislation I carry with Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh to



allow courts to issue temporary restraining orders prohibiting individuals who pose a significant risk of harming themselves or someone else from having access to firearms (S.6065).

**I'm also working on a package of legislation that will help protect rent stabilized tenants in this overheated housing market.** A recent investigation found nearly 5,500 buildings that weren't listed as rent stabilized, despite the fact that the owners were receiving more than \$100 million in property tax reductions. In response, I'm drafting legislation to increase the civil penalties on unscrupulous landlords who knowingly overcharge their rent-stabilized tenants, with the largest penalties reserved for repeat offenders. Another bill I'm drafting with Assembly Member Gottfried would grant tenants the ability to bring lawsuits to compel their landlords to give the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) access to their building to investigate possible violations. This bill was inspired by a recurring incident in our district where DOB inspectors arrived to a building to investigate tenant complaints, only to be repeatedly turned away.





## POLICY SPOTLIGHT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One of the highlights of my work in the 2015 legislative session was the passage of my bill S.4288, which Governor Cuomo signed into law on November 21. The new law, which will go into effect in February, will help save lives by ensuring that domestic violence incident reports filed by victims in languages other than English are translated promptly. Below is an explanation of why this new law is necessary, and the tragic story that inspired my bill.

### The Issue:

Even though police are trained to have victims of domestic violence fill out domestic violence incident reports, and to use these forms as a basis for launching an investigation, there is no explicit requirement in New York State law that says if a victim files such a report in a language other than English, the police must attempt to translate the allegations. As you will read below, this loophole can result in heartbreaking consequences.

### The Story of Deisy Garcia:

Deisy, a 21-year-old immigrant from Guatemala living in Queens, first contacted the NYPD in May 2013 after being assaulted by her husband. She filled out the domestic violence incident report form she was given by police in her native Spanish, expressing her fear that her husband would kill her and their two young daughters, aged 2 and 1. That November, she filed two more victim statements after her husband assaulted her as she lay in bed, threatening to kill her and take away her daughters.

Tragically, Deisy's victim statements were never translated into English for review or action. On January 18, 2014, Deisy and her two infant daughters were stabbed to death by her husband, who has since been convicted and is serving 45 years for manslaughter charges.



### My New Law:

S.4288, which was sponsored in the Assembly by Assembly Member Maritza Davila, simply requires that law enforcement agencies have procedures in place for the prompt translation of domestic violence victim statements if they are filed in a language other than English. This common-sense fix will ensure that police officers are trained to quickly have a victim's statement translated by whatever means available – be it through a translator on staff, a government or private translation service, or even through online tools like Google Translate.

It is sadly inevitable that there will be more women like Deisy Garcia, who approach the police seeking refuge from an abuser despite not knowing or being fluent in English. This legislation is dedicated to the memory of Deisy and her children. It hopefully will help ensure domestic violence victims are heard by those charged to protect them, no matter what language they speak.



Kathy Hochul  
@LtGovHochulNY

Congrats @bradhoylman! This law is real progress for victims of domestic violence. It will keep more families safe.



## Named “Legislator of the Year”



I'm thrilled to let you know that in November I was named 2015 Legislator of the Year by EPL/Environmental Advocates, one of New York's leading environmental advocacy groups. In naming me, EPL/Environmental Advocates said: *When it comes to standing up to big polluters and their allies in Albany who seek to weaken, block or delay protections, or thwart progress, New Yorkers have a new champion in Senator Brad Hoylman. In just his first year as the ranking member of the environment committee, Senator Hoylman has established himself as a force to be reckoned with.* I share this honor with my government colleagues and advocates across the state with whom I work closely on preserving our environment for the next generation of New Yorkers.

## Fighting for Equal Pay for Equal Work

In September, Assembly Member Deborah Glick and I announced legislation to combat wage discrimination in New York State at the site of the historic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Our bill would require a company seeking a contract or doing business with the state to report their wage gap based on gender, race and ethnicity. **This legislation is necessary because fifty years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women still make an average of just 86 cents for every dollar made by men in New York.**



## Scrutinizing Air Rights Sales: Stuy Town



*Senator Hoylman Joins Comptroller Stringer celebrating Disability Awareness Month at VISIONS in Chelsea.*

On October 19, Mayor de Blasio announced the sale of Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village (STPCV) to the Blackstone Group for \$5.4 billion in a deal that will preserve 5,000 affordable STPCV units for twenty years and prohibit development on the remainder of the complex. This is a major step towards preserving middle income housing and open space in Manhattan, and I commend the STPCV Tenants Association, Council Member Dan Garodnick, Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh and the de Blasio Administration for their efforts.

**I will vigorously monitor the terms of the agreement between the City and Blackstone, including the potential transfer of air rights from STPCV to surrounding communities in our Senate district, which according to calculations by the Department of City Planning could amount to millions of square feet.** To that end, on October 28, I joined Comptroller Scott Stringer, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Assembly Member Kavanagh in sending a letter to Blackstone enumerating our questions and concerns and requesting a meeting to discuss the development rights in detail. I look forward to continuing to work with my government colleagues on the details of this sale as it progresses. You can read a copy of our letter on my website at <http://hoylman.nysenate.gov> or call me for a copy at 212-633-8052.

## Scrutinizing Air Rights Sales: Pier 40

Last month, the de Blasio Administration announced a proposal to redevelop the St. John's Terminal at 550 Washington Street into a major mixed-use complex while transferring air rights from Pier 40 in Hudson River Park to the site. The redevelopment would create nearly two million square feet of new residential, commercial, hotel and office space in what is currently a commercial and manufacturing district, as well as provide up to 476 units of affordable housing and a one-time payment to the Hudson River Park Trust for repairs at Pier 40. **I will continue to scrutinize the plan closely in order to ensure that, if the project moves forward, Hudson River Park gets a fair return on the proposed sale of air rights to the project and the impact of the proposed project on the character of the neighborhood and local infrastructure are seriously considered.**

On November 20, I submitted testimony to the Department of City Planning on the Draft Scope of Work for the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement along with all of our area elected officials. You can read my testimony on my website at <http://hoylman.nysenate.gov> or call me for a copy at 212-633-8052.



*Senator Hoylman speaking at opening day of Greenwich Village Little League at Pier 40 (Photo by Howard Barash Photography).*

## Success! Port Ambrose Vetoed!

On November 12, Governor Cuomo vetoed the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas Facility. This comes after more than a year of my working with advocates and Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal to raise awareness about the environmental dangers of the proposed facility. In a letter sent to the Governor in March and in joint testimonies submitted to the U.S. Maritime Administration and New York City Council, we stressed that construction of this facility just 19 miles off the coast of New York would exacerbate ecological degradation of the surrounding area and increase our state's reliance on dirty methane-emitting fuels. I'm extremely grateful to Governor Cuomo for his decision. Earlier this year, the Governor took the bold pledge to reduce New York's greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. His veto of Port Ambrose will help ensure New York is able to achieve that ambitious goal.



## Helping Seniors with a "Rent Freeze"

On October 23, I organized a Senior and Disability Rent Freeze Workshop with the Legal Aid Society, hosted by Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES). Volunteer attorneys helped dozens of tenants apply for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs, as well as apply for Medicaid and Medicare benefits and appoint healthcare proxies. If you want to check your eligibility or need help applying for the SCRIE or DRIE rent freeze, please call me at 212-633-8052. As a result of action taken at the state and local level, the household income cap for New York City's SCRIE and DRIE programs for rent-regulated tenants has been increased to \$50,000.



Senator Brad Hoylman  
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New York State Senator  
**BRAD HOYLMAN**

27th Senate District

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New York, NY 10001

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- ✓ Legislative Outlook
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Senator Brad Hoylman

Ranking Member, Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
presents

# Conservation Conversations



## Bag the Plastic: The Impact of Plastic Bags on our Environment

Thursday, February 25, 2016  
6:30 - 8 pm

NYU Kimmel Center, Room 914  
Space is limited. To reserve your seat call 212-633-8052  
Free and open to the public

