



# FELDER FOCUS



SEE STORY ON PAGE 6-8

## “WE CANNOT LET THEM SUFFER ALONE”

### GOING UP ?



See story on page 5

### CREATING ART TOGETHER



See story on page 3

### HELPING THE HELPERS



See story on page 9





*We take pride in helping our constituents resolve quality of life issues. Here we share some of our recent success stories.*

**SAVING BABY R.**

Few moments can match the deep emotion of holding your newborn child for the first time. However, for Mr. and Mrs. K. the experience took a sudden terrifying turn when they learned their baby was born with a rare malformation of her trachea and esophagus. Their baby needed immediate reparative surgery restoring the ability to eat and grow normally. The critical surgery has a high risk of lifelong complications.



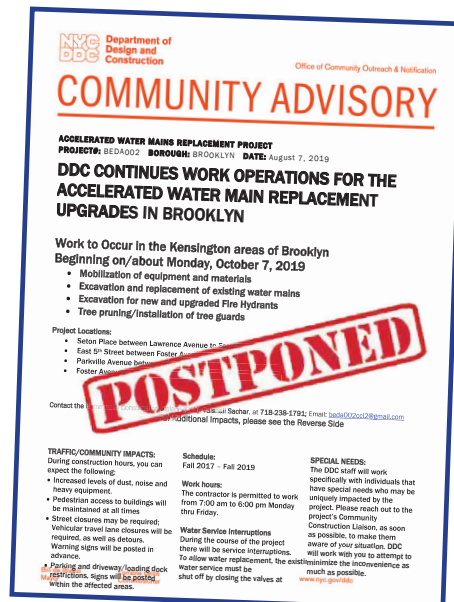
Finding a team of doctors at Cincinnati Children's Hospital experienced in the successful repair of baby R's conditions lifted the parents' spirits, until their insurance company refused authorization, repeatedly. The hospital was part of their insurance network and the family was ready to cover the costs of transporting her; still, all the doctors' supporting arguments were ignored.

Desperate for a chance at a healthy future for their baby, they reached out to my office and together with the support of other elected officials, my staff member successfully advocated for an immediate review. Thankfully, the decision was reversed. On November 7, baby R's parents reached out with heartfelt emotion, sharing that having accessed the necessary expert care, baby R's surgery was successful and her prognosis is excellent.

**CHAOS AVERTED**

While many families across our district were busily preparing to celebrate the Jewish holidays, I was shocked to receive frantic calls from Kensington residents appropriately concerned that water main replacement was scheduled imminently in their neighborhood. The work would encompass weeks of water service disruptions and street closures causing major chaos. Holiday seasons generally entail busy preparation and large family gatherings.

My staff immediately contacted DDC and worked closely with Commissioner Grillo's staff to reschedule the work for a time that would not unduly impact the neighborhood. I am thankful for their reasonable accommodation.



**SAFETY FIRST**

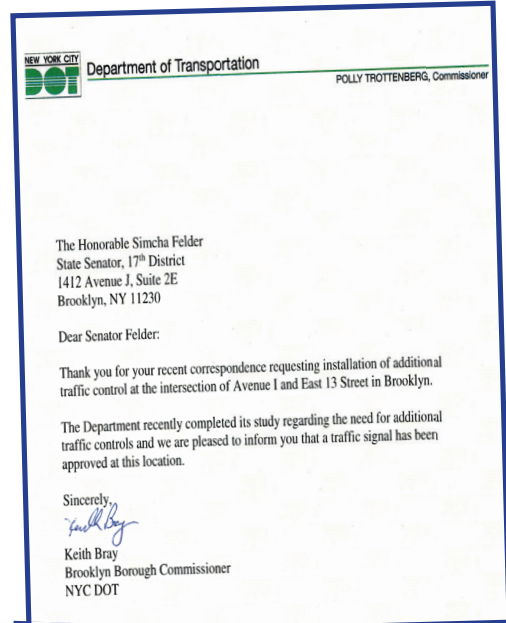
Dear Senator Felder,

As a very concerned parent of 4 small children, I am asking for your assistance for the urgent requirement of a traffic light at Avenue I and East 13th Street. It is a very busy corner with lots of traffic. Many innocent children attempt to cross this dangerous avenue daily!!

It's a corner where a tragedy is waiting to happen. I beg you, please address this urgent matter to get a traffic light ASAP.

Thank you for all your great work for the community! I look forward to your response.

M. G.





# FELDER GETS HIGH SCORE

## From EPL/Environmental Advocates



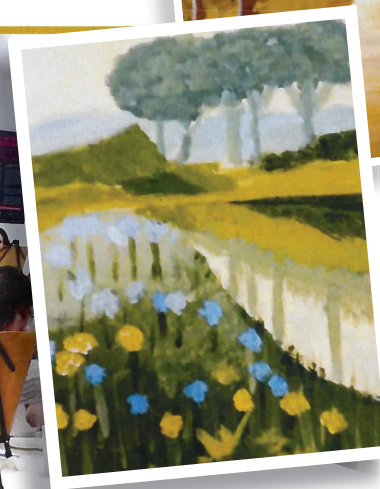
**Congratulations to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for being awarded the Legislative Champion Award. Her strong commitment to preserving a healthy and vibrant environment for future New Yorkers is inspiring.**

NYS 2019 ENVIROMENTAL SCORECARD		Score
Simcha Felder	(D-17/Brooklyn)	93

A consistent supporter of Brooklyn Public Libraries, a grant procured by Senator Felder supports free art programs at the Borough Park branch. Librarian Paula Bianchi and Artist in Residence, Nigel Morgan, recently ran a successful painting workshop for adults and teens. Mr. Morgan visited Senator Felder's office in person to share the outpouring of appreciation they received. Parents and teen children, he explained, attended the workshop in pairs and enjoyed not only a creative, entertaining activity, but a treasured bonding experience as well. "Libraries and children are two things you never regret investing in," shared Senator Felder.

Thank you  
*Senator Felder*  
for making this possible.

Painting classes for teens and adults held at the Borough Park Library Branch  
(an eight week course in landscape and still-life painting)





# A Woman of Distinction

Nancy Sutton is a pillar in the lives of so many who are bravely battling cancer. Since founding the New York Cancer Center in 2009, she has been committed to addressing the needs of cancer patients and their families. As President of the New York Cancer Center, Nancy and her dedicated staff provide patients with the knowledge, hope and support that empowers them to take an active role in their treatment and healing options.

Mrs. Sutton has a long and storied history of enhancing the lives of her community members. In 1992, in perhaps one of the most monumental days in the history of the social services infrastructure in South Brooklyn, Nancy founded and created Medstar, a division under the Sephardic Bikkur Holim

Community Service Network. Her efforts in compiling a network of over 4,000 top doctors nationwide were essential to Medstar's

mission of providing high quality medical referrals to patients in the local community. In addition, Nancy and her staff oversee extensive programming in health education and disease prevention to provide clients with the knowledge and resources to lead healthy lives.

Educated right in the heart of South Brooklyn, Nancy received her B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1973. She serves as a tour guide and educator at the Museum of Jewish Heritage and is a recipient of the New York City Comptroller's Leadership Award.

"It is my pleasure to honor Nancy Sutton, a woman truly deserving of this prestigious title, with this year's Women of Distinction award," said Senator Felder.



On August 7, Signal Maintainer Anthony Mannino was working at Newkirk Plaza station when he saw a woman standing on the track before horrified onlookers as the Q train was entering the station. Without hesitation, Mr. Mannino jumped onto the track and waved down the train operator with his bright orange vest. Unwitting spectators heaved a sigh of relief as the train came to a screeching halt right in front of Mr. Mannino and the stranger whose life he saved.

"I am proud to recognize Anthony Mannino for his remarkable act of heroism. His swift and selfless action averted a terrible tragedy."

While off duty, on Sunday October 13, the quick actions of three heroic Police Officers of the 61st Precinct, which covers the Madison and Gravesend section of Senate District 17, saved the life of a heart attack victim. While at a bowling alley on Staten Island, Officers John Desiderio, Joseph Glorioso, and Giovanni Cucuzza noticed an elderly man collapse and took quick, critical action. The officers applied lifesaving measures restoring the man's heartbeat and consciousness before the ambulance arrived.

"I am honored to recognize officers Desiderio, Glorioso and Cucuzza whose sense of duty and compassion clearly guides them," said Senator Felder.



(L-R: Senator Felder, Officer Desiderio, Officer Glorioso, Officer Cucuzza and Captain Gaby Celiba, Commanding Officer, 61st Precinct)



# FELDER MOVES NEW YORK FORWARD

## F EXPRESS IS BACK!

After years of advocating with my colleagues for much needed transportation improvements in our neighborhood, residents of South Brooklyn finally have something to celebrate.

“When I was growing up on 18th Avenue, F Express service was the norm. Commuters felt the loss acutely and we’ve been pushing to bring it back ever since. Easing rush hour commutes is a great start and I look forward to expanded express hours,” said Senator Felder.

## BREAKING BARRIERS FOR NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

Long awaited ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility upgrades that include four brand new elevators are in service at the 62nd Street, New Utrecht Avenue station - an important connection between the N and D lines. Many more stations are slated for ADA accessibility upgrades across the city, including another station in Senate District 17. “Making our city subway system more accessible for people with disabilities, the elderly and people with young children must remain a top priority until every New Yorker can navigate freely through our city,” said Senator Felder.

Less than a year ago, Senator Felder was proud to stand with his colleagues and Brooklyn Borough President Adams to launch Barrier Free Brooklyn, an initiative that reimagines and works to recreate our city with increased access for all.

## NEXT STOP...

In an effort to modernize the bus system and better serve you, NYC Transit announced it is undertaking a complete redesign of its Brooklyn bus network. In a recent letter, Senator Felder urged President Byford to focus attention on improving the disastrous service delivery of the B11, which services over 10,000 riders a day who are consistently plagued by its unreliability. Adding insult to injury, riders who used to be able to text 511 for updates can no longer do so. “On November 21, I attended a public outreach hearing at Kensington Library to ensure that the needs of our neighborhood are heard,” stated Senator Felder.



Senator Felder and Councilman Yeger celebrate the return of F Express





**“Special needs children are just like all other children. They are entitled to the best education possible and their parents shouldn’t have to suffer and**





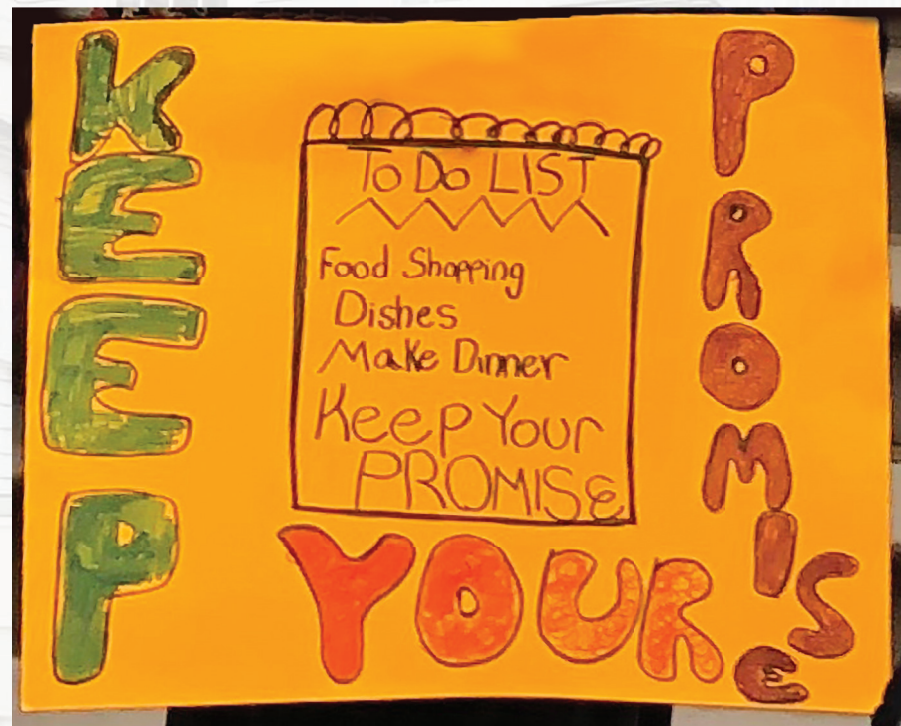
entitled to the  
anymore!"



**On Tuesday, November 12,  
Senator Simcha Felder held a press  
conference on the steps of City  
Hall asking the Mayor to keep his  
promise to special needs children  
and their families.**

**Below are excerpts of his speech:**

“We are here for the kids and the parents. For the kids who are once again being neglected by the city, and for the parents who year after year suffer pain, humiliation and economic hardship from an abusive system.”

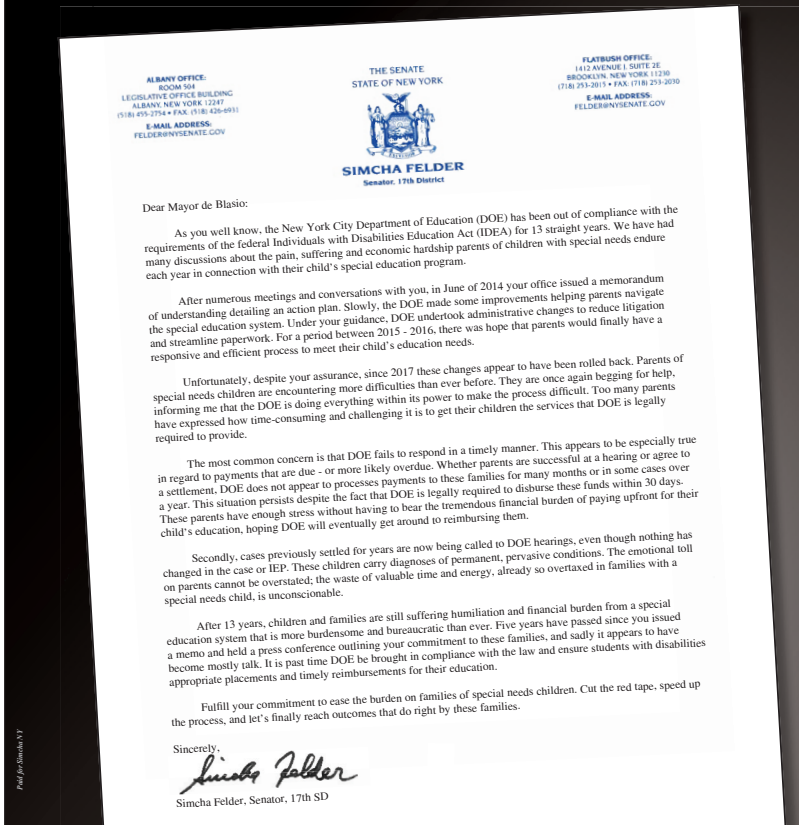


“There is no magic cure known to man for permanent conditions like Down syndrome and autism, so why are these parents under constant stress to meet numerous deadlines and submit mounds of documentation year after year to secure necessary services? It’s unconscionable. Mr. Mayor, these children are just like all other children; they deserve the best education possible and they deserve your attention.”

“But, you have been negligent in your care for this vulnerable population. Repeated, well-documented efforts in the form of meetings, letters and phone calls to your office have all been ignored. For



# Mayor DeBlasio: YOU PROMISED!



years, parents of children with special needs have had to wait for the City to settle legitimate claims for tuition reimbursement. Left with no other choice, we have come here to stand at your doorstep, because we cannot let them suffer alone.”

“In 2014 you held a press conference where you said every child in this City deserves a quality education. ‘Today, we are turning the page, making changes that will ease the burden on these parents. We are cutting red tape, speeding up the process and reaching outcomes that do right by families.’ That was your promise in 2014. It is now 2019 and things haven’t changed.”

“We are not asking for any favors. The City is lawfully obligated, under federal law (IDEA) to provide appropriate education and services in a timely manner. The deadlines are clear - at most it should take two months to resolve disputes and begin making reimbursements, not two years! Unfortunately, that is now common.”

“The law has been ignored, the deadlines ignored, the bills ignored. NYC DOE is not in compliance with the law. New Yorkers are required to abide by the law. Compliance is not an option, it’s the law - and New York City is not above the law.

“Please, Mayor de Blasio, keep your promise to these kids and their families. They’ve suffered long enough.”

Watch the video on our website: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/simcha-felder>

## Grand Marshal Felder at Makor's 3rd Run/Walk

Most marathons have one winner. It was truly humbling to lead this event where every participant and every volunteer is a real champion. I was honored to support Makor, one of the exceptional community organizations dedicated to helping every individual with developmental or intellectual disabilities develop and actualize their fullest potential.



### WINTER REMINDER:

**HEAP** application period is now open. Applicants over the age of 60 can apply at my office. Applicants under the age of 60 must apply in person at an approved HEAP site such as COJO of Flatbush 718 377-2900 and Boro Park JCC 718-972-6600.

**HEARTSHARE** will open on February 1. Applicants must have HEAP and a National Grid heating bill to qualify. Last year, my office facilitated over \$30,000 in Heartshare grants in just two weeks.

As always, more information and assistance are available at my office, 718-253-2015.





# Legislative Updates

## FELDER BILL TO INCREASE TAX CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS

Senator Simcha Felder (Midwood) and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (Forestburgh) introduced legislation (S6802) that would increase the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS State income tax credit for the first time in 12 years. The current \$200 tax credit for active volunteers has remained unchanged since first established in 2007. This important legislation would increase the credit to \$500 for eligible individuals and \$1,000 for married joint filers who do not receive any direct monetary compensation for their service. If enacted, the credit would go into effect for taxable years beginning in 2020.

“Volunteer firefighters and first responders including Hatzalah members are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No matter the weather, the conditions or the time of day, these extraordinary people answer the call to keep New Yorkers safe,” said Senator Simcha Felder. “It is time to recognize their invaluable contribution by updating and increasing this tax credit.”



## FELDER FIGHTS TO COMBAT ROBOCALLS

Senator Felder co-sponsored legislation to combat the rampant problem of robocalls. “The average person is bombarded and literally harassed by nonstop robocalls,” said Senator Simcha Felder. “Moreover, people are being conned and victimized to the tune of millions of dollars with a new scam every few weeks preying on seniors and vulnerable New Yorkers.

The Robocall Prevention Act (S3297) will curb unwanted robocalls in New York by enacting stringent new restrictions, requirements and penalties that include:

- Requiring telephone companies make free call blocking technology available to customers
- Prohibiting fraudulent “spoofing” using disguised numbers
- Granting the State Attorney General new enforcement powers to go after scammers with harsh penalties for violators who would face fines as high as \$2,000 per illegal robocall
- Giving New Yorkers the right to sue illegal robocallers

During the last session, the Robocall Prevention Act was passed in the State Senate, but was not taken up in the Assembly. “I intend to continue fighting to see this bill passed in both houses in 2020 and signed into law. This bill is the toughest action taken by any state in the nation to deal with robocalls. New Yorkers deserve nothing less,” concluded Senator Felder.

## SCHOOL FOUNDATION AID ROUNDTABLE

Senator Felder, Senator Jackson, Councilman Treyger, NYC Education Committee Chair and others sat as panelists at a local hearing led by Senate Education Committee Chair Shelley Mayer and Senate Budget & Revenue Committee Chair, Brian Benjamin, working to ensure every child in New York receives equal access to a quality education.



L-R Senators Felder, Addabbo, Ramos



Senators Felder and Mayer



# OPIOID TASK FORCE: Tackling the Problem Together



(L-R) Carly Gutierrez, Ertoania Jorge, Shani Cohen, Irina Snetova, Ana Tejada, Ruchama Clapman, Senator David Carlucci, Dr. Steven Gersten, Psy.D., Interborough Developmental & Consultation Center, Senator Pete Harckham and Senator Simcha Felder

The Joint Senate Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention is developing a plan to combat the opioid crisis in New York State and outreach to medical and behavioral health professionals with an understanding of the communities they serve is vital to the process.

“I was happy to bring Senator Harckham, Chair of the Senate Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Committee and Senator Carlucci, Chair of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee to tour the Integrated Health Care Center of Interborough Developmental and Consultation Center (IDCC) to learn more about the needs and challenges we face in fighting the opioid crisis. In their longstand-

ing role serving Brooklyn’s diverse, multilingual communities at locations across the district and beyond, they have critical knowledge and perspective on the specific needs and challenges facing our local communities,” said Senator Felder.

Senator Felder recently attended a meeting of the SBCC, a coalition of groups and organizations fighting addictions across South Brooklyn, facilitated by Dr. Gersten. “It’s a real inspiration to see so many capable and compassionate leaders from diverse backgrounds and communities collaborating to fight addictions in our larger Brooklyn community. I look forward to supporting their critical work in every way I can,” concluded Senator Felder.

## STARTLING FIGURES

**1 in 5**  
high school students vape

More than  
**20 MILLION**  
Americans ages 12 and older battle a substance-use addiction

**90%**  
of adults with addiction began to use drugs or alcohol before age 18

Alcohol:  
**14.8 MILLION**

Illicit drugs:  
**8.1 MILLION**

**560 PEOPLE**  
begin using methamphetamines every day

Provisional overdose data shows deaths falling since 2018

**37%**  
of people who misuse opioids get them through a legal prescription

**80%**  
of heroin addictions began with prescription opioids



**130 AMERICANS**  
die every day from an opioid overdose

The likelihood of developing a gambling addiction increases  
**2300%**  
for people affected by alcohol-use disorders

**HELP IS OUT THERE**  
If you or someone you know is struggling with an addiction, don't wait. Find treatment programs for drug addiction and alcoholism near you at [www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov](http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov) or speak with a trained counselor confidentially at 1-800-662-HELP

## NEW CENSUS SCAM

Impersonating U.S. Census outreach, by phone or in person, is the newest way con artists are trying to steal your identity, money or possessions. Scammers try to intimidate and scare you or earn your trust by impersonating government officials. Here’s what you need to know to protect yourself:

- While federal law requires responding to the Census, you cannot be imprisoned.
- Although you may be fined for failing to respond, genuine representatives do not request or collect any form of fines or payments.
- Genuine Census representatives never ask for your Social Security number, mother’s maiden name, bank or credit card numbers.

•Legitimate census takers who come to your home will have a Census Bureau photo ID badge (with a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date) and a copy of the letter sent to you.

- You can verify the ID of Census takers or the authenticity of a Census phone call by calling these numbers -
- National Processing Center 1-800-523-3205
- NY Regional Office at 1-800-991-2520





# Felder Urges Incoming Commish: Give Us More Cops

Given the increase in hate crime across New York City, Senator Simcha Felder wrote to incoming NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea to wish him luck in his new position and bring to his attention the concerns he has about public safety in his district and possible solutions to address those concerns.



ALBANY OFFICE:  
ROOM 504  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2754 • FAX: (518) 426-6931  
E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
FELDER@NYSenate.GOV

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**SIMCHA FELDER**  
Senator, 17th District  
November 14, 2019

FLATBUSH OFFICE:  
1412 AVENUE J, SUITE 2E  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11230  
(718) 253-2015 • FAX: (718) 253-2030  
E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
FELDER@NYSenate.GOV

Commissioner Dermot Shea  
New York Police Department  
One Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Shea,

I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of the New York Police Department and wish you the best of luck in this important position.

As you begin your work in this high profile role, I would like to bring to your attention concerns I have about public safety in my district and possible solutions I am requesting to address those concerns.

The recent rise of hate crimes in New York City has been well documented. According to NYPD statistics and your own public comments, this year alone, anti-Semitic hate crimes in New York City are up 63% as compared to 2018.

Given this increase in crime, I am requesting that you reinstate the Hasidic Cop Decoy program. In the past, the NYPD ran this program and I believe at one point it was very successful at combating anti-Semitic hate crimes.

In addition, I am requesting a permanent increase in the number of police officers assigned to the 66th police precinct in Brooklyn. Over the last several years, there has been an exponential increase in population in the neighborhoods which are covered by the 66th police precinct. The number of officers allocated to this precinct has been insufficient for a long time and has only gotten worse since these neighborhoods have seen extraordinary growth. By increasing the number of officers assigned to the 66th precinct, the NYPD can ensure that the police force is the appropriate size to serve these neighborhoods.

Please contact me at my office (718) 253-2015. Thank you for your attention to this request and I look forward to your expedited response.

Sincerely,

Simcha Felder  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District

## Senator Felder Meets with BINA Stroke and Brain Injury Assistance

Senator Felder visited the office of BINA, a unique organization that provides services to stroke and brain injury survivors in the district and beyond. The founder and director of BINA, Chavie Glustein, gave the Senator an overview both of the prevalence and complexity of brain injury, and of the comprehensive services that BINA provides to survivor and family.

“For example,” explained Ms. Glustein, “if the individual went into cardiac arrest and lost oxygen to the brain, people won’t recognize that the often serious deficits that occur are actually due to a brain injury.”

Tzippy Friedler, BINA’s Director of Case Management, described the confusion and turmoil experienced by families in the aftermath of a stroke or traumatic brain injury. “We’ve been very involved with a family who was completely overwhelmed by the decisions that had to be made in the aftermath of their



Senator Felder learning about BINA’s services from (l-r) Chavie Glustein, Director, and Tzippy Friedler, Case Manager

10 year old daughter’s stroke - from choosing a rehab facility to figuring out complicated insurance issues to arranging for home care and outpatient therapy.”

Senator Felder inquired about the services available to the brain injured population, children in particular, and was surprised to learn that despite the many excellent programs and agencies that exist for various disabilities, there are significant gaps in the system when it comes to brain injury.

“It was very important for me to learn about the unique challenges of the brain injured population and I look forward to doing my part at the state level to ensure that they get all the help that they need,” said Senator Felder.

For more information about BINA please visit [www.binausa.org](http://www.binausa.org) or call 718-645-6400.





**Senator Simcha Felder**  
 1412 Avenue J, Suite 2E  
 Brooklyn, NY 11230

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**APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY \* APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY \* APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY \* APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY**

**DECEMBER**

**SENIOR METROCARD EVENT**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30  
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

**JANUARY**

**NO COST MAMMOGRAMS**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15  
 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**ALL METROCARD SERVICES**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29  
 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

DAGAN PIZZA • 4820 16TH AVENUE  
 BORO PARK

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

**FEBRUARY**

**SEARCH UNCLAIMED FUNDS**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**FEBRUARY**

**MEDICARE SEMINAR**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

**FREE CHOLESTEROL SCREENING**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20  
 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**SENIOR METROCARD EVENT**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**MARCH**

**MEDICARE SEMINAR**

MONDAY, MARCH 16  
 5:30PM - 6:30PM

BPJCC • 1310 46TH STREET • BORO PARK

**MARCH**

**NO COST MAMMOGRAMS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18  
 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**SHREDDING EVENT**

TUESDAY, MARCH 24  
 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Flatbush • East 15th & Ave I (Dead End)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24  
 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Boro Park • 48th Street & 19th Ave. (Dead End)

**NO COST PSA SCREENING**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25  
 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Kamin Health • 4502 13th Avenue • Boro Park

**APRIL**

**FREE CHOLESTEROL SCREENING**

THURSDAY, APRIL 30  
 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

BPJCC • 1310 46TH STREET • BORO PARK

**SENATOR  
 SIMCHA FELDER**

1412 Ave J #2E • 718-253-2015