NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ALBANY TO BROOKLYN

Issue #88



# Safety And Security First!

Senator Felder expressing appreciation and good wishes to the officers going on duty at roll call.

#### Dear Friends,

I am here to help you and to make life easier — for you and all New Yorkers. These pages reflect the issues and values that matter most to us — safety and security, family, education and especially special education, community, and saving local business. I will always stand up to represent your values and fight for what's most important to you!

My interest in security is simple; every person deserves to be safe. Take away the security detail, safety goes with it. As a new administration takes heartening steps to return safety to our neighborhoods, I am grateful to the men and women of the NYPD who are out on the front lines every day battling to bring safety and tranquility back to our streets.

My office is always available to assist you with any issue; call me at 718-253-2015 or email Felder@NYSenate.gov.

Sincha Jelder







#### **FELDER FOCUS**

# **FELDER: Safety And Securi**



In close collaboration with the NYPD, Boro Park Shomrim and Flatbush Shomrim are the gold standard of community policing and provide an invaluable service securing our neighborhoods.

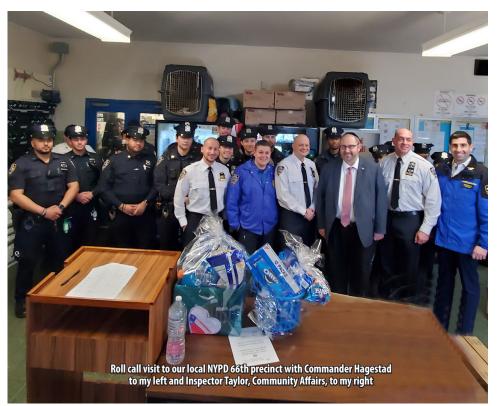
Consistently professional, selfless and dedicated, I am proud to be a long-time supporter of these indispensable volunteer support systems.







I was equally outraged when I joined this grieving community after another accident involving an e-bike rider and a pedestrian left a 43-year-old woman dead. E-bikes are underregulated and uninsured, leaving family with no recourse as they struggle with a painful loss. That's why I am fighting for every vehicle on NYC streets to be accountable and insured!



**FELDER FOCUS** 

# ity First!





Every New Yorker deserves safety and security, and communities increasingly targeted for hate crimes deserve protection. That is why I joined forces with Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein to help protect small local shuls with a new security grant from the UJA-Federation of New York and the NY Jewish Community Relations Council. Security enhancements include the installation of new doors, locks, and video cameras.

For information and application, visit https://jcrcny.org/smallshuls



For years, I have been an unyielding, vocal opponent of the dangerous movement to defund the police. I am pleased to see our new administration restoring proactive policing and the NYPD's authority. New York's Finest are out on the front lines of violent crime, reestablishing law and order. I appreciate their service and wish them safety and success.

### "Convince Me. Do We Really Need Speed Cameras?"

**1.** Speed cameras are the best way to save lives so more cameras will end fatal accidents.

According to DOT Commissioner Rodriguez, "Most of the drivers involved in these crashes have suspended licenses, are driving drunk and driving over the speed limit."

**2.** Cameras don't stop distracted or intoxicated drivers before accidents happen.

*"Traffic enforcement agents get them off the street before they kill again." -Senator Felder* 

**3.** Cameras make drivers slow down.

*"Systematic traffic signals, speed bumps, stop signs and cops force drivers to slow down." -Senator Felder* 

**4.** Enforcement by cops is a weaker deterrent than cameras.

"Traffic enforcement agents issue tickets to actual violators who accrue points on their license that raise insurance rates and result in license suspensions for repeat offenders." -Senator Felder

**5.** Camera tickets are the most reliable punishment for speeders.

"The ticket goes to whomever the car is registered to — not necessarily the speeder and arrives long after the fact." -Senator Felder

**6.** The speed camera program is not a money grab.

From June 21, 2021 to Jan. 26, 2022, NYC issued a total of 2,862,240 speed cam-

era violations. At \$50 a ticket, that represents

\$143,112,000 in total fines.

Agents enforcing lower speed limits during school hours and DOT controlling area traffic would create forced slow zones - an idea worth testing.

So tell me, do we need more speed cameras?

























"The sheer number of people who dedi this district great. Of the many, I recen Flatbush Community Fund, Chaverim, and honor inspiring people and organ amazing things that our hometown he

#### **FELDER FOCUS**

### **Help And Support For Eating Disorders**

"A tireless advocate, Devorah Levinson is a proud Yeshiva graduate, a wife and mother, and an undisputed force in her field. She has amassed an arsenal of culturally sensitive treatment options, shifting seamlessly between doctors and therapists from NYC to Oklahoma and families in Boro Park, Flatbush and across the globe. It is an honor to recognize her lifesaving accomplishments and help further her mis-



Senator Simcha Felder presented Devorah Levinson; Director, Eating Disorders Division at Relief Resources, with a NYS Senate proclamation in honor of her 14th year leading the battle against eating disorders in the Orthodox Jewish community

sion during National Eating Disorders Awareness Week," said Senator Felder.

Mrs. Levinson researches clinicians, facilities, and treatment options, promoting cultural sensitivity where little experience with Orthodox Judaism exists. She recently adapted an evidence-based program creating an effective alternative for religious schools to reduce risk factors with early intervention. Affecting all backgrounds and genders, eating disorders carry serious health risks and have the highest fatality rate of all mental health conditions. While 20 million Americans struggle with an eating disorder, shame and stigma often prevent them from seeking help.

"Full recovery from eating disorders is possible with the right intervention. With help and support just a phone call away, no one should suffer or struggle alone." - Senator Felder.

Eating Disorders Division at Relief Resources: 718-431-9501 National Eating Disorders Helpline: 800-931-2237 NYC-WELL: 888-692-9355 www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/eat-disorder.html

### **Everyone Loves Zofia!**

"She guards her intersection and all the people who cross there with love and commitment." -Senator Felder

For 14 years, crossing guard Zofia Palladino has been a local treasure, garnering the love and admiration of everyone around her. Guarding her intersection at the SEEALL Academy in Borough Park, a neighborhood public school serving grades Pre-K-8 and District 75 program, K231, she sees her job as a labor of love and is exceptionally dedicated to keeping everyone who crosses at her intersection safe. Over the years, she has built deep community ties, sharing holiday meals with people of different faiths, attending bar mitzvahs and weddings and paid respects to families in mourning.

"We are all more the same than we are different. Every single person matters, no matter what we look like or what we have," says Zofia. "And I find that when you go out into the world with that attitude, almost everyone agrees."



edicate their lives to spreading kindness and helping others are what make cently had the pleasure of visiting with Tafkid, Hatzalah, Nachas Healthnet, m, The Bridge, FJCC & IVDU. I take great pride in the opportunity to support ganizations in every way I can. I am happy to share with you some of the n heroes are doing every day."



#### **FELDER FOCUS**

## Felder's Legislative Updates



As part of this year's State budget, I am working hard to include my legislation requiring New York City Family Court to remain open until midnight at least one day a week. Family Court specializes in handling cases involving children and families, but is often overburdened and under-resourced. My legislation is a major step in helping families navigate the challenges of family court.

▶ I voted against New York's bail reform law and continued to be a vocal opponent. The proof is in the pudding: an unhinged homeless man shoves an Asian woman into an oncoming sub-

way train; a man with twenty prior arrests smears feces on a woman and promptly gets released. As crime continues to rise all over NY, I believe it's time to toughen NY's bail law, prioritize safety and fully fund the police. Safety and security are my top priority and

I am working together with my colleagues in Albany to make significant changes to bail reform.





▶ NYC's system of education for special needs

children leaves parents struggling to secure services that their child is required, by law, to receive. That is why Sen. Gounardes and I are advocating for legislation that would create a \$200 million fund for zero-interest loans to cover tuition costs for special needs children, allowing special education programs to survive and special needs students to thrive.

• Our small businesses

continue to feel the pain of COVID-19 and it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to help. Earlier this year, my colleagues and I in the Senate passed legislation freezing any unemployment insurance tax increase for businesses in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, this legislation increases the maximum unemployment benefit for workers who have lost their jobs. With people everywhere struggling with COVID-19's resulting economic crisis, this measure will help BOTH small business owners and unemployed New Yorkers when they need it the most.







▶ In 2015, I passed a law expanding the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) to allow individuals with physical and mental disabilities to receive care in their own homes from the trusted caregiver of their own choosing. Sadly, proposed changes to the program would disrupt care for thousands of vulnerable disabled and elderly New Yorkers who use CDPAP. Working together with my colleagues in Albany, especially Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Governor Hochul, we have saved the CDPAP program to continue giving elderly and disabled New Yorkers the care and protection they deserve.





## Fighting for Safe Streets

I recently joined Councilman Yeger at 19th Avenue and 55th Street where the community has been clamoring for a stop sign or crossing signal to halt traffic at the intersection. Despite the clear danger caused by the unmitigated conditions, studies find no need for any intervention. After repeated requests, we were offered a speed camera! The question begs to be answered — why won't NYC approve a stop sign to help pedestrians cross a dangerous intersection in a school zone? Rest assured that I will keep fighting to improve street safety in our neighborhoods.

# **Felder Saves HeartShare**

For over 20 years, my office has collaborated with the HeartShare program to help keep homes heated through the cold New York winters by providing low-income New Yorkers enrolled in HEAP with a \$200 grant to their National Grid account.

Suddenly, this was no longer the case. When the program opened this year, it came to my attention that by the direction of National Grid, HeartShare regulations had changed and the new requirements disqualified most applicants from utilizing the program.

I contacted National Grid immediately, urging them to correct the damage they had done.

"No one should have to choose between heating their home or other necessities. With a pandemic ravaged economy and inflationary costs across the board, when families can least afford the steep cost of heating their homes, we cannot jeopardize this exceptional program," said Senator Felder.



I am happy to report that the program was soon up and running as usual, bringing much needed help to families. Thank you, National Grid, for doing the right thing.

To date, my office has distributed over \$20,000 in HeartShare grants this season.

#### **FELDER FOCUS**



Senator Simcha Felder 1412 Avenue J, Suite 2E Brooklyn, NY 11230 PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID New York Senate

## It has happened before. It can happen again!

If you don't vote for someone who represents your values you will be stuck with someone who does NOT!

### You may be away this summer — but you can still VOTE!

Request an Absentee Ballot now: https://nycabsentee.com



If you have any questions or need help, please call my office at 718-253-2015.

### DO IT NOW! It's as easy as 1-2-3

### **1. APPLY ONLINE**

Go to https://nycabsentee.com Application period open until June 13th

### **2. APPLY BY PHONE**

Call: 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692) Application period open until June 13th

### **3. VOTE EARLY**

Send in your ballot immediately (postmarked by June 28) or drop it off early in person at the polls June 18th – June 26th

During this period, select polls are open and any registered voter can choose to vote early. Confirm your polling place online at vote.nyc.