



Westchester County Board of Legislators

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News from
LYNDON WILLIAMS,
your County Legislator...

ADVOCATING FOR MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

On April 9, I held the first Public Forum to address the potential impact Federal Stimulus Funding and the New York State Excel Bond for repairs and improvements to Mount Vernon Schools will have on Minority and Women Business Enterprises in Mount Vernon. In this challenging economic climate, I felt it was important to share information on opportunities that could reduce unemployment and improve the lives of residents of our city.

Both of these programs are designed to create jobs in the construction industry and could provide great opportunities for local businesses and workers.

A panel of experts provided their professional insight and expertise on how to secure government contracts, the importance of unions and the role the County plays in ensuring there is a fair and equally competitive process for all businesses.

To continue this important focus, I will soon be appointed to chair a new Subcommittee on Minority and Women Owned Businesses which I will commission to promote employment opportunities, a more open competitive bidding process and fair access to the County's contract process.



State, County, school district officials and local business owners joined the April 9 forum to explore increasing contracts let to minority and women owned businesses.

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Spring 2009 Newsletter



Lyndon Williams

District 13 ~ Mount Vernon

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

As I approach the end of my first term as your county legislator, I've focused on improving the quality of life for our community in several critical areas. Here are some highlights:

- Our transportation hub renovation project — Petrillo Plaza on Prospect Avenue — is now complete.
- We will soon break ground on a new Memorial Field Stadium.
- We have ensured our children more access to essential services by restoring several Youth Bureau programs.
- We have moved to open more doors and opportunities and level the playing field to secure more contracts in Westchester County for Minority and Women Owned Businesses.
- Mount Vernon residents received a two-percent county tax cut in 2009.
- And, the increased gun violence in our streets will soon be reduced with the implementation of the Shot Spotter Gunshot Detection System.

By participating in the County's enhanced shared services program, we were able to supply our children with much-needed computer equipment. Our Fire and Police Departments were able to secure vehicles at no cost. Working together, your local officials and I have only scratched the surface of cost-effective ways to provide you with the services and programs you need.

My 13 years of experience as your city councilman have proven to be invaluable preparation for my role as your county legislator. Because I know Mount Vernon so thoroughly, I can bring an insider's perspective to my analysis of proposed policies and forge solutions to issues that work best for our city and the county. I have brought the benefit of my financial and legal expertise to my work as a member of the Budget & Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Litigation. My expertise has also proven to be instrumental as Chair of the Subcommittee on Capital Projects, a position that requires my exercising due diligence on the County's \$93 million capital budget.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve you. I will continue to endeavor to bring realistic and effective solutions for the challenging times we face as a community. I am confident that in cooperation and partnership with you and city officials, we will continue to make great strides in re-establishing Mount Vernon as a safe and thriving city that measures up to the talented and proud citizens who call it home.

Please remember, I am only a phone call, e-mail or letter away.

Sincerely,

OUR YOUTH—MY PRIORITY

SCHOOL DONATION

Through the County's Shared Services Program, I was able to secure 80 computers, 80 monitors and 32 printers for our school district. The equipment was being phased out of County service as part of the information technology replacement program.

MT VERNON RAZORBACKS

Budget cuts to state and federally funded programs are hurting the work of non-profit organizations, such as the Mount Vernon Razorbacks, that provide important services to our communities. I was very happy to help facilitate a \$5,000 contract between the Razorbacks and Westchester County government. The funding will support the continuation of this worthy organization's work to provide our youth a positive, structured alternative to negative behavior.

MT. VERNON YOUTH BUREAU

On a very tight budget, our Youth Bureau works hard to provide quality programs and services for the youth in our community. Of all their initiatives, the department's Safe Haven After School/Summer Program, Step-Up Training and Mentoring Program and Youth Employment Program provide critically-needed services for our young people. When I learned funding for these programs had run out at the end of 2008, I knew something had to be done. With the cooperation of my colleagues on the Board of Legislators, I was able to secure the \$174,000 dollars needed to restore these very necessary programs.



LOOKING AHEAD

Here are some initiatives that I am currently working on and hope to see brought to fruition in the near future:

HIRING FROM WITHIN

I am leading the charge to support an Assembly Bill which will amend the civil service law by allowing our Police and Fire Departments to increase diversity in the workplace by filling vacancies with resident and non-resident minority group members and women. This will allow our departments to select from a broader pool of qualified, competent candidates without lowering standards. This bill is sponsored by our State Assemblyman Gary Pretlow.

EARLY VOTING

The long lines at the polls to vote in the 2008 Presidential Election inspired me to introduce a Resolution that requests our Albany elected officials to allow *Early Voting* in our state. *Early Voting* would ensure a fairer voting system. It would shorten the lines to an acceptable level, offer voters who can't make it to the polls on election day a better option than an absentee ballot and give election officials a more extended period of time to correct computer glitches and review voter registration discrepancies. I will continue to track the progress of this proposal and keep you informed.



MEMORIAL FIELD

The County Board approved a \$1.3 million bond act to finance the design for a new Memorial Field! This is the first step toward what will be a total County appropriation of \$9.7 million toward the estimated \$12.7 million project.

Memorial Field has played an important part in our community's history. It has needed this overhaul for quite some time. This is why I made this project a top priority upon becoming your County Legislator in 2008. Once complete, all city residents will have a first-rate, state-of-the-art facility to exercise and showcase their great athletic talents.

The refurbishment calls for demolishing existing structures, stands and courts and constructing a synthetic turf football/soccer field; a natural turf soccer field; grandstands for 4,000 people; an all-weather track; a basketball court; new buildings that include a ticket booth, concession stand, bathrooms, press box and locker rooms; and, other site improvements including sidewalks, landscaping and field lighting. The funding comes from the County's Legacy Program which was established in 2001 by County Executive Andy Spano to preserve open space and enhance recreational facilities. The new Memorial Field is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2011.

SAFETY & SECURITY

\$1.5 MILLION HIGH TECH SYSTEM WILL HELP COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE

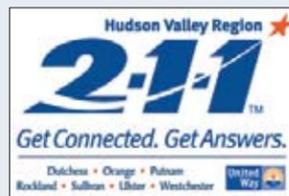
We all are painfully aware of the epidemic of gun violence in our community. Advances in criminal justice technology means new tools for law enforcement agencies. I, along with Mayor Clinton Young and Police Commissioner David Chong, explored the many options available and ultimately the Shot Spotter Gunshot Detection System was chosen.

Shot Spotter has made a tangible impact in cities where it is currently employed. Its sensors will inform our police department seconds after a gunshot sounds, pinpointing the exact location of the incident. The system will be able to distinguish between a gunshot and a car backfire, the number of shots fired, the caliber of weapon used and whether the shots were fired from a stationary position or a moving vehicle. Video cameras linked to each sensor will turn automatically toward the location of the gunfire to capture images of the incident, such as the perpetrator, condition of the victim and any potential witnesses.

While we must continue to address the root causes of crime, the epidemic of gun violence is intolerable and unacceptable and calls for using every available avenue to protect innocent residents and children from being caught in the crossfire. It's why I lobbied extensively to secure \$1.5 million in county funding to bring the gun sensor technology to our City. I believe this tool will greatly assist our police in reducing gun violence. I do not believe you can put a price tag on a life saved, a crime deterred, freedom from fear or peace of mind restored.

THE SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

In the event of an emergency, would you be able to evacuate from your home without assistance? Would your loved one or neighbor? If a sudden emergency requires immediate evacuation, it is critical that authorities are aware of people with limited mobility who would need help. That's why the County's Department of Emergency Services created and maintains a *Special Needs Registry*. The *Registry* is simply a list of residents who need special assistance to safely and quickly evacuate one's home. Since this is a voluntary service, it's necessary to sign up for it. You can do so by calling 2-1-1 or online at www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds. I encourage you to spread the word about this important County service especially to elderly or disabled loved ones, friends and neighbors who live independently and could use a helping hand in an emergency situation.



HOW TO REACH ME

Please let me know of your concerns and suggestions.



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Did you know?

- **Mount Vernon was 1 of only 6 municipalities countywide to receive much-needed tax relief?** While individual amounts varied according to property assessments, the overall result for you was an average 2% reduction from last year in the County portion of your property tax bill.
- **Westchester County shares Bee-Line bus shelter ad revenues with Mount Vernon?** Last year, the 14 Bee-Line bus shelters located in the City returned \$14,511 to City coffers.
- **To save taxpayer dollars, the County's transit vehicles---shuttle vans and ParaTransit buses---find a second life in our municipalities?** Under this program, the County turns vehicles that have reached the end of their useful daily transit life over to local recreation departments, fire departments, police agencies and senior programs for their use. Mount Vernon's Fire and Police Departments have each received one!