



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 9th District



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Standing up for A Day without A Woman

I joined millions of fearless women on March 8th as Westchester County women celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th- this year known as "A Day Without a Woman," to act for equity, justice, and the human rights of women, through a one-day demonstration of economic and political solidarity. ■



Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Summer 2017 Newsletter



Catherine Borgia,

Majority Leader

District 9 ~ Cortlandt, Croton on Hudson,
 Ossining, Briarcliff Manor, Peekskill

Indian Point Closure

I am proud to share that I introduced a resolution to assist the Town of Cortlandt and Westchester County in mitigating the economic, environmental and social implications of Entergy's planned closure of Indian Point in 2020 & 2021.

I do not believe that a wasteful lawsuit, where both sides are funded with taxpayer money, is the best approach. We must work with all of the effected communities on how to mitigate the economic, social, and environmental impacts of Indian Point closing. On February 28, 2017, I was appointed as a member of Governor Cuomo's Task Force on Indian Point to address employment and property tax impacts and monitor compliance with the closure agreement. I pledge to keep you updated on our progress going forward.

I look forward to working with representatives from the Hendrick Hudson School District, Town of Cortlandt, Village of Buchanan, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), local elected & school officials, New York State, and taxpayers on this collaborative approach. ■

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you reading my summer update on the work we are doing for you at the County Board of Legislators. During the most recent term, I have introduced legislation which would allow Westchester workers to earn sick time at their place of employment, legislation entitled the Immigrant Protection Act which would create a policy of "public safety for all" in Westchester, advocated for a safe level of staffing for our Department of Public Safety, introduced a resolution aimed to ensure all stakeholders work together to mitigate the issues surrounding the closing of Indian Point, and sponsored legislation aimed to combat the wage gap faced by women & minorities, and especially women of color. All while dealing with the unsustainable fiscal footing the County Executive has placed us on.

I hope you find this newsletter to be informative and useful. As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these and any other matters important to you. My office can always be reached by email at Borgia@WestchesterLegislators.com or by phone (914) 995-2812.

Sincerely,

Querido Vecino,

Gracias por leer mi boletín de verano sobre el trabajo que estamos haciendo para usted en la Junta de Legisladores del Condado de Westchester. Durante el período más reciente, he introducido una legislación que permitiría a los trabajadores de Westchester ganar tiempo de enfermedad pagado en su lugar de empleo, la legislación titulada la Ley de Protección de Inmigrantes que crearía una póliza de "seguridad pública para todos" en Westchester, abogando por un nivel seguro del personal para nuestro Departamento de Seguridad Pública. También presente una resolución dirigida a asegurar que todas las partes interesadas trabajen conjuntamente para mitigar los problemas relacionados con el cierre de Indian Point y patrocinar una legislación dirigida a combatir la brecha salarial enfrentada por las mujeres y las minorías de color. Todo esto mientras lidiamos con el presupuesto fiscal insostenible que ha creado el Ejecutivo del Condado. Espero que este boletín sea informativo y útil.

Como siempre, espero escuchar sus opiniones sobre estos y otros asuntos importantes para usted. Nuestra oficina esta disponible y se puede contactar al (914) 995-2812 o por correo electrónico a Borgia@WestchesterLegislators.com.

Sinceramente,

INSIDE GOVERNMENT Now Accepting Applications for Summer & Fall 2017 Internship Program

Now Seeking Student Interns for Summer & Fall 2017



As a County Legislator and parent, I know how important it is for young people to learn about local government and its influence on our daily lives. Students can greatly benefit from an applied setting where they learn by doing and are able to gain and apply critical thinking, writing, and public speaking skills.

Interning at the Board of Legislators gives students an opportunity to gain an understanding of the legislative process, see firsthand how government works, familiarize themselves with working in an office setting, and hone their research, writing, and communications skills.

For more information please contact Omar J. Herrera at 914.995.2819. We are now accepting letters of interest and/or resumes by high school & college students. ■

Immigrant Protection Act

Earlier this year, I, along with 7 other Democrats on the Board of Legislators, introduced the Immigration Protection Act to alleviate many of the concerns surrounding inhumane treatment of our immigrant brothers and sisters. Too often, immigrants fear working with local law enforcement, utilizing vital services which they are entitled to, and are subjected to unfair treatment in our legal system.

This bill codifies existing County policy while also drawing from model ordinances put forth by the New York Attorney General's office with the intent to ensure all Westchester County residents are protected. It is not a sanctuary city bill or symbolic resolution.

Provisions of the Immigrant Protection Act include:

- Safeguarding confidentially of information shared with all County departments
- Requires County officers and officials to honor judicial warrants
- Ensuring any service provided by a County Agency shall be made available to all who are eligible notwithstanding their immigration status
- Protecting the County from liability due to false arrests and imprisonments

We will not tolerate discrimination in Westchester County. Not against anyone, not for any reason. This legislation ensures that we are not perpetrators of discrimination while staying within the law. Westchester County will not assist in creating a registry, we will not use County resources for unlawful detentions, and we will make sure everyone is represented fairly in our justice system. It is on us to make sure our County departments follow these American ideals. ■



Gun Show Ban at County Center Makes Sense

Upon learning of the proposed gun and knife show slated to take place at the Westchester County Center in January, members of the Democratic Caucus and I jumped into action and called to immediately hold a vote on a proposed gun show ban legislation that was first introduced in 2010.

While this legislation passed the Board, thanks to the help of thousands of activated Westchester residents who made their voice heard, it was later vetoed by the County Executive.

A ban on gun shows at the County Center was County policy from 1999-2010. County Executive Astorino lifted the ban upon taking office and a gun show was held in 2012. A subsequent gun show was cancelled following the tragedy that took place in Sandy Hook. 2017 marked the first year that the show returned since 2012.

During the gun show that took place in January, it was widely reported that books glorifying Nazi history and Nazi historical figures, Confederate Flags, and images depicting sexual assault were for sale.



We as a County should stand for ideals that promote unity. Using our facilities to promote the sale of deadly weapons and Nazi/Confederate/Date Rape images only further serves to divide us. ■

Earned Sick Leave — A Win-Win for All

Standing in solidarity with dozens of union brothers and sisters and my Democratic Colleagues, I helped to introduce a proposed Earned Sick Leave law for Westchester County. The newly offered policy states that all employees shall accrue a minimum of 1 hour of earned paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Earned sick leave can be used for both physical and mental illness. It can also be used if an employee needs to take care of a sick family member.

In Westchester, 123,000 workers lack access to sick leave and that is unacceptable. The Earned Sick Leave Law is a policy which is both business friendly and worker friendly by allowing enhanced ability for workers to care for their and their loved one's health while also resulting in lower employee turnover. After working with TWU Local 100, Communication Workers of America Westchester-Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO, 32BJ SEIU, A Better Balance, New York Working Families, and countless other organizations and advocates, I am proud of the legislation we have crafted for the working people of Westchester County

This bill has further provisions for businesses with 5 employees or fewer that allows workers to accrue unpaid - but job protected - sick time. This grants workers' employment security should they need to care for a sick child or loved one. Once these laws are enacted they are popular with both business and workers.

This benefit would make a huge difference in the lives of Westchester residents. Currently 54% of workers in service occupations and 47% in transportation and manufacturing careers do not have earned pick sick leave.

It is about time we treat all workers in Westchester County with the dignity and respect they deserve. ■



Ensuring we Protect our County & Police Officers

For years, I have been fighting for a safe level of staffing of our County Police while Public Safety Department vacancies have remained unfilled. This lack of hiring is done as a way to cut costs and help balance this Administration's fiscally unsustainable budgets.

Unfortunately for Westchester County residents, this budgetary move has resulted in real consequences. Due to the County Executive's lack of timely and sufficient police hiring there has been a 20% decrease in Narcotics Unit personnel at a time when opioid deaths in Westchester County have seen a 61% spike. Additionally, incidents have occurred in our parks, including our own Croton Point, when the appropriate level of officers may have helped to serve as a deterrent to these crimes. Lack of adequate staffing makes our residents and our officers less safe. Westchester deserves better.

When it was announced that 5 of the 10 plus vacancies were to be filled this past March, we were glad that our advocacy efforts on behalf of our officers has resulted in a greater number of public safety official but viewed it as a drop in the bucket. As summer is in full swing, we need a safe number of officers in our parks and on our roadways. I will continue to advocate for the filing of all our vacant Public Safety Department positions. The safety and welfare of County residents is too important. ■

Biotech Facility to Open on County Property in Valhalla



This past April, I voted to approve the plans for a \$1.2 Billion biotech research facility on the North 60 land in Valhalla. The project will result in nearly 3,000,000 square feet for a tech and science development which will eventually generate \$9M in taxes and \$7M in rent for the County.

The development consists of the following components and will be built in 3 phases:

- A total of 2.3 million a square feet of biotech research space
- Medical offices totaling 400,000 square feet
- A 100,000 square foot hotel; consisting of 100 rooms
- Ground level commercial space consisting of 114,000 square feet
- Children's living Science Center consisting of 34,000 square feet

My colleagues and I worked hard to devise a comprehensive review process to ensure that the proposed project was the best deal for taxpayers.

Westchester County is ripe for smart development projects such as this biotech center. It is truly a forward thinking long-term investment for the County's economic future. ■