



Westchester County Legislator
BEN BOYKIN
Addressing the Needs of District 5



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North 60 Lease Approved

This past April, I voted to approve the plans for a \$1.2 billion BioScience & Technology Center on the North 60 land in Valhalla. The project will result in nearly 3,000,000 sq. ft. 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 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 at the Board of Legislators worked hard to devise a comprehensive review process to ensure that the proposed project was the best deal for taxpayers. During the committee process, we required various analyses paid for by the project's developer and performed due diligence on legal, fiscal, and economic reports we received. We made numerous changes to the lease to include labor protections, opportunities for minority and women owned businesses, internships for our local colleges and universities, and environmental protections.

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. ■



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Legislator Ben Boykin

District 5 ~ White Plains, Scarsdale, Harrison

Drone Legislation Approved



I sponsored a bill to ban drones from flying within 1,000 feet of the Westchester County Correctional Facility. The bill was unanimously approved by the Board of Legislators in March. This common sense legislation was passed to protect our correction officers, inmates and visitors to the County Jail. I introduced this bill after hearing from the President of the Westchester County Correction Superior Officers Association of the latest method being used by inmates to get their hands on contraband. In cases around the country, people on the outside of the facility were flying contraband overhead with an unmanned drone and dropping it in for an inmate to retrieve. As access to drones has increased, so have the instances of their use with malicious intent. This law will assist our corrections officers with the important work that they do. ■

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am happy to report that there have been many advances in the past year at the Westchester County Board of Legislators. I have been working hard on legislative measures to protect our residents and visitors; support economic growth; provide for our most vulnerable residents; invest in our infrastructure; promote equality for all our residents; and enhance our quality of life in Westchester County.

The Public Safety and Social Services Committee (PSSS) which I Chair, held meetings to address Department of Public Safety staffing issues, gun shows held in Westchester County, immigration issues, the opioid epidemic, and bias and hate crimes against our residents. In our current political environment, I am fully committed to the fair and equal treatment of all Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, disability or age.

Numerous bills have been passed this year, including a bill to ban gun shows on County owned property (vetoed by the County Executive), the unanimous approval of Drone legislation that I sponsored, and the approval of the North 60 lease with Fareri Associates, LP to develop The Westchester BioScience & Technology Center. I am currently the co-sponsor of immigration legislation, a bill to ban the sale of synthetic drugs and a bill to provide paid sick leave for certain employees.

I am also a member of the Airport Advisory Task Force that selected Frasca & Associates, LLC, to assist in the airport privatization Request for Proposal (RFP) process to find a potential partner for the Westchester County airport. The RFP has been sent out to solicit responses.

I appreciate hearing from you on issues that are important to you. With continuing dialogue, we can work together to resolve issues and make Westchester County a better place to live, work and enjoy.

Thank you for your support and confidence.

Sincerely,

Sign Up For E-News

I regularly send out e-news letters, which include important information about different issues affecting residents and notices about events that you may want to attend. To receive my e-news, please go to www.westchesterlegislators.com, click on "Subscribe to Updates", fill in your information and choose "District 5". Alternatively, you may e-mail me at Boykin@westchesterlegislators.com and include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address and I will add you to my distribution list.

Gun Shows



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.

The legislation that passed the Board prohibits gun shows on County owned property. While this legislation passed the Board, thanks to the help of thousands of Westchester residents who made their voices heard, it was later vetoed by the County Executive.

A ban on gun shows at the County Center was County policy through an Executive Order 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.

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

Earned Sick Leave

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 one hour of earned paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Paid 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. This is a policy, which is both business friendly and worker friendly, allows enhanced ability for workers to care for their health and care for sick loved ones while also resulting in lower employee turnover.

This bill has further provisions for businesses with five employees or less 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, which would make a huge difference in the lives of Westchester residents, currently does not reach 54% of workers in service occupations and 47% in transportation and manufacturing careers. This includes food service workers, bus operators, and home health aides, three groups of workers which can very easily, and rapidly, spread disease.

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

Synthetic Drug Ban and the Opioid Epidemic

With the opioid epidemic affecting all segments of our population including our youth and seniors, I co-sponsored legislation that bans the sale of synthetic drugs and that will impose fines for individuals and businesses violating this law. The bill was passed by a unanimous vote of 17 to 0. The Health Department, along with the Public Safety Department, will be responsible for enforcing this legislation. The intent of the law is to reduce the availability of these potentially lethal drugs.

The PSSS Committee hosted District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino to discuss, among other things, the Overdose Response Initiative that his Office has created. The purpose is to treat every overdose death as a potential homicide working with various law enforcement agencies and the Medical Examiner's Office. In addition, a new initiative has been started to identify potentially new, lethal brands of heroin and to distribute the information to all area law enforcement agencies, fire departments and EMS departments. ■

Immigration Protection Act Introduced

Earlier this year I, along with 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.

Provisions to the Immigration Protection Act include:

- Safeguarding confidentiality of information shared with all County departments
- Prohibiting County officers and officials from honoring ICE

detainer requests which do not give rise to criminal probable cause

- 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. What we are aiming to do with this legislation, while staying within the law, is to ensure that we are not perpetrators of discrimination. 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. ■

Airport Privatization Process



After the Board of Legislators (BOL) rejected the attempt by County Executive (CE) Astorino in 2016 to enter into a public-private partnership for the Westchester County Airport without a competitive bid process, I was appointed to an Airport Advisory Task Force to find a way forward. The Airport Advisory Task Force (composed of three Legislators and members of the CE's staff) selected Frasca & As-

sociates LLC from 12 consultants. Frasca was hired by the County to assist in the airport privatization Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The RFP was issued in April 2017 to solicit proposed bidders. It is expected that the BOL will begin their due diligence on a proposed operator in July 2017. If approved by the BOL, the transaction will have to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As I have stated previously, any public-private partnership must benefit Westchester County taxpayers for years to come – not just fill a short term budget gap. Any transaction must be sensitive to all stakeholders – our taxpayers, airport customers and surrounding residents - while protecting our environment. ■

Ben's Photo Gallery



PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM:

Ben visiting the West Harrison Senior Center

Edgewood Elementary School Visits the Board for Mock Legislature

Friendly Gathering in White Plains

Scarsdale Food Scraps Program