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# COMMUNITY REPORT

FROM YOUR SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
**DUWAYNE GREGORY**



15 ALBANY AVE • AMITYVILLE • NY • 11701 • 631-854-1111 • DUWAYNE.GREGORY@SUFFOLKCOUNTYNY.GOV

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## Legislator Gregory Fights Domestic Violence

County Legislator DuWayne Gregory has introduced ground-breaking legislation that would create the first Domestic Violence Registry in the United States, creating a registry of individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes. The registry would be available to the public on-line.

“Domestic violence is a shameful crime that all too often is repeated time and time again by the same perpetrators,” said Legislator Gregory. “This registry would be one more way to deter those convicted of domestic violence crimes, and it would be a very important way to give the public the information it needs and deserves about the domestic violence criminals living right in their communities.”

The crimes which would require a domestic violence criminal to add a name to the registry range from murder, rape and kidnap to harassment, menacing, stalking and disorderly conduct if it involved a spouse, former spouse, intimate partner, domestic partner, parent, child, or members of the same family or household.

Under the proposed law, all Suffolk County residents convicted of a domestic violence crime on or after the effective date of the law, or within the five years prior to the effective date, would be required to register with the Suffolk County Domestic Violence Registry. They would be required to reg-

ister within five days of the effective date of this law or their release from incarceration or, if not incarcerated, from the date of the rendering of judgment in their case. They would have to list name, any aliases, and their address, and supply a photograph of their head and shoulders from the front.

Any person listed on the Domestic Violence Registry would be required to update their registration information each time they move from one address to another or, if their residential address does not change, annually from the date of their first registration. Any person listed will remain on the Domestic Violence Registry for five years following their date of release from incarceration or the date judgment was rendered, whichever is later. After five years, the person’s information will be removed.

If, during the five-year period of registration, a person is convicted of another domestic violence offense, that person shall remain registered for an additional 10 years. Each registrant must pay an annual fee of \$25. These funds will be used to pay the administrative costs of maintaining the Registry.

“I will do anything I can do to end domestic violence,” said Legislator Gregory. “This Registry would be an important innovation in the fight against domestic violence, and it would be an example for the rest of the country to follow.”

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—Legislator Gregory

# GREGORY CREATES HATE CRIMES TASK FORCE

## *Legislature also Increases fines for Hate Crimes*

Following the horrific hate-crime killing of Guatemalan Patchogue resident Marcelo Luchero last fall, 15th District County Legislator DuWayne Gregory was successful in earning the swift support of the Suffolk County Legislature for his move to establish a Hate Crimes Task Force in the county.

Legislator Gregory noted the sharp increase in crimes against Latinos, and said that immigrants, especially undocumented workers, are reluctant to report crimes to the police for fear of reprisal. He said the fact that only one verified hate crime was reported in Suffolk County in 2007 makes it clear that hate crimes occurring in Suffolk County are not being reported, therefore making it difficult to be addressed by police.

“We need to find out why these hate crimes are not being reported, and we need to find ways to insure that they are reported,” said Legislator Gregory. “We all know that there were far more than one hate crime in 2007. We need to find ways to encourage all residents to report crimes to the police so that the police can investigate these terrible acts, find those responsible, make arrests and let all Hispanics and all county residents know that hate crimes will not be tolerated in Suffolk County.”

The new task force is charged with examining the sources of racial tension in the county, studying and analyzing the mechanisms used to report hate crimes in the county, and providing recommendations on current hate crime legislation and on improving reporting of hate crimes.

The Task Force will have 13 members, including representatives from the County Legislature, the County Executive’s office, a Clergyman, two representatives from the Suffolk County community at large, a representative from the Suffolk County Police Department Hate Crimes Unit, a representative from the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, a representative from the Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force, a representative from one of the Suffolk County School Districts, a representative from the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, a representative from the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender community, and a representative from the Suffolk County Hispanic Advisory Board.

The Task Force will hold at least four public hearings throughout the county to assemble the data and information necessary to complete the evaluation, and get input from all members of the public. The Task Force has six months to finish its report and file it with the County Legislature.

Legislator Gregory himself was the victim of a hate crime as a child, and knows well the reluctance of hate crime victims to speak about attacks. “I never spoke about the hate crime directed at me and I understand the difficulty of reporting hate crimes,” said Legislator Gregory. “I am hopeful that the Task Force will discover ways to ease that burden for victims of hate crimes and help give the police the tools they need to end hate crimes in Suffolk County.”

In other action, the Suffolk County Legislature also passed “Marcelo Lucero’s Law,” which significantly increases the fines for committing a hate crime.

***We need to find ways to encourage all residents to report crimes to the police so that the police can investigate these terrible acts.***

-Legislator Gregory



## **Suffolk Bans BPA**

### *Protects Babies from Toxic Bottles and Cups*

Legislator Gregory voices his support of the ban of BPA, Bisphenol-A, a potentially toxic chemical used to make plastic materials and shatter-resistant baby bottles and cups.

## **Legislature to Save Money by Suspending Printing of Newsletters**

### *Sign up to receive yours via e-mail*

In order to save taxpayer dollars during the devastating fiscal crisis currently facing the nation, the Legislature has passed a law sponsored by Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay to suspend the printing and distribution by mail of district-wide Legislative and County Executive newsletters until January 1, 2011. Legislators will continue to communicate with their constituents through regular mail in response to inquiries, as well as through e-mail.

Legislative and executive newsletters are valuable resources for local residents to keep connected with the actions of county government. You can continue to receive your legislator’s newsletter in a digital format via e-mail by providing your e-mail address to [duwayne.gregory@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:duwayne.gregory@suffolkcountyny.gov) or call 631-854-1111. Newsletters will be posted on Legislator Gregory’s web site at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov>



## Mentoring our Youth

As part of his continuing efforts to reach out to youngsters in the 15th Legislative District, County Legislator DuWayne Gregory invited a group of children from the United North Amityville Youth Organization to visit the County Legislature in Hauppauge and learn about county government.

A group of about 20 children ranging in age from 7 to 16 were treated to a tour of the William H. Rogers Building, home of the County Legislature. They learned about the duties of Clerk of the Legislature Tim Laube and his staff, Legislative Attorney George Nolan and his staff and the Office of Budget Review under the leadership of Gail Vizzini.

Legislator Gregory explained how the legislative process works, from drafting a bill, to committee hearings, to consideration by the full County Legislature.

After the explanation of the legislative process, Legislator Gregory gave the kids a hands-on demonstration, with the youngsters participating in a mock legislative debate. The youngsters debated several issues, but the most contentious one was without a doubt instituting an extended school year. Students selected to argue in

favor of an extended school year made Legislator Gregory promise that he would not tell their friends.

“I want youngsters in my district to learn about government and how it works,” said Legislator Gregory. “Maybe down the road one of the children that were in this room will maintain an interest in public service sparked by this visit and will be elected to the seat I currently hold. That would be a proud moment for me.”

## Fighting For Healthcare Policy

Suffolk County Legislator DuWayne Gregory successfully directed a proposed merger of the Brentwood and Central Islip county health centers into the County Legislature’s committee process for further, detailed review.

The merger proposal was originally included in an omnibus budget-cutting resolution, until Legislator Gregory strongly advocated for the proposal to stand alone, and be subject to ample time for legislators, community leaders and affected members of the public to review the plan and offer comments and input.

“Protecting the health and welfare of Suffolk residents is my number one priority, and there will be no rush to judgment on the merging of health care centers,” said Legislator Gregory. “There have been discussions for years about the potential benefits of merging the centers, especially given the inadequacy of the building currently housing the Central Islip Center.”

“But we can’t approve any merger until we know how it will affect the people served by the two centers.”

Legislator Gregory said specific concerns to be examined include:

- Will there be easily accessible transportation to Brentwood available for people currently using the Central Islip center?
- Will there be enough staff and doctors at Brentwood to handle the increased number of patients?
- Will all residents get the same level of top-flight medical care they receive today?

“Until we have the answers to these questions, we cannot move forward with a merger,” said Legislator Gregory.

# Making Your Health Care Wishes Available Online

Health care is such an important issue for all of us. Often times the discussion revolves around the cost of health care, the limitations of coverage and the availability. However, it is just as equally important that our wishes for the type of medical assistance that we desire be followed.

Legislator DuWayne Gregory is promoting accuracy in carrying out health care decisions. Should a person be faced with the difficult decision to provide medical treatment to sustain life or not for a loved one, it can be very daunting. Many families have not had discussions about health care decisions, as they should have, making an already emotional situation more difficult to handle.

But, there are families that have fully executed advanced health care directives and it is important that medical person-

nel and the families have access and knowledge of these advanced health care directives.

Legislator Gregory saw the need and importance for having an online Health Care Directives Registry. This registry will allow any person who has a living will, health care proxy, do not resuscitate order or other medical orders to file them with Suffolk County and they will be available online should the need arise.

“It is important that in that critical moment, should the need arise, that medical personnel and family members have immediate access to a persons wishes when carrying out medical treatment,” stated Gregory. “I am optimistic that the Suffolk County Legislature will see the wisdom of establishing the Health Care Directives Registry.”



Legislator Gregory with seniors from the Tanner Park Senior Center in Copiague.



Leg. Gregory congratulates the Amityville High School Boys Track Team, their 2008-2009 the 1600 meter relay team placed 2nd in the NYS Track & Field Championship, they also placed 7th at the indoor Nationals setting a new Suffolk County record. The Amityville Boys finished this winter season ranked 3rd in Class B in New York State.



Leg. Gregory congratulates the Copiague High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team 2009 State AA Public School Champions.



Leg. Gregory congratulates the Wyandanch High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the Long Island Class B Championships.