

## **Halloran & Braunstein Call on City to Preserve Northeast Queens Firehouse**

Council Member Daniel J. Halloran (R-Whitestone) and Assembly Member Edward C. Braunstein (D-Bayside) joined forces today to protest firehouse closures that will impact the Northeast Queens communities they represent.

Twenty New York City firehouses are facing closure in the Mayor's budget, including Engine 306 on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. Most Bayside residents served by this company will now be served by Engine 320 on Francis Lewis Boulevard in Whitestone, which is 1.6 miles away. This will add precious minutes to response time for this already-underserved neighborhood.

Council Member Halloran said:

“Our City must learn to balance its budget by cutting bureaucracy and inefficiency, not by cutting essential services that save lives. We spend millions on consultants with no clear job titles and programs with no clear purpose, but penny-pinch the very safety of our families.

“Northeast Queens isn't like the rest of New York City. Our neighborhoods are suburban in character. It takes more time here to get from point A to point B. When you close a firehouse, there isn't another company down the street – it's usually over a mile away. That is a long way to travel when every second could mean life and death. Northeast Queens families deserve to know that they are safe in their homes and that their city government is doing all it can to protect them.”

Assembly Member Braunstein said:

"It is outrageous for Mayor Bloomberg to propose closing 20 firehouses, including Engine 306 in Bayside. Every second counts when it comes to New York's Bravest protecting our citizens. The closure of Engine 306 would increase the first arrival response time to over 6 minutes, which is the 3rd worst time of all of the proposed closures.

“While I understand that we are facing difficult economic times, it is undeniable that the Mayor's proposed cuts will endanger the residents of Northeast Queens. I call on the Mayor to reconsider these closures and find cost savings in other parts of the budget that do not threaten public safety.”

Halloran and Braunstein have pledged to work together in City Hall and Albany, respectively, to oppose these cuts and make sure Northeast Queens families get the city services and public safety they deserve.

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*Council Member Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) represents the 19th Council District, which includes the Queens neighborhoods of Bayside, College Point, Auburndale, Beechhurst, Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Robinwood, and parts of Flushing, Douglaston and Little Neck.*