

Assembly Member

Michael Benedetto**Reports to You**

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Grand Marshal at 2023 Columbus Day Parade

Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto was honored to be bestowed the title of Grand Marshal for the 2023 Bronx Columbus Day Parade. Expressing his enthusiasm, shared with the Bronx Times he said, “This is a tradition in Morris Park, and in the Bronx. I’m thinking it must be at least 50 years now that they’ve been doing this, and it just gets better and better.” Assemblyman Benedetto has lived most of his life in the Throggs Neck neighborhood of the Bronx and has been marching in the local Columbus Day Parade for more than 20 years. For the community stalwart, the Columbus Day parade is a way to celebrate his Italian heritage. “I’ve lived in this neighborhood all my life and I’m very proud of my Italian heritage,” Benedetto told the Bronx Times about being selected grand marshal. “I am being recognized for my efforts over the years. It’s a very proud moment.”



Assemblyman Benedetto's participation in the Bronx Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023

NYPD 45th Precinct Tow Truck Update

Building on our previous announcement, Assembly Member Benedetto’s commitment to enhance the quality of life in the community has resulted in the successful acquisition of a specialized tow truck by the New York Police Department for the 45th Precinct. This significant development was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Assemblyman Benedetto, securing a state grant of \$800k.

- The tow truck is currently undergoing fitting for eligibility in the NYPD fleet and will soon be operational.
- This dedicated tow truck addresses multifaceted challenges posed by problematic tractor-trailers parked on our streets overnight, impacting roadway safety, aesthetics, weight requirements, and infrastructure on local streets.
- Assemblyman Benedetto emphasizes the need for bolder measures to eliminate this problem, expressing determination for a safer, cleaner, and more efficient District.

Expansion of Argus Cameras from Pelham Bay Station to Westchester Square

In a proactive measure to enhance the safety and security of our neighborhoods, Assemblyman Benedetto is excited to share news of the planned installation of Argus cameras at the 6 Line stations: Pelham Bay Park, Buhre Ave, Middletown Rd, and Westchester Square - East Tremont Ave. In our partnership with the local 45th Precinct, these state-of-the-art cameras will be closely monitored by the NYPD and law enforcement, significantly increasing the overall safety and presence at the sites requested.

This initiative reinforces Assemblyman Benedetto’s commitment to fostering a secure environment for all residents and commuters in our community. We are expanding our Argus camera grant program following successful installations in Co-op City and along the East Tremont corridor. With the collaboration of the NYPD, these cameras have led to a safer neighborhood, and we hope for that to continue.

Bally's Links Golf Course Update

Exciting news for our community! Pictured on the right are Soo Kim, Chairman of Bally's, Mayor Adams, local elected officials and NYC parks officials cutting the ribbon after Bally's rebranded the golf course at Ferry Point Park and renamed it Bally's Links. The public NYC Parks-owned signature Jack Nicklaus designed golf course offers breathtaking views of NYC. In addition to golf, the facilities offer dining and catering on premises.



Starting in September 2023, Bally's introduced a free shuttle bus service with 10 stops, seven along East Tremont Avenue connecting Throggs Neck with the Westchester Square subway stop, two along the Hutchinson River Parkway, and another at Ferry Point Park. The bus operates from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday on an approximately 30-minute loop, providing a free and convenient transportation option for residents to enjoy. The shuttle also stops at Ferry Point Park to access the NYC Ferry via the Bally's Links Stop. Assemblyman Benedetto stated, "I'm thrilled about the enhanced accessibility and recreational opportunities this initiative brings to our district."

Office of Cannabis Management License Moratorium Legislation

Assemblyman Benedetto, recognizing the urgent need for effective enforcement, has introduced an Assembly Bill (A.9179), imposing a moratorium on the Office of Cannabis Management's rollout of legal licenses for cannabis dispensaries. This decisive action aims to address the pressing issue of over 30,000 illegal smoke shops in New York State, with over 1,500 in NYC alone.

These establishments not only contribute to the proliferation of unsavory and illicit behavior but also pose a significant challenge to our neighborhood's quality of life. Assemblyman Benedetto's proposed legislation shows the importance of taking important steps, in collaboration with the Office of Cannabis Management, to tackle the enforcement of illegal smoke shops before expanding the legal cannabis market.

Introduced Bills by Constituents "You spoke, I listened"

Assemblyman Benedetto is continuing to prioritize constituents' concerns by introducing bills addressing issues directly affecting our community brought to him by members of our community.

Assemblyman Benedetto has sponsored another crucial community-requested bill

A.9196: Responding to the specific needs voiced by a concerned constituent, there is a proposed amendment to the criminal procedure law and the education law. This amendment seeks to grant police officer status to university campus peace officers employed by the City University of New York, with an aim to enhance security on university campuses. Furthermore, the legislation includes provisions to repeal certain outdated aspects of the criminal procedure law related to this matter.

Assemblyman Benedetto emphasizes the importance of community engagement and the principle of 'You spoke, I listened.' This bill and others reflect his commitment to translating the concerns of the community into effective legislative action for the betterment of our local environment, safety, and overall well-being."

ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL R. BENEDETTO

presents

A Program Honoring

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Live Music, Performances, Lunch &
Guest Speaker: **Lester W. Young Jr., Ed.D.**
Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents

**Thursday
February 22**

12PM

**Dreiser
Auditorium**

Please RSVP To:

Iris Figueras: Figuerasi@nyassembly.gov
Tremaine O'Garro: Ogarrot@nyassembly.gov
Telephone Number: 718-320-2220



Black History Month Event in Co-op City - February 22nd, 2024

*Join for a day of the
Celebration of
Black History*

at

**177 Dreiser Loop
Community Room
in Co-op City**

on

**February 22nd, 2024
from 12:00 - 4:00 pm.**

This event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP with our

Co-op City Office at 718-320-2220
*to secure your spot. We are excited to
celebrate the diverse and rich history and
honored to share the day with you.*

Constituent Testimonials

We take pride in sharing testimonials that highlight the positive outcomes and satisfaction experienced by my constituents. These testimonials reflect the valuable services our offices and my staff provide to our constituency.

- Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto

- “I came by Assemblyman Benedetto’s office because I had, without notice or explanation, been dropped from the SCRIE program back in 2016. After working with Assemblyman Benedetto’s office, they were able to get my SCRIE restored all the way back to the year 2016. I want to sincerely thank Assemblyman Benedetto and his staffer Tremaine O’Garro for helping me fix my problem in less than a day when I had been dealing with it for seven years. I only wish I had come to Assemblyman Benedetto’s office sooner.”
- Zorina/Co-op City
- “Dear Assemblyman Michael Benedetto,
My name is Cathy, and my elderly parents reside in Co-op City. My father visits your office on Dreiser Loop often to ask for help. Iris is wonderful!
My parents, who are Korean born, have forgotten most of their English since they retired. I live in another state and cannot always be there to help them, but Assembly Member Benedetto’s patient and understanding staff in Co-op City have been a tremendous help in guiding them through everyday life.”
- Cathy/Co-op City
- Mark from Zerega had a problem with his Con Edison bill where they claimed he owed \$30,000 in outstanding fees for gas usage, which he claimed was inaccurate. “I reached out to Assembly Member Benedetto’s office where Matt cut through the red tape and within a week, I checked my account balance and the amount was rectified for proper usage.”
- Mark/Zerega

Public Safety Initiatives Co-Sponsored by Assemblyman Benedetto

Assemblyman Benedetto is deeply committed to enhancing the safety and well-being of our community. He is actively co-sponsoring several key public safety initiatives:

- **Limited Use Motorcycle Registration (Bill A08052):** This bill mandates sellers of limited-use motorcycles to confirm registration at the point of sale, ensuring legal compliance and enhancing road safety.
- **New York State Organized Retail Crime Task Force (Bill A06568):** Aims to combat the rise in organized retail crime, this bill establishes a dedicated task force. It will foster better collaboration between law enforcement and retailers, safeguarding our businesses and neighborhoods.

- **Scooter Safety Legislation:** Assemblyman Benedetto is championing responsible scooter use through two significant bills:
 - **Assembly (Bill A01679):** This bill establishes regulations for the safe and proper use of scooters and increases penalties for hit-and-run incidents involving electric scooters.
 - **Assembly (Bill A08079):** Focuses on enhancing safety. This bill proposes creating a bicycle and electric scooter safety manual, along with licensing requirements and addressing liability and insurance concerns for scooter operators.

Co-op City Billboard Legislation (Bill A8539/ S8025)

Assemblyman Benedetto is pleased to announce the successful passage of Assembly Bill A8539 in partnership with Senator Jamaal Bailey.

- This legislation addresses specific community concerns by prohibiting residential and commercial properties from erecting or installing digital billboards or signs that use flashing, intermittent, or moving lights near certain Mitchell-Lama housing.
- This crucial legislation reflects our commitment to maintaining our community's visual integrity and quality of life. Co-op City residents can look forward to sleeping peacefully without lights glaring into their homes, thanks to this important legislation.



Assembly Member Michael R. Benedetto on Session Floor debating bill A8539



New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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Come Visit us in Albany!

We warmly invite our community groups and schools from the 82nd Assembly District to join us in Albany during the 2024 Legislative Session. Currently, we are partnering with the NYPD to facilitate the visit of young adults from Harry S. Truman High School. They will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the New York State Capitol and engage in discussions with our staff and officials, both at the New York State Assembly and the University at Albany, SUNY, regarding education and job prospects in the State of New York. "I encourage our leaders of tomorrow to join me in our State Capitol so they can experience the work that goes into running our great State." If you are interested in visiting, please don't hesitate to contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Matt McKay, at mckaym@nyassembly.gov or give us a call at 718-892-2235.



We look forward to seeing you in Albany!