



the arena

**OWENS OFFERS ALTERNATIVE TO DOWNTOWN ARENA**

Brooklyn deserves a professional team, however it should not be at the cost of resident's homes. Other areas in Brooklyn, such as the Brooklyn Navy Yard, should be analyzed as possible sites for our new team. Many important issues such as, quality of life, sustainable job development and affordable housing, should be addressed by the arena proposal. What should go into the mix when planning an ambitious development project if the goal is to best serve Brooklyn residents? Teams of community residents, urban planners, architects and sports stadium consultants are grappling with these issues. It is important that we exhaust all other options before we move towards eminent domain.



**CHANGES IN VOTER REGISTRATION FOR FIRST TIME VOTERS**

Don't let changes in voter registration requirements prevent you from voting. Beginning this year, the NYS Board of Election is asking people who are registering for the first time for identification. It is simple. If you register through the mail you will be asked to include on the application your NYS Driver's License # or the last four digits of your social security number. If you don't have either of them and are registering by mail, you can send in a copy of a valid photo ID, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government ID that shows your name and address.

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Official Business

**PUBLIC HOUSING MANDATORY VOLUNTEER WORK**

According to Federal Law, public housing residents are required to perform community service. New York City has now begun to enforce this regulation, however there are exemptions for certain residents. If you are a public housing resident, please be aware of these exemptions.

**EXEMPTIONS**

- AGE:** 17 and younger; 62 and older
- EMPLOYMENT:** An Adult with no child below age 13 and earning at least \$8034 a year, or working at least 30 hours a week.  
A single adult family with at least one child below age 13 and earning at least \$5356 a year, or working at least 20 hours a week.
- DISABILITY:** Those receiving disability income; those with a permanent disability, including blindness, certified by a doctor; primary caretaker for the blind or disabled.
- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE:** Individuals receiving welfare, or included in a family welfare budget.
- EDUCATION:** Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or higher, or a course leading to a certificate of general equivalency.
- WORK RELATED:** On-the-job training; training in job-seeking or interviewing skills.
- CHILDCARE:** Provider to a child age 5 or younger who lives in the provider's apartment.

For further information please go to the New York City Housing Authority's website at: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nycha/pdf/po.pdf>

M.C.  
Presorted Standard  
W/S/ Carrier Route

Representing the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - New York  
**Congressman Major Owens**

Crown Heights • Brownsville • Flatbush • East Flatbush • Park Slope • Cobble Hill • Kensington • Windsor Terrace • Carroll Gardens • Midwood • Ditmas Park • Prospect Heights • Brooklyn Heights



Volume II

Dear Neighbor,

Images of brutal and animal behavior by our troops must be understood within the larger context of the horrors of the Iraq War. The burden of blame for the depravity must not be passed down to a few soldiers. In this nation as well as in Iraq this war has victimized large masses of ordinary people. In my "Domestic Budget Protection Act of 2003" I continue the fight to protect our health, education and social service programs from drastic budget cuts caused by the Iraq military budget drain. Following the example of Korea and World War II we should let corporations finance the war through a surcharge on their profits. I will be saying "NO" to any further requests for billions of taxpayers dollars to go to the war in Iraq.

Sincerely,

Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress

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**FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

As a former librarian I know the important role libraries play in educating children. Brooklyn Public libraries provide a safe space for our children to learn the wonders of the world and to encourage them to stay in school. In the past three years I have secured \$800,000 in Federal funds for the Brooklyn Public Library's Programs. One program will help teens in 20 branches who are interested in law enforcement, social work and/or library science by providing internship opportunities and mentoring in public service agencies. Congratulations to the entire library community for this innovative program.



**PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS**

Because it hurts senior citizens in many ways I voted "NO" on the Prescription Drug Benefit legislation. Among its outrageous components are the outlawing of the purchase of cheaper medicines from Canada and the ban on any Federal negotiations to get lower prices. Only the Medicare Discount Cards highlighted below offer some temporary help to the most needy.



**IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE NEW MEDICARE CARDS**

Medicare is contracting with private companies to offer Medicare-approved drug discount cards. In addition if you have a 2004 income no more than \$12,569 for a single person, or no more than \$16,862 for a married couple, you might also qualify for a \$600 credit on the Medicare approved discount card you choose. For further information call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227 and ask about drug savings. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Or you can go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web and select "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs."



Congressman Owens addressed the Pakistani community on the day of Friday prayer to discuss their concerns regarding economic development and other pertinent issues in the Coney Island Avenue area.



## CONSTITUENT SERVICES CORNER

Since 2000, constituent services have been expanded at my district office. For example, in April 2004 alone, my district office staff handled 858 constituent requests: 239 appointments, 63 walk-in/emergencies, 512 constituent calls, and 44 written inquires to various federal agencies. Below are some of many acknowledgements people have taken the time to express their gratitude:

"I would like to use this opportunity to say thanks to your staff assistant who listened to me with full attention, with authentic wish to help and who did her best to fulfill her promise. I am not her relative or acquaintance. I am a simple refugee who came to this country to make life better for me. I received attention, support and assistance from you and your staff. It means that any one who comes to your office asking for help, would get it regardless of their title, position or wealth."

--Tatiana G.

"I shall thank you so very much for your interest and assistance on my behalf. Because of your help, I've gotten a sworn in date so now I am a citizen. Thanks again for serving us, the people of the community."

--Andrew C.

"Thank you very much for taking interest in my citizenship case. I am glad people like you are running American government."

--Khan M.

### HATS OFF TO BROOKLYN MUSEUMS



The Brooklyn Museum recently completed a much needed facelift and I want to congratulate the Director and staff for a job well done. The Brooklyn Museum is the second largest museum in New York City and houses in its permanent collection over one and a half million objects from Egyptian master pieces to contemporary art and represents almost every world culture.



As the first children's museum in the United States, I am pleased that the Brooklyn Children's Museum is in my district. This past year I was able to secure \$500,000 to assist this magnificent institution. This year, I have asked for \$1,400,000 in the Transportation Bill for neighborhood reconstruction for the museum.

## Gowanus High Transportation Priority

In the stalled Federal Transportation legislation the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group (GCSG) is slated for funding to help complete the Gowanus Expressway reconstruction. A tunnel alternative advocated by the community leadership is also fully supported by my office. This massive undertaking will have an impact on all of the constituents communities on the western border of the 11th Congressional District: Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, and Cobble Hill. I applaud the cross coordination among the leaders of all these areas which have a stake in the overall Downtown Brooklyn Re-Zoning Plan. With the "Liveable Communities" initiative launched several years ago, the Federal government affirmed its concern and the role in the development and improvement of transportation in cities and other localities. The Transportation bill is presently in conference with the final authorization amount as the only item in contention.

## My Upcoming Events

Monday June 7  
P.S. 217  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
Coney Island and Newkirk Avenue  
Economic Development and Education Town Meeting

Monday June 21  
St. Jerome's Catholic Church  
465 East 29th Street @ Newkirk Avenue  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Community Report on What's Going On in Washington, DC. regarding Immigration, Health, Senior Citizens, Housing and Education.

Saturday June 26  
Gowanus Houses Community Room  
10:00am-12:00pm  
211 Hoyt Street, bet. Baltic and Bond St.  
Community Report on Health, Housing and Senior Citizens.

## Congressman Major R. Owens Top Bills of the 108th Congress

**1. School Construction & Modernization Act** (Sponsor Rep. Owens/H.R. 599)- Provides vital funding for school construction and renovation for schools located in under-served communities. Charter Schools are also eligible for funding under this act.

**2. Emergency Moratorium Testing Act of 2003** (Sponsor Rep. Owens) - Places a three year moratorium on federally driven high stakes tests.

**3. Domestic Budget Protection Act of 2003** (Sponsor Rep. Owens/H.R. 1804)- To raise revenue and reduce large and increasing Federal budget deficits due to the cost of the war in Iraq.

**4. Emergency Targeted Revenue Sharing Act of 2003** (Sponsor Rep. Owens/H.R. 2335)- Provides general revenue sharing and assistance for States and their local governments.

## OWENS PROJECTS LISTED AS PRIORITIES IN TRANSPORTATION BILL

As Brooklyn grows, transportation becomes an issue. To help alleviate some of the problems, I have been able to secure \$11.7 million for the following neighborhood reconstruction projects to fix roads and improve safety. Through these projects we will see an influx of job opportunities for the district and Brooklyn as a whole.

### EAST FLATBUSH

\$4,000,000 for Empire Blvd.  
\$1,000,000 for Kings County Hospital  
\$1,000,000 for Downstate Medical Center

### CROWN HEIGHTS

\$1,400,000 for Brooklyn Children's Museum

### COBBLE HILL/CARROLL GARDENS

\$800,000 for Court & Smith Street Shopping District.

### GOWANUS

\$500,000 for the Gowanus Expressway.

### PROSPECT HEIGHTS

\$3,000,000 for Eastern Parkway

## SIX INITIATIVES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES AND VETERANS

Over the past year and a half there have been several initiatives put forth by the House of Representatives. For further clarification on these bills please go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> on the web.

**H.R. 1345 (co-sponsor) "Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003"**-To provide compensation to members of the reserve components who suffer discrepancies between their military and nonmilitary compensation.

**H.R. 2318 (co-sponsor) "Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2003"**- The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury annually to provide funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system.

**H.R. 2569 (co-sponsor as of 4/26) "Salute to Veterans and the Armed Forces Act of 2003"**- The bill would end a confiscatory tax on military retirees which requires them to pay for their service connected disability benefits.

**H.R. 100**, This bill would modernize the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act and would provide addi-

tional protections from civil liability when service members are called to active duty.

**H.R. 2297, as amended, Veterans Benefits Act of 2003** contains measures including: permanent authorization of the VA home loan program for members of the Guard and Reserve, home loan and education benefits; and increases the amount of educational assistance payable to the spouses or surviving spouses with dependent children of veterans who are either permanently and totally disabled or deceased.

**H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2003**, which would repeal the disabled veterans tax by allowing for concurrent receipt of disabled pay and retirement pay (co-sponsor as of 4/26).



Congressman Owens meets with representatives and children of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, to discuss the special needs and care of children with diabetes. a group specializing in the care of children with diabetes.

