

## WINNING FUNDS FOR THE 11TH DISTRICT



*Congressman Owens with Mayor Bloomberg and other officials speaks at announcement of new funds to upgrade Eastern Parkway.*

Bringing federal dollars back home to the 11th Congressional District has been a top priority in Washington. In the past two years, I am proud to have secured more than \$30 million in federal funds for local projects.

**\$22.7 million** - Transportation upgrades for Eastern Parkway, Empire Blvd., Kings County Hospital, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Smith & Court Streets, and Gowanus Expressway

**\$1.069 million** - Brooklyn Academy of Music's cultural, educational and delinquency prevention programs

**\$1.050 million** - Prospect Park's new Lakeside Center and Rink

**\$900,000** - SUNY Downstate Medical Center advancing biotech research and development to create jobs for the 21st Century

**\$135,000** - Jewish Children's Museum Building Fund

**\$821,250** - Brooklyn Public Library expansion and facilities upgrade

**\$150,000** - New York Methodist Hospital patient follow-up

**\$140,000** - New York ACORN's Youth Union Diversion Program

**\$100,000** - Brooklyn Arts Council support for cultural and educational organizations

**\$100,000** - Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission's tutorial program

**\$100,000** - Weeksville Society program for at-risk children and families

**\$75,000** - Fifth Avenue Committee's new computer lab

**\$50,000** - Ifetayo Cultural Arts Society programs of dance, drama, and tutorials for youth

**\$385 million** additional Title I dollars since 1995 through the "**County Amendment**" which mandates that NYC funds be distributed to each county based upon the per capita poverty population.

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

**Official Business**

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

Representing the 11th Congressional District  
**Congressman**  
**Major R. Owens**

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

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dear Friends:

**Power Sharing** has become an important concern of the democracy building process in Iraq and in nations all over the world. **Power Sharing** moves beyond majority rule with minority rights. **Power Sharing** endorses the necessity of minority participation in the decision-making process. As a result of the Civil Rights struggle, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which provides enhanced opportunity for minorities to be elected where they are a majority in a district. A lawsuit brought under the Voting Rights Act helped to create a majority Black congressional district in Brooklyn. In 1968, the late Shirley Chisholm was the first person to represent this district and I was the second, in 1982. Since the Voting Rights Act is not a constitutional amendment, Congress must renew it in 2007. I support the renewal of the Voting Rights Act since it creates the enhanced opportunity to elect minorities and the complementary processes which make power sharing possible. With money and manipulation of public opinion it is easy to lose the accomplishments of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We need to keep our eyes on the prize that the law has provided. The inclusion of all groups in the decision making process keeps America strong.

Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress



## contact information

• 289 Utica Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213

• 1414 Cortelyou Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

• 30 Third Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

**718-773-3100**

2309 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**202-225-6231**

[www.house.gov/owens](http://www.house.gov/owens)

## OWENS HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



**Congressman Major Owens** and New York State Assemblymember Karim Camara commemorated Women's History Month by honoring the bravery of Sarah Louise Keys who in 1952 refused to give up her seat to a white Marine on a bus in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Ms. Keys was fined, arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and spent a night in jail before being released. A proclamation from the constituents of the 11th District, stated, "*We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Sarah Louise Keys for sitting down so we could stand up. Her dedication to the cause of social justice by risking her life, in a South ravaged by hatred against African Americans, is remarkable. The pathway she made in 1952 gave others, like Mother Rosa Parks, the strength to do the same.*"



**Worker Amnesty and Opportunity Act (H.R. 4847)** - Provides for legal permanent resident status for certain undocumented or nonimmigrant aliens.

**Alien Child Protection and Family Union Act (H.R. 4848)** - Ensures permanent resident status for any alien orphan physically present in the United States who is less than 12 years of age and to provide for deferred enforced departure status for any alien physically present in the United States who is the natural and legal parent of a child born in the United States who is less than 18 years of age.

**Terminating the Draft (H.R.1495)** - Amends the Military Selective Service Act to terminate the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, and for other purposes.

**Protecting America's Workers Act (H.R. 2004)** - Expands coverage under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to increase protection for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for certain violators, and for other purposes.

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities Expansion Act (H.R.2931)** - Expands the eligibility requirement to include Predominantly Black Institutions of higher education to allow colleges like Medgar Evers to receive regular annual appropriations of federal funds.

**Fairness in Testing (H.R. 4852)** - Curtails the use of high-stakes tests in elementary and secondary schools.

## THIS YEAR IN CONGRESS

**T**he war in Iraq continues to take the lives of our young men and women and my heart goes out to their families and friends. Katrina victims in New Orleans and Mississippi are still feeling the impact and effects of gross neglect and are in need of our continued support.

**Here is a brief run down on my positions on certain vital issues:**

### *Iraq*

It is estimated that the war has cost taxpayers over eight billion dollars. With eight billion dollars we could have built 78,325 additional public housing units, hired 150,752 additional public school teachers, provided 421,720 students four-year college scholarships at state universities, insured over five million children for one year and paid for over one million

children to attend a year of Head Start. With a growing insurgency that targets our troops and with a majority of Americans feeling no safer than before the war, we need to end our occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home. The "**Murtha Resolution**" is the best vehicle to accomplish this task.

### *Tax Cuts and Budget Cuts*

With a national debt over 8 trillion dollars, Congress pushed through tax cuts that exclusively benefit high-income households -- primarily millionaires-- in December 2005. To support the tax cuts for the rich Congress made cuts in programs serving low-and moderate-income families and individuals. I voted against the 2005 tax cuts and will continue to fight budget cuts in vital programs.

### *Minimum Wage*

The last time the Congress increased the federal minimum wage, currently set at \$5.15 an hour, was in 1997. In the 11th Congressional District a large percentage of workers, with

families, do not even receive a livable wage. Congress has failed by not giving these hard-working Americans a much needed pay raise. I am actively involved in pushing the **Fair Minimum Wage Act (H.R. 2429)**, which would increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

### *Neighborhood Disaster Preparation*

Hurricanes can happen in New York and we know that our city is targeted by terrorists. Either form of disaster can best be overcome by an organized community. There must be no Katrinas in Brooklyn. We will be utilizing the local Homeland Security funded organizations to conduct a series of neighborhood workshops to train volunteers and update residents on NYC disaster plans.

### *Public Housing*

We have demanded a federal audit and investigation of the New York City Housing Authority. Current fiscal difficulties are being wrongly blamed on tenants only. There is a need to examine an incompetent and bloated administrative structure which has failed to utilize existing federal construction funds. There should be no fee increases and no rent increases until a comprehensive audit is completed.

### *Jobs For Low Income Workers*

Black males are the workers most seriously impacted by high unemployment; however, females are struggling also. Since the jobs that do exist require more training and education, it is important to create entry level jobs which provide some income while the training process is engaged. I am developing legislation to include a **Homeland Security Community Mobilization Program** in the existing Community Action Program. Jobs which deal with preparations for disaster will be allocated on the basis of poverty rates in each neighborhood. Workers thus engaged must enroll in upward mobility programs.

## CONSTITUENT CORNER

### What constituents are saying about us!

Dear Mr. Owens.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere, "thank you" to you and your staff for all your help in regards to my son-in-law's, immigration case. On Monday, May 10th, his permanent residence card arrived in the mail. We are all very grateful, and relieved, and most certainly owe a debt of gratitude to you and your staff.

Once again, on behalf of my daughter, her husband and myself I thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcus M.

Dear Congressman Owens:

I would like to thank you for the assistance you gave to me in securing my Green Card. My

case was confusing and I believe that I would no have my Green Card today had you office not intervened on my behalf. I have waited many years for this and I am so happy that I will be able to return soon to my birthplace, Grenada, to visit my ailing mother.

Sincerely,

Ann A.

Dear Congressman Owens:

On behalf of my brother Joseph F., we want to thank Mr. Owens for his open door policy towards his constituents. We thank him for all his help to reunite us our family. Thank you for your diligent work fir contacting the US consulate in Haiti...They are finally here!!!

Pierre H.