



BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

11th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

July 2, 2010

Rep. Clarke Votes in Favor of Historic Financial Regulatory Reform

On Wednesday, June 30, the House of Representatives passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The bill will create an independent consumer financial protection bureau, regulate the over the counter derivatives markets and give the government the tools it needs to wind down large complex financial institutions. The Dodd-Frank Act will also:

- **Create Consumer Protections with Authority and Independence:** Creates a new independent watchdog with the authority to ensure American consumers get the clear, accurate information they need to shop for mortgages, credit cards, and other financial products.
- **End Too Big to Fail Bailouts:** Ends the possibility that taxpayers will be asked to write a check to bail out financial firms that threaten the economy.
- **Create an Advance Warning System:** Creates a council to identify and address systemic risks posed by large, complex companies, products, and activities before they threaten the stability of the economy.
- **Provide for Transparency & Accountability for Exotic Instruments:** Eliminates loopholes that allow risky and abusive practices to go on unnoticed and unregulated.
- **Address Executive Compensation and Corporate Governance:** Provides shareholders with a say on pay and corporate affairs with a non-binding vote on executive compensation and golden parachutes.
- **Protect Investors:** Provides tough new rules for transparency and accountability for credit rating agencies to protect investors and businesses.

I am confident that this law will create an environment where businesses can access the capital they need and investors can support future growth. Further, the Dodd-Frank Act will bring forth regulations that will restore transparency and confidence to the financial system and to the economy.

New York City Department of Education Announces the Start of Free Summer Meals

The New York City Department of Education announced the kick-off of its annual summer meals program. The program is free. The summer meals program provides meals throughout the summer to New York City children 18 years old and younger.

Summer meals will run through Friday, August 27. Breakfast and lunch will be served at various pools, schools, libraries, parks, public housing sites, and soup kitchens throughout the five boroughs. In total, meals will be available at more than 1,000 locations citywide.

In an effort to make the summer meals program even more accessible and convenient, the Department this year will operate two mobile refrigerated trucks that, for the first time, will deliver meals directly to playgrounds and beaches where many families congregate. Breakfast is served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. This summer's menu includes pancakes, barbecue-roasted chicken and many other favorites. All the meals provided are low in fat, low in sodium, and prepared without artificial colors or sweeteners. For more information on locations for free summer meals, families can call 311.



Dear Neighbor,

It is not too late to participate in the 2010 Census. If the Census Bureau did not receive your completed census form, as a courtesy, a census taker may briefly visit your home to assist with the completion of the form. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone, including other federal agencies, immigration authorities or law enforcement agencies.

The census taker will never ask to enter your home. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- Ask to see his/her ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.
- If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Census Bureau at (347) 328-2540 or (866) 861-2010 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.
- Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

Let's do our part so that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke

Rep. Clarke Attends the 41st Anniversary Celebration of the Stonewall Veterans Association (SVA)



Rep. Clarke with State Senator Eric Schneiderman, and S.V.A. Director Williamson Henderson

This past June marked the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) PRIDE Month. To commemorate this, I had the honor of attending the 41st Conference & Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Reunion at New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center on June 26. While many of our LGBT friends and neighbors celebrated Pride last month, we have a long road ahead to equality. I look forward to the repeal of DADT, a trans-inclusive ENDA, and Comprehensive Immigration Reform that no longer ignores same sex partnerships when assessing relationships for Permanent Residency.

The Stonewall Veterans continue to ensure that each member of our community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. As a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as one of the founding Vice Chairs of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, I too remain committed to advancing equal rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community, repealing discriminatory laws and educating lawmakers on LGBT issues.

In the face of today's many challenges, I would like to commend the SVA for continuing to act as role models for our Nation's LGBT community. It is therefore with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Stonewall Veterans Association on the 41st Anniversary of this historic organization.

Rep. Clarke Votes to Support Amendments to H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010

On Thursday, July 1, Congress voted to pass Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey's amendments to the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. This bill provides \$2.93 billion dollars for U.S. participation in the Haiti disaster relief emergency funding for disaster relief in Haiti effort, which is \$130 million above the President's request. My heart also goes out to the people of Haiti and I will continue to support our reconstruction efforts there.

The bill also makes fully paid for investments to meet our domestic needs:

- \$10 billion for an Education Jobs Fund,
- \$4.95 billion for Pell Grants,
- \$701 million for border security,
- \$142 million in additional funding for the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico,
- \$50 million in emergency food assistance

Unfortunately, this bill also includes funding for the war in Afghanistan, the longest war in U.S. history. While I am grateful to the men and women who serve valiantly in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad, I strongly oppose any additional funding for the war in Afghanistan. The time is now to bring our troops home, stop the unnecessary spending, which would help stabilize our economy.

However, regardless of circumstance, I will continue to support our troops, though I do not support the war in Afghanistan.

Legislative Spotlight

On Thursday, July 1, H. Res. 1405, a resolution celebrating 50 Years of African Independence, passed with a vote of 410 to 0.

Rep. Clarke was a lead cosponsor of this resolution because it recognizes the importance of good governance and democratic principles, which have flourished in many African countries over the past decade. Indeed, more than two-thirds of sub-Saharan African countries have held democratic elections since 2000. Moreover, several nations, from Senegal to Tanzania, and from Ghana to Zambia have seen successful power changes over the past decade. The United States Department of State has expressed its commitment to supporting African efforts to fortify government accountability and overall good governance, which is crucial to the continent's future growth and global influence.

The resolution commends the socio-economic and political progress being made by African countries, while acknowledging the associated challenges that many still face. According to a June 2010 McKinsey Global Institute report entitled *'Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies,'* over the past decade "Africa's economic pulse has quickened, infusing the continent with new commercial vibrancy." Africa's combined consumer spending in 2008 was \$860 billion, and America is committed to partnering with African nations to foster economic development, entrepreneurship and trade in the continent.

Kofi Annan, Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP), recently noted that "Africa's future is in its own hands, but that success in managing its own affairs depends on supportive global policies and agreements." H. Res. 1405 comes at a time when the world is taking notice of Africa's great progress in recent years and it reaffirms the United States' commitment to growth and prosperity in Africa.

This resolution is a celebration of the hope that resonates in the hearts and minds of the many Africans, African Americans, policymakers, and NGO's that are committed to Africa's progress and prosperity.