



# BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

### 11<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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

# May 07, 2010

## Rep. Clarke Commends Response to Foiled Time Square Plot



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 visit your home briefly to complete the form in person. 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 their 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 us all do our part to have our voices heard.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke

I want to applaud the quick and coordinated response that led to the arrest of Faisal Shahzad, who confessed to being responsible for the attempted Times Square bombing on May 1, 2010. I am thankful to the observant citizens, Lance Orton and Duane Jackson, who reported the suspicious activity as well as our local first responders and federal authorities, who swiftly investigated the incident. I also want to applaud the "See Something, Say Something" campaign by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which encourages residents to report suspicious activity to keep New York City safe. I, along with Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security



Rep. Clarke is interviewed on Capitol Hill discussing the Times Square Terror Plot

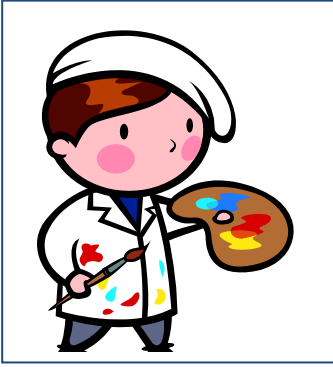
Committee, Rep. Peter King, have worked diligently to secure funding for the "Securing the Cities" Program, which provides a unified strategy for protecting our nation from radiological and nuclear threats. I am also working with my Congressional colleagues to bring my legislation, H.R. 4842, the Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act of 2010 to the House Floor. This legislation authorizes important management functions and programs, like the "Securing the Cities" program, within the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology (S&T) Directorate. As the only New York City Representative on the House Homeland Security Committee, I will be working very closely with the local and federal authorities to monitor the developments in this attempted bombing. I will continue to support funding for our first responders to ensure they receive adequate tools to combat terrorism, protecting New York City and this nation.

## House Passes the Home Star Jobs Bill

On May 6, I voted for H.R. 5019, the Home Star Jobs Bill which boosts the American clean energy economy by creating nearly 170,000 jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and saving American families \$9 billion over 10 years. H.R. 5019 would provide rebates to homeowners who install energy-saving products and reduce energy use in their homes.

H.R. 5019 features two levels of rebates that will help an estimated 3 million American homeowners. The Silver Star program would provide up-front rebates of up to \$3,000 for the installation of proven energy-saving technologies, such as insulation, duct sealing, window and door improvements, air sealing, and advanced water heaters. The Gold Star program rewards homeowners with up to \$8,000 for conducting a comprehensive energy audit and substantially reducing their energy use at home. As we face both economic and energy crises, this bill would lower the monthly expenses for hard-working families and make our nation more energy independent.

## Congresswoman Clarke Hosts Congressional Art Contest Ceremony



It is my pleasure to announce this year's Congressional High School Art Contest Award Ceremony! Feel free to join us on May 14th at 3p.m. at the Brooklyn Children's Museum to see all of the submitted artwork. My office received over a dozen pieces from the talented high school students of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Judges from the Brooklyn Arts Council will choose the winner, whose art will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol. The hard work of these young people shows once again, the necessity for art education to provide an outlet for our youth.

## Rep. Clarke Celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month

I call on my fellow Brooklyn neighbors to join me in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month, which began on May 1. This month offers us the opportunity to honor the contributions and history of the Jewish people in the United States of America, particularly those in the Brooklyn community. Jewish Americans came to this land seeking a place to practice their faith, pursue their dreams and raise their families without the constant threat of violence and persecution. Fleeing fear and discrimination, Jewish settlers built a thriving community – shaped by tradition, commitment to service and dedication to the larger Brooklyn Community.

The story of Jewish Americans is the story of immigrant communities from around the world who chose to come to our shores, in search of a better life. Since arriving in 1654, Jewish Americans have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life in Brooklyn and beyond. Their commitment to excellence in science, public service, law, medicine, athletics, literature and countless other fields has enriched our nation and enhanced our culture.

Jewish American Heritage Month provides us with the chance to reflect on their invaluable contributions throughout our nation's history.

## Commemorating Cinco de Mayo

On Wednesday, May 5, we celebrated Cinco de Mayo. This day marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in the battle of Puebla in 1862. We take this day to celebrate the importance of Hispanics in this country, specifically how their achievements have strengthened our nation.

This date is of special significance because it reminds us that all peoples -- regardless of their race -- need freedom, liberty and self-determination and all cultures are worthy of respect. For Mexico, the Cinco de Mayo holiday has become a symbol of unity and patriotism in its history. In the United States, it is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage and contributions of Mexican Americans.

Let us use this day to recognize the Mexican people who share the common goals of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. Today, we say thank you to the Mexican community for making our nation's economy stronger and our culture more vibrant.

## Legislative Spotlight

On Wednesday May 5, the House of Representatives passed H.Res.1320, a resolution recognizing those who responded to the attempted Times Square bombing. I cosponsored and voted in support of this resolution which was introduced by my distinguished colleague from Staten Island, Rep. Mike McMahon.

This resolution honors the brave men and women that helped thwart this terrorist attempt and those who led the successful investigation efforts.

I am extremely proud to be a New Yorker, because we are a special breed. We have shown time and again that we are brave, resilient, and courageous. Lance Orton and Duane Jackson used their keen instincts and street smarts to report the suspicious vehicle. This incident highlights the success of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's 'See Something, Say Something' campaign in encouraging residents to report suspicious activity to keep New York City safe. This resolution also urges all Americans to be alert and report potential terrorist or suspicious activities within their communities.

NYPD Officer Wayne Rhatigan led the immediate response efforts and acted swiftly with his colleagues in the New York Police Department, the Fire Department of New York and the bomb squad to thwart the detonation of the car bomb and evacuate hundreds of people from Times Square. This is yet another example of why our local first responders deserve the full support of this Congress. These brave men and women put their lives on the line every day and they must be provided with the adequate tools and resources to effectively do their jobs.

Federal authorities swiftly investigated the incident, proving that counterterrorism cooperation across government is working to keep us safe.

We know we live in a dangerous world with ever-evolving threats. The federal government and our state and local law enforcement authorities understand the nature of the threats and are working tirelessly to defeat them.