



# 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

# January 15, 2010

## Clarke Unites New York City Congressional Delegation to Assist with Haiti Crisis



Dear Neighbor,

Please join me for *Federal Appropriations 101*, a discussion, presentation, and a Q & A session on applying for federal funds.

Through this discussion, you will:

- Get an overview of the House Appropriations process.
- Meet one-on-one with Rep. Clarke staffers to review applications.
- Learn how to make your project more competitive.

Rep. Clarke will be joined by special guest Nicole Johnson of the City Parks Foundation.

*Federal Appropriations 101* will take place on January 25, 2010 from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm, at 123 Linden Blvd, 1st Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11225 (Between Bedford and Rogers Avenues).

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke



Rep. Clarke along with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Representatives Edolphus Towns, Gregory Meeks, Mike McMahon, and other elected officials unite to support humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

This request was granted and New York's finest are now helping with the search and rescue efforts in the country. Their expertise and language skills will be of great assistance. Additionally, I am sending a letter with the Congressional Black Caucus to Congressional Leadership asking for robust emergency funds to assist Haiti in the next legislative vehicle before the Senate. Haiti is as much a part of us as we are a part of them. I will be doing everything in my power to see that we help out this nation, including pushing for TPS.

### Haiti Crisis: Information for Finding Loved One or Making Donations for Humanitarian Efforts

For inquiries about loved ones, there is the hotline number, 1-888-407-4747, which should be used to find out information about U.S. Citizens. To find out information about Haitian nationals, please call the Haitian Embassy in Washington, DC at 202-332-4090 or the New York Haitian Consulate at 212-697-9767. Lastly, you can go to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) website at [www.icrc.org/familylinks](http://www.icrc.org/familylinks) or [www.cnn.com/haitimissing](http://www.cnn.com/haitimissing) or <http://koneksyon.com/comments.php?DiscussionID=59&page=2>.

As for donation efforts, for now monetary donations are the best way to help immediately help the region. Please refer to the USAID website or the Center for International Disaster Information's website at [www.CIDI.org](http://www.CIDI.org) for a listing of reputable donation organizations.

In the meantime, as the assessment teams gather information about what material goods are needed, I urge the New York community to consolidate their efforts in gathering provisions like clothing and medical supplies. To coordinate donation efforts, please call CIDI at 703-276-1914.

We are as much a part of Haiti as Haiti is a part of us. This is a time for the world to come together and help our Caribbean neighbor, not for national interest or political expediency, but because it is the right thing to do.

## White House Review on Foiled Terror Plot aboard Northwest Airline Flight 253

The White House released a declassified review detailing report security and intelligence gaps surrounding the foiled terror plot aboard Northwest Airline flight 253. This report reveals many security gaps and a break down in our intelligence information sharing system surrounding the Christmas Day Terror Plot. I agree with the Obama Administration for calling these failures totally unacceptable and it is clear that the American public deserves better. I am confident that his team plans to fully implement the recommendations highlighted in the report.

In the case of the Christmas Day Terror Plot, suspected terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was in the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment database, but was not on the Transportation Security Administration's "no-fly" list. The database and related watch lists have long been plagued with systemic misidentification and information sharing problems.

In February, the House passed my bill H.R.559. "Fair, Accurate, Secure, and Timely Redress Act of 2009 or the FAST Redress Act of 2009." Unfortunately, the Senate has not yet acted on the bill. The legislation would establish a redress process for those who feel they have been misidentified as a terrorist and establish a comprehensive "cleared" list. We must clean up the watch list system so that we can identify those like Mr. Abdulmutallab, who certainly should have been on the no fly list.

Information sharing and intergovernmental communication is the key to our defense against those who seek to bring terror and harm to our shores. We need clear leadership at the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency. These two key administration posts must be filled as soon as possible in order to fully address these issues.

As Chair of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, I look forward to thoroughly participating in a congressional review surrounding failed Christmas Day Terror Plot. I will hold all U.S agencies accountable for completely addressing all vulnerabilities in our security systems.

## Congresswoman Clarke Applauds EPA Proposal to Strengthen Smog Standards

Last week, the EPA proposed implementing stricter health standards to date for smog. I applaud EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and President Obama for implementing such measures. Decreasing smog and air pollution in urban areas is essential for the health and well being of our nation.

Smog, also known as ground-level ozone, is linked to a number of serious health problems, ranging from aggravation of asthma to increased risk of premature death in people with heart or lung disease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has pointed out that children are at the greatest risk from smog emissions due to their underdeveloped lungs. According to the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, in 2000 children in New York City were almost twice as likely to be hospitalized for asthma as compared to children in the United States as a whole.

Protecting the environment is vital to the survival, health and well being of all Americans, particularly our children. What we do today has a direct impact on future generations of Americans. That is why I voted to help pass the House version of the 2009 Energy Bill this summer and have remained an outspoken advocate for green technologies.

As the proud U.S Representative of the 11th Congressional District of New York, I will continue to fight for tougher standards on smog emissions. I continue to support regulations, legislation, and policy to protect and preserve our nation's environment.

## Legislative Spotlight

Today, I joined Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Ranking Member Dave Camp (R-MI), Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-SC) and House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) in announcing my intent to be an original cosponsor on important legislation for the people of Haiti. The legislation will provide an incentive for U.S. taxpayers to contribute monetary donations to the relief efforts following the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

This bill will accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Haiti. A taxpayer who contributes a cash contribution in January or February, 2010, will be allowed to take the charitable contribution deduction in the 2009 taxable year instead of having to wait for the 2010 taxable year.

I hope all of my constituents will join in the effort to help to get these victims emergency care and swift disaster relief.

Monetary donations are the most effective form of assistance because they allow humanitarian organizations to purchase (often within the affected region itself) the exact type and quantity of items needed by those affected by the crisis.

Here is a list of organizations accepting donations:

- InterAction has a list of agencies responding and how to donate to them. Find it here: <http://www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti>
- To donate \$10 to the American Red Cross, text Haiti to 90999. The amount will be added to your next phone bill. The organization is also accepting donations through its International Response Fund, <http://www.redcross.org>
- To donate \$5 to Wyclef Jean's Haitian Yele charity, text 501501. The money will be added to your next phone bill.
- To find out how to help the International Rescue Committee, visit <http://www.theIRC.org> or call toll free, 1-877-REFUGEE.
- To donate through Oxfam's emergency appeal, visit <http://www.oxfam.org.uk>