



Rockland County Legislator Toney L. Earl

District 8—Spring Valley, Hillcrest, New Hempstead, Ramapo

Winter 2010

Message From Legislator Earl

I am proud to present my first report as your county legislator. When I took office, I was faced with the daunting task of replacing a man who was my friend and mentor, William “Bill” Darden. Bill Darden touched the lives of so many in his district and Rockland, including myself. Above all, Bill taught me the importance of listening to the voice of one’s community when serving the public, and his lessons and example will guide me as I pick up the mantle of leadership in Rockland.



I know I assume this office at a time of great challenges, both for our government and our families. At a time when so many families are struggling to get by, there is a greater need to preserve

the services government can offer to its people. That is why supporting vital services and community organizations will be a top priority of mine as a county legislator, and in this report, you can read about the work I am doing to achieve that.

As I move forward to serve the people of my district, which includes Hillcrest, and parts of Spring Valley and New Hempstead, I will be reaching out to residents like you to discuss the issues facing Rockland County and your family. I encourage you to call me at (845) 638-5100 if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Working With Youth Centers

Turning my focus to the needs of young people in my district, I visited two youth centers and spoke with children there.

At the Martin Luther King Center, I met with Director Nathan Mungin, and updated him on the county funds I was

able to procure for the center. I was also introduced to the children of the After School program, and spent time speaking to them about government and my responsibilities.



Legislator Earl with the children of the Martin Luther King After School program.

It was such a pleasure to converse with the inquisitive students and talk to them about my office and my family—including my new grandson—and encourage all of them to work hard in school.

I also visited the West Street Child Care Learning Center, and met with Director Diane Rivera, who gave me a tour and update on the facility. We discussed the need for county funding for the center, and I am proud to have assisted in those efforts.



Legislator Earl with Diane Rivera at the West Street Child Care Learning Center.

Joining The AAHS Board

At the monthly meeting of the board of the African American Historical Society, I was inducted into the board of the organization, a position previously held by the late Legislator Bill Darden. I spoke to the group about my background and interest in working with them.

I am proud to be taking a leadership role in an upcoming collaboration with the Smithsonian Museum entitled “Indivisible,” which will touch on the lives of Native Americans and African Americans, and will open on February 5th at Rockland Community College.



Legislator Earl with the leaders of the AAHS. At the far right is Willie Trotman, President of the Spring Valley NAACP, and third from the right is Wylene Wood, Chair of the AAHS.

2011 Budget Passes The Legislature

In December, the Rockland County Legislature adopted its 2011 budget. I jumped into budget discussions as soon as I took office, and worked with other legislators to cut costs to re-

duce the tax burden families face. Of great importance to me was preserving the funding that community organizations assisting people from my district receive, and working with the

other legislators, I was able to do so.

I also effectively fought to preserve vital services that help the residents of my district, which will greatly benefit all of my constituents.



Partnering With Konbit Neg Lakay

I am proud to have joined forces with the Haitian organization Konbit Neg Lakay, and the Rockland County Haiti Relief Campaign. At a joint meeting of the two organizations, I addressed the gathering about the relief efforts in Haiti for both the earthquake and the cholera outbreak.

I have taken an active role in the relief efforts of the Rockland County Haiti Relief Campaign and their one-year commemoration of the devastating earthquake in January.



I will be involved in the In-

teractive Tent City demonstration, which will take place from January 10th—16th at Ramapo Town Hall, and will shed light on Haitian living conditions.

Promoting The Safety Of Our Seniors

I held a seminar on senior safety at the Ramapo Senior Citizen's Center in Spring Valley to discuss ways that local seniors can protect themselves. Ramapo Community Police Officer Dennis Proctor joined me, and we spoke about scams that target seniors and how seniors can avoid them. We also touched on ways to prevent theft in all its forms, from purse-snatching to identity theft.

homes, including lowering the risk of an injury due to a cooking accident, or tripping on a loose carpet. We also discussed ways to minimize risks in and around the home during the winter.

I spoke to seniors about safety in their

The seniors then took their turn and engaged me in a Q & A session on a myriad of other issues, including their personal concerns in various areas of safety, as well as local issues that I am working on in the County Legislature.

Teaming Up With The Hillcrest Civic Association

The Hillcrest Civic Association welcomed me to its recent meeting. As a legislator and a Hillcrest resident,

I spoke with the Association and its leader, Johnny Brunson, about infrastructure projects in Hillcrest

that are being coordinated by the Town of Ramapo.

I also spoke about county funds that are being given to Hillcrest for property and community-wide cleanups. I look forward to attending future Association meetings and working more with the group.



Legislator Earl with Johnny Brunson of the Civic Association.



Legislator Earl and Ramapo Police Officer Dennis Proctor with seniors at the Ramapo Senior Citizen's Center in Spring Valley.

**I value and welcome your input. Feel free to call me with any questions, comments, or concerns at (845) 638-5100, or e-mail me at EarlT@co.rockland.ny.us. You can also write to:
The Rockland County Legislature 11 New Hempstead Road New City, NY 10956**