

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN CRACKS DOWN ON HIT & RUN DRIVERS

Legislation will allow seizure of vehicles for leaving scene of accident with serious injury or fatality

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D. -16th L.D. Huntington) joined with Legislator Kate Browning (WFP-3rd L.D. Mastic) and his colleagues in the Suffolk County Legislature in co-sponsoring a critical initiative to strengthen penalties on those who leave the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or a fatality. Recent tragedies in Brooklyn and in our own communities in Suffolk County have demonstrated the need for tougher penalties for drivers who flee the scene of an accident. This new law, supported by Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota, will authorize law enforcement to seize vehicles involved in hit and run accidents. Many hit & run incidents involve drivers impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. Under current law, a driver who flees the scene can only be charged with a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by no more than one year in jail. Intoxicated or impaired drivers can be charged with a Class E felony, providing incentive for an impaired driver to flee. This new provision will help deter drivers from leaving the scene of an accident. “I am proud to join with my colleagues in sponsoring this important initiative to punish those who leave the scene of an accident and to help protect all who travel on Suffolk County roadways,” Legislator Stern said.