

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**DIX HILLS FIRE DISTRICT OFFERS FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS**

*Legislator Steve Stern urges Residents to Have Safety Seats Checked*



Legislator Steve Stern, Assistant District Manager George Fleites



Commissioner Todd Cohen, Legislator Steve Stern, EMT Eytan Pick, Assistant District Manager George Fleites, and Commissioner Robert Commisso.  
(Photos by Steve Silverman)

**HUNTINGTON, NY** – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> LD) is encouraging residents to have their infant and child car seats and booster seats inspected by the Dix Hills Fire District’s (DHFD) Car Seat

Inspection program. Infant, child and booster car seats are required by law and when properly installed, save lives in the event of an accident. Unfortunately, the vast majority of car seats are improperly installed, creating a risk of failure. It is important to remember that child safety seats should not be installed in the front seat of a vehicle. Children must be placed in rear-facing seats from birth to 12 months and it is recommended that they use rear-facing seats until they reach the maximum weight for the seat. Children under 4'9" should use a booster seat. Car seats have expiration dates and should be replaced if the vehicle in which they are installed has been in an accident.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) issues guidelines regarding proper installation of child safety seats and conducts training programs to ensure that seats are properly installed. Glenn Kaleita and George Fleites of the DHFD are certified to conduct these inspections. Free inspections are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-2:30 pm. Please call the DHFD at 499-8836, extension 137 to schedule an appointment. Please bring your vehicle's owner's manual and the installation instructions for your child's car seat.

"As we enter summer driving season, it is especially important to make sure that your child's car seat is properly installed," Legislator Stern said. "The safety of our children is every parent's concern and I encourage our community to take advantage of the DHFD's outstanding program and have a safe and happy summer."