

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
1842 E. Jericho Tpke. Suite P
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 21, 2014

CONTACT: **Amanda Lindner**
LEGISLATIVE AIDE
OFFICE: 631-854-5100
amanda.lindner@suffolkcountyny.gov

LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN JOINS WITH LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS TO DISCUSS TOP PRIORITIES

Improving job growth, sewer infrastructure, veterans' needs and emergency response plans



Pictured: Legislator Steve Stern discusses economic development with the Huntington Chamber of Commerce at the Huntington Yacht Club.

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th L.D) addressed pressing issues facing Suffolk County businesses, veterans, seniors and home owners before a full house of local entrepreneurs during the Huntington Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the Huntington Yacht Club March 18th.

Legislator Stern explained that Suffolk County government is aggressively working to attract and retain important local businesses through the Industrial Development Agency (IDA). The IDA has closed more than two-dozen deals within the past two years, including five technology startups which now call Huntington home.

“That means thousands of jobs and the ability to maintain and grow the most pivotal companies here in our local community,” Legislator Stern said.

The legislator also outlined key steps being taken to expand sewer infrastructure in Suffolk County. Currently, 70-percent of Suffolk County lacks a sewage system. To meet the sewage needs of 1.5 million residents, Legislator Stern introduced a bill that would leverage government dollars to raise capital needed for sewer infrastructure that is of utmost concern, especially in the Northport and Huntington harbors.

“When we talk about economic development, job growth and improving the environment - all of these things - we can't do any of it unless we have infrastructure to serve it,” he said.

Home to the largest veteran population in New York State, Legislator Stern proudly spoke about Suffolk's Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans PTSD Peer Support Project. The program connects veterans with fellow service members to receive the help they may need while transitioning back to civilian life in a comfortable peer-to-peer environment, rather than a clinical setting.

“So many of our veterans that are returning home, having served four, five, six tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, too often come home with tremendous challenges. Whether that is getting back into their former lives, transitioning back into the work force or coming home with afflictions such as PTSD and TBI, continues to be a tremendous challenge. But in Suffolk County, we are very proud of the new initiative that we created a little over a year ago,” Legislator Stern said.

The program has been so successful, that it is now a model for the rest of New York State as a pilot program. “We are literally leading the way,” Legislator Stern said.

As hurricane season quickly approaches, the legislator also emphasized the need to protect Suffolk's most vulnerable residents. Through the Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (JEEP), the County is taking a proactive approach to identify senior citizens and those with disabilities who may need assistance before an emergency strikes. He encouraged those in attendance to add their family members, friends and neighbors to the County's JEEP list so that first responders are immediately able to reach those in need of help.

“I'm optimistic that our local business community, our local economy and Suffolk County government continues to move in right direction,” Legislator Stern said.