



# NEWS

MAY 2019

## From Bill Magnarelli

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### “Stop-Arm” Cameras on School Busses Awaits Governor’s Signature After Passing Both Houses

I am pleased to announce legislation authorizing the use of “stop-arm” cameras on school buses to ticket illegal passers has been approved by both the Senate and the Assembly. The legislation will now go to Governor Andrew Cuomo to be signed into law. I first introduced this bill in 2013.

The need for such life-saving measures was again brought to the public’s attention recently when a school bus driver from Chenango Valley Central School District saved a student’s life by pulling the student back on the bus as a speeding car passed the stopped school bus on the right side. Speeding, distracted drivers are a hazard to everyone, especially around school buses. Allowing municipalities to place cameras on the stop-arms of school buses and to issue fines for violations is a program that will help alleviate parents’ worries when they send their children off to school.



This is an important victory for the safety of our children. For too long, we have seen the troubling statistics about the illegal passing of school buses, and the tragic results. This bill will give law enforcement an important new tool to combat this dangerous practice. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 illegal passes happen each school day in New York. Similar legislation has been adopted in 13 states, which have since seen dramatic drops in violations.

The legislation authorizes municipalities to adopt a stop-arm camera program in their jurisdiction. Municipalities will then reach agreements with local school districts to install the cameras on their buses. The cameras activate when a bus is stopped and its stop-arm and red lights are deployed. They capture images of the license plates of illegal passers. Those images are then sent to law enforcement for review to confirm the violation before sending out tickets. Under this bill, those caught by the cameras are fined \$250 for a 1<sup>st</sup> offense, \$275 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense within 18 months and \$300 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense or more within 18 months. Currently, an officer must witness an illegal pass to issue a ticket.

The fine revenue will help pay for the cost of the program. Unlike violations witnessed by law enforcement, those caught by the cameras are not subject to points. Owners of vehicles will have the ability to appeal the fine if the vehicle was being used without permission or stolen.

Over the last 6 years, I have worked with many advocates on this bill. Michael Sweeney, President of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation, said after its passage: “NYAPT applauds the collaboration by the State Senate and Assembly to reach an agreement on the elements of a Stop Arm Camera bill in our state. As we have stated over many years, motorists pass stopped school buses some 50,000 times every school day and that is just unacceptable. This bill, authored by Assemblyman William Magnarelli and Senator Timothy Kennedy, will provide school districts and local police departments with a powerful tool in our efforts to enforce the law and to bring down the incidents of this dangerous practice. We look forward to its ultimate approval as law by the Governor. This is a good day for school bus safety and we are grateful to these sponsors for their leadership.”

The legislation will go into effect 30 days after being signed by the Governor. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about these or any other state issues, please call my office at (315) 428-9651.

*William H. Magnarelli*

### Regional Economic Development Council in Pulaski

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the second meeting of the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNY REDC) for 2019. The meeting was held at the historic Kallet Theatre in Pulaski in Oswego County. The Council is comprised of members from the five county CNY area including: Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cayuga and Cortland. This year is the ninth year the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) program, which targets state grant funds to local projects that complement the area’s strategic economic development plan, has been in place. The Central New York REDC has been successful in its efforts to recommend and support projects which have a significant economic impact on our area. Assemblyman Magnarelli is a voting member of the CNYREDC.





# Honoring Achievement in Our Community



Assemblyman Magnarelli presented a resolution honoring Enrolled Agents Week in NY. Michael Lawrence of Baldwinsville (holding the resolution) is the group's president this year.



Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the Silver and Gold Gala at the Valley American Legion. The Silver and Gold Gala is sponsored by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs and celebrates Older Americans month thanking seniors for their contributions to our community

## Looking Back at 1969



WBM attended the opening ceremony for an exhibit in Albany of the 50th Anniversary of "1969" honoring veterans of the Vietnam War. Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Office of General Services created the exhibit, which explores the end of one of the most iconic and turbulent decades in United States' history. Located in the Abrams Justice Building Atrium, it runs through the end of the year. 1969 was a year of seminal events that became ingrained in the heart and soul of America. From war to Woodstock and from Sesame Street to the moon, it was a year where events across the country shaped our culture. It was a time in our history when our nation was full of polarized ideologies, emotions, and reactions. As a new president took office with a new foreign policy strategy, the Vietnam War was televised to living rooms across the country, inspiring a range of reactions and responses.

## Opening the 2019 Syracuse Crawfish Festival

Assemblyman Magnarelli cut the ribbon opening the 2019 Syracuse Crawfish Festival in Clinton Square sponsored by Operation Northern Comfort. Operation Northern Comfort is a non-profit organization committed to serving surrounding communities by providing labor, donations and support in any time of need.





## Legislative Meetings in Albany



On Domestic Abuse Awareness Day, I met with representatives from Vera House to discuss legislation relating to domestic abuse.



The Democratic Lawyers Council visited to discuss voting and election law reforms.



Credit Union representatives from AmeriCU and ACMG met to converse about changes that would affect local credit unions.



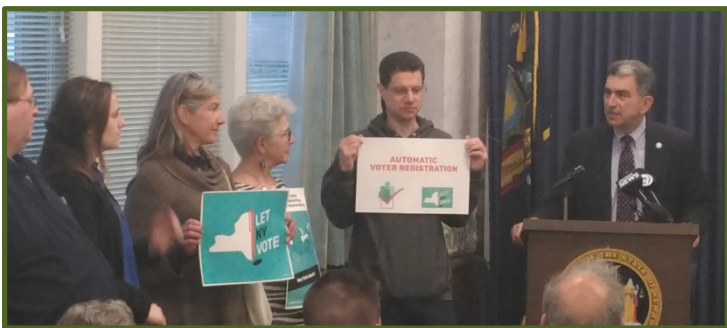
Auto Collision shop owners from across New York State visited to update me on their legislative agenda.



The Police Benevolent Association of New York State represents state police officers who are not troopers - SUNY police, Forest Rangers, Park Police and DEC Enforcement Officers. They were in to discuss their legislative agenda for this Assembly session.



Moms Demand Action representatives, Karla Hanson and Marie Kulikowsky, advocated for new gun safety measures.



Assemblyman Magnarelli spoke at a press conference to voice his support for Automatic Voter Registration in New York State. This legislation would allow for citizens to register to vote whenever they interact with various State agencies (beyond just the DMV).



Assemblyman Magnarelli was honored to speak at the Laborers Legislative Breakfast on May 15.

### **About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli**

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and has been reelected since then. During his terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.