



# NEWS

May 2021

## From Bill Magnarelli

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129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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### Approaching the End of the 2020-2021 Legislative Session

As June approaches, the New York State Assembly is in its final days of session. This is when the Assembly votes on legislation proposed throughout the year. I am pleased to announce that this year's legislation includes several important bills that I sponsored: JSCB 3, Decals on School Bus Cameras, A Study on Rural Transportation; Increases Fines for Obstructed License Plates; Military Personnel Can Keep Their State License. I bring these pieces of legislation to your attention because they will provide needed changes that affect the public. All of the legislation I sponsored this year can be found <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/William-B-Magnarelli/sponsor/>. After passing the Assembly, legislation must be approved by the State Senate and the Governor before becoming law.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about these or any other state issues, please call my office at (315) 428-9651.

### City School Renovations Legislation Passes Assembly

#### Syracuse City School Proposed Renovations

**Nottingham High School: \$34 million estimated total project cost**

- New health center; Auditorium & classroom renovations; New sidewalks and paving; Pool renovations; Gymnasium renovations; Turf field and tack; Roofing; Electrical & Plumbing renovations

**Latin School: \$22 million estimated total project cost**

- Interior upgrades and ADA renovations in classrooms and bathrooms; sidewalk replacement and paving; courtyard upgrades; Roof & window replacements; Gymnasium upgrades; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

**Corcoran High School: \$30 million estimated total project cost**

- Renovations to classroom, auditorium, gym and pool; Roofing replacement; Electrical & Plumbing renovations

**Henninger High: \$35 million estimated total project cost**

- Auditorium & classroom renovations; Complete gymnasium and pool renovations; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; New sidewalks and paving

**Roberts PK-8 School: \$28 million estimated total project cost**

- Interior upgrades and ADA renovations; sidewalk replacement and paving; Roof replacement; Window replacements and masonry repairs; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

**STEM at Blodgett Middle: \$34 million estimated total project cost**

- Auditorium and Gymnasium renovations; Replace roofing; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; New lockers and extensive corridor renovations; new boilers and heating system

**Delaware Primary: \$30 million estimated total project cost**

- Interior upgrades and ADA renovations; Sidewalk and exterior stairs replacement and paving; Roof replacement; Pool upgrades; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

**Seymour Elementary: \$25 million estimated total project cost**

- Interior upgrades and ADA renovations; Sidewalk and exterior stairs replacement and paving; Roof replacement; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

**Lincoln Middle: \$40 million estimated total project cost**

- Reconfigure interior with new walls, ceiling and doors; ADA renovations; Gymnasium renovations; Roof replacement; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

**Webster Elementary: \$22 million estimated total project cost**

- Interior upgrades and ADA renovations; Sidewalk and exterior stairs replacement and paving; Replace exterior doors, windows and masonry; Electrical & Plumbing renovations; Upgraded technology

Joint School Construction Board Phase III (A.6258-A) sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli passed the Assembly. This legislation authorizes the City of Syracuse Joint Schools Construction Board to undertake a third phase of school renovation projects. Phase III will involve projects at the following schools: STEM at Blodgett Middle School, Corcoran High School, Delaware Primary School, Henninger High School, Syracuse Latin School, Lincoln Middle School, Nottingham High School, Roberts PreK-8 School, Seymour Dual Language Academy and the Webster Elementary School. The bill authorizes up to \$300 million in new bonding for these schools, which, as the JSCB makes the bond payments, upwards of 90% will be reimbursed by the state.

Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored the legislation that established the Syracuse Joint Schools Construction Board (JSCB) in 2006. JSCB Phases 1 and 2 financed more than \$450 million in renovations of city schools.

The legislation awaits Senate and the Governor's approval.

# Legislation Magnarelli Sponsored Passes Assembly

## School Buses to have Decals to Warn Drivers of “Stop Arm” Cameras

Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored legislation (A6155) which allows school districts to place decals on their buses to warn drivers that “Stop-Arm” cameras are in use. In 2019, in a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli, the Legislature authorized the use of cameras on school buses to enforce against the illegal passing of stopped buses. Now that municipalities and districts are beginning to install these cameras, it is important that motorists are put on notice that they will be caught and fined if they illegally pass a stopped bus.



“The implementation of stop-arm cameras on school buses must be transparent as possible to avoid the image of predatory and punitive practices,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “This bill updates the law to give the option for school districts to place such a warning sign on each bus.”

The law, as currently written, does not allow warning signs to be affixed to a school bus indicating a camera violation system is in use, except for buses in the City of New York.

Allowing school buses equipped with “Stop-Arm” camera systems to use a sign, placard, or other display also pre-emptively deters offenders from making illegal passes. The authority would only extend to signs and stickers warning of a camera monitoring system specifically.

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## Improving Rural Public Transportation

Assemblyman Magnarelli announced the passage of legislation (A1360) that revives and updates a committee to study and report on access to public transportation in rural areas of New York State – the “Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation.” Many rural counties lack reliable public transportation services or have underfunded systems. This committee will focus on ways to improve access to transportation in these areas of the State.

“Public transportation systems across Upstate New York provide critical transportation links between individuals and their work, medical appointments, school, shopping, and other destinations,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “Additionally, many residents of rural counties don’t have access to a car and are reliant on others for transportation.”

It has been estimated that Upstate public transportation systems carry more than 570,000 riders every day, making them cumulatively the equivalent of the seventh largest transit system in the country. Unfortunately, in rural areas, fares alone do not provide enough revenue to sustain a public transit system. Previously, funding from Medicaid helped to keep these systems going. However, shifts in Medicaid transportation funding in recent years left many systems struggling to remain open and some have closed altogether, leaving many without reliable transportation.

Reconstituting the “Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation” will help to examine the issues impacting public transportation in rural counties and identify new ideas to fund transportation services. The new 19-member Committee is required to meet every three months and submit a new report to the Executive and Legislature by January 1, 2023. After that, the Committee will meet every quarter and submit a new report each year.

“Residents in rural areas need reliable access to transportation to meet their daily needs,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “New ideas and funding need to be found to ensure that rural counties can provide this critical service.”

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## Increases fine for a Purposely Obstructed License Plate

Assemblyman William Magnarelli, D-Syracuse, Geddes and Van Buren, is pleased to announce the passage of legislation (A6014) that increases the maximum fine for intentionally obstructing or defacing a license plate from \$200 to \$300. The goal is to stop motorists from intentionally making their license plate hard to read to avoid paying tolls and/or avoiding law enforcement.



“As New York moves to adopt “cashless tolling” on all its toll roads, bridges and tunnels, it is critical that cameras be able to properly read license plate numbers,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “When a motorist intentionally defaces or obstructs the plate, it makes it difficult or impossible for the Thruway Authority or other entity to send a bill for tolls. This passes additional costs down to all motorists using these thoroughfares.”

Additionally, it is a safety threat. If law enforcement or the general public can’t read a plate number, they can’t identify cars that commit “hit and run” crashes or other traffic offenses. That makes it difficult for motorists to get proper insurance information and harder for law enforcement to get dangerous vehicles and drivers off the road.

Increasing this fine is the first step in cracking down on this dangerous practice. This bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

# Military Personnel Stationed in NYS to Keep their Home State Driver's License

Assemblyman Magnarelli announced the passage of legislation (A6968) allowing military personnel, their spouses and dependents to keep their home state driver's license while stationed in New York. The bill was introduced at the request of the U.S Department of Defense.

Under current law, anyone who remains in New York after 60-days must apply for a New York State driver's license. This can be a burden on military personnel stationed in the State that wish to keep their home state license for residency purposes. Being forced to change their license jeopardizes their voting status and benefits like "in-state" tuition. New York is only one of ten US jurisdictions that has such a requirement.

"Our military members and their family sacrifice much for the safety of our country," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. "As a state, New York should be doing what it can to make their lives easier while stationed here. This bill will relieve them of one the burdens that comes with moving to a new station."

The bill now goes before the State Senate for consideration.



## Recognizing Efforts to Protect Children

The McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center and Assemblyman Magnarelli recognized the week of April 18-24th as Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week in the State of New York. McMahon Ryan Advocacy Center was a staunch supporter as Assemblyman Magnarelli moved the legislation in 2004 requiring hospitals, birth centers, secondary school parenting classes and all NYS inmates to receive education and information on the dangers of "shaken baby syndrome".

**Colleen Merced, executive director, and Christine Larkin, Child Fatality Review Team Facilitator, are pictured with Assemblyman Magnarelli.**



## 30 Years of Palliative Care at Francis House

Assemblyman Magnarelli celebrates the 30th anniversary at Francis House. Francis House provides a home and an extended family to people with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity and experience unconditional love. Sister Kathleen Osbelt and the Sisters of St. Francis, started the Francis House in 1991. The ministry grew to include 34 staff members, over 200 volunteers, and thousands of dedicated, compassionate supporters who have helped care for over 3,300 residents.

**Sister Kathleen Osbelt and Mary Anne Hankins, Executive Director, hold the proclamation with Assemblyman Magnarelli.**



**Ellen Gutmaker, executive director of Arc, holds the proclamation from Assemblyman Magnarelli.**

## 70 Years of Arc of Onondaga

Assemblyman Magnarelli celebrated Arc of Onondaga's 70th anniversary. Arc of Onondaga assists individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. Arc is one of the largest providers of services to people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County serving thousands of individuals and their families and employing 500 people. With nearly 40 different sites throughout Central New York, Arc provides a wide array of services including residential, day, employment and clinical, and recreation programs.

### 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>.