

## QUEENS TODAY

APRIL 30, 2024

**A MAN WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN** Ozone Park on Monday morning, the Daily News reports. NYPD officers found the victim at 117th Street and Rockaway Boulevard in South Ozone Park after 1 a.m. The victim had been shot multiple times, and he was rushed to Jamaica Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The man had no wallet or ID on him so police are still seeking to identify him. Six 9mm cases were found at the scene. No arrests have been made.

**ON MONDAY, JFK AIRPORT REACHED** a historic milestone in its ongoing transformation, after a record \$2.3 billion in contracts were awarded to Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. This is the largest participation of MWBE firms on any public-private partnership project in New York State history. With construction of new airport facilities fully underway, MWBE participation at JFK will continue to break records until the redevelopment is substantially complete and expected in 2028. "The redevelopment of Kennedy Airport is about so much more than new gates and terminals," Queens Borough President Donovan Richards said. "It's about upward mobility and pathways to prosperity for thousands of Queens residents from historically marginalized communities who call the airport their workplace. Since ground was first broken, this project has been of, for and by Queens, and never has that been more clear than today, as we break MWBE participation records and surpass \$1 billion in contracts for Queens-based businesses."

**IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE WEEKEND** to be a New York sports fan. Over the weekend, the local Mets won on a walkoff homerun against the St. Louis Cardinals, winning on Sunday 4-2 in the 11th inning. The Yankees also won both of their games against the Milwaukee Brewers, putting up double digit runs in both games. In hockey, the Islanders snatched a double overtime win to stave off elimination, and the New York Rangers completed their sweep of the Washington Capitals to advance to the next round of the playoffs. Soon-to-be local NYCFC made it three wins in a row on Saturday, beating Charlotte FC 2-1 with a stoppage time goal. Finally, the New York Knicks got the victory in an incredibly high octane game against the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round of the playoffs. They have the chance to advance to the next round with a win on Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.

**OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, A** total of 1,412 new apartment units are expected to be built as part of six upcoming luxury buildings slated for Queens Plaza in Long Island City, the Queens Post reported. All six projects are expected to be completed as early as this year and no later than 2026.



## Council blasts DOC for ignoring Rikers detainee complaints

City Councilmember and Chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice Sandy Nurse criticized the Department of Correction's detainee grievance process during a hearing last week.

File photo by John McCarten/NYC Council Media Unit

**By Jacob Kaye**  
Queens Daily Eagle

Missed medical appointments, alleged sexual harassment and abuse, dirty cells and frequent violence – detainees on Rikers Island have had a lot to complain about.

However, the city's Department of Correction appears to rarely listen.

Lawmakers in the City Council slammed top officials with the DOC last week during a hearing on the agency's detainee grievance process, which they say doesn't often result in a resolution.

Led by Councilmember Sandy Nurse, who chairs the council's Committee on Criminal Justice, lawmakers said that the DOC's cumber-

some grievance processes and poor reporting practices have resulted not only in an unclear picture as to what complaints are resolved and which are not, but also a system in which detainee complaints rarely get redressed.

According to Nurse, less than one in five complaints made by detainees on Rikers Island over the past four years saw a resolution.

During that time, less than 15 percent of all grievances filed by detainees or by an attorney, family member or friend on behalf of a detainee did not reach a formal resolution.

And that number is even worse this year. So far in 2024, only one of over 9,100 grievances was resolved at the "formal level."

"There's some kind of breakdown here in

the system," Nurse said during the hearing, adding that the DOC's process for addressing grievances was so poor that they don't actually have a grievance process, "just an exhaustive forms situation."

"In design and practice the DOC's grievance process leaves many vulnerable individuals who have not been convicted of a crime to suffer in an isolated environment without an adequate opportunity to have their voice heard," the councilmember added.

Not only are complaints allegedly going unaddressed, but the grievance processes' inefficiencies are coming at a time when complaints are on the rise.

*Continued on page 16*



## Queens BP's tech hub seeks to bring borough into tech sector

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards is pushing a new plan for a tech innovation hub to bring access to tech to Queens residents.

Photo via Queens Borough President Donovan Richards/Twitter

**By Ryan Schwach**  
Queens Daily Eagle

In a modern world where technology and, now, artificial intelligence permeates almost every aspect of life, Queens Borough Hall is looking to make sure Queens – in particular its Black and brown residents – keep up with the curve.

During his State of the Borough address earlier this month, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards announced the impending opening of a new diversity technology innovation center in the borough, which will house 50 startups and promote tech entrepreneurship in Long Island City.

"The creation of a diversity tech innovation center is Queens' way of bringing economic and technological justice to those who have been long denied," Richards said, also announcing the \$5 million in funding to help identify the first 50 companies to call the space home.

"We're all about putting Queens residents to the jobs of tomorrow," he said.

The hub is expected to open in January of next year, and will sit on the 33rd floor of a

*See story on page 2*

# Queens tech hub to house 50 tech startups

Continued from page 1

building in Court Square.

The hub is expected to help move along startups led by Black and brown founders, who have for long been left out of the tech fold in the U.S.

Black and brown New Yorkers make up 51 percent of the city's population, but only 22 percent of the city's tech workforce, according to data the BP cited in his State of the Borough address.

"The data is quite damaging and devastating specifically surrounding the systemic problems that it produces, which is, in essence, Black and brown people being at the very bottom of the totem pole here in New York City as it relates to tech," said Deputy Borough President Ebony Young in a phone conversation with the Eagle.

Young, who has spearheaded the borough president's tech initiatives, was referring to the data in a report which pushed Richards and his office to do more for Queens' Black and brown residents in tech, an industry already intertwined with everyday life.

"It's the barbershop, it's the new restaurant down the street, it's absolutely everything," she said. "It's the wave of the future...and unfortunately, brown and Black people are already left a few years behind."

The goal of the tech hub is straightforward: house and fund Black- and brown-owned tech startups, help them grow and help them turn that growth back toward their community.

"This diversity tech hub will be an exchange of growing and scaling," Young said. "We'll take those 50 to start off with, they will apply... then they will then get the resources, tools and knowledge that they need in order to scale appropriately. In addition to that, they will also receive funding through this process."

Startups often struggle, not to get off the ground, but to stay off the ground once they get going, which the hub hopes to prevent.

"The problem is these businesses are starting and they're stopping, they're starting and they're stopping," said Young. "We're looking at this tech hub as a way to inspire people to



Deputy Queens Borough President Ebony Young has been spearheading Borough Hall's tech push.

Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

sustain their businesses right here in New York City, specifically around tech and entrepreneurship."

The seed for the tech hub, and other tech initiatives the BP has pushed, originated thousands of miles away in the tech-promoting Lagos, Nigeria, which Richards and Young visited last year.

"We live in a whole world full of Black and brown people, so in us doing the research we really looked at who are those Black and brown countries that really stand out in ways that make a difference," Young said. "With two to three weeks of research, that was Lagos, Nigeria being the 'Silicon Valley of Africa.'"

On that trip, Young says they were exposed to a world where tech was pushed and promoted by Black individuals, the same type of people who have struggled to make similar inroads in the States.

"The reason why we went to Lagos was that we could not find, on a mass scale, Unicorn level [or startups that reach a \$1 billion value or more without being listed on the stock market] brown and Black tech entrepreneurs running companies here in New York City," said Young.

"As a Black man to step into, on a zoom and see 50 other Black men running tech companies, that's a game changer within itself," she added. "The exposure to that understanding, the

power in that and moving forward in a way that you can feel uplifted through that is important."

The office hopes to continue that relationship with Lagos, and foster cooperation with Queens-based startups.

The next goal, once companies are getting the help they need and are able to grow in the hub, is that they turn some of that impact back into the community.

"Our social impact component to this is really teaching our Black and brown businesses how to give back...and a lot of times that is not taught," said Young. "It's just about you get, get, get instead of what's reciprocal to your communities. What is the exchange here?"

Young believes that pushing tech in Black and brown communities will help them keep up with the wave of tech and A.I that is everywhere in society.

"The [BP] walks the talk around the future, and Queens is the future...and part of that is really looking into the disparities," she said.

## AG urged to probe Monroe DA Sandra Doorley's traffic incident

By Robert Abruzzese  
Queens Daily Eagle

The conduct of Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley during a recent traffic stop has led to calls for an investigation by New York State Attorney General Letitia James. The incident, captured on bodycam footage, showed Doorley in a contentious exchange with a police officer after being pulled over for speeding.

The incident began when Doorley was allegedly caught speeding. She was recorded doing speeds of 55 mph in a 35 mph zone, but rather than stopping immediately, she continued driving to her home. The police followed her, and a confrontation took place in her garage. This is where the recorded exchange occurred, including aggressive remarks made toward the officer.

During the incident, Doorley called Webster Police Chief Dennis Kohlmeier. She asked him to tell the police officers to "leave me alone," and she handed her phone to the officer so that he could speak with the chief directly.

The footage revealed her reacting defiantly, including a moment where she referred to the officer as "an a-hole" when he attempted to administer a ticket.

"I don't really care," Doorley can be heard saying on the tape after being informed of her speed.

She continued to challenge the officer's actions, declaring, "I know the law better than you," and at one point, while holding up her badge, emphatically stated, "I am the DA."

These actions prompted the Rochester City Council to send a letter to James, expressing their concerns and requesting a formal investigation into Doorley's behavior. The council members stressed that "public officials are held to the highest standards of ethics, accountability, and respect for the law," and that Doorley's behavior "appears to violate these standards."

In response to the growing scrutiny, Doorley issued a public apology, acknowledging her



Attorney General Letitia James has been urged to investigate Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley's confrontational behavior during a traffic stop. AP file photo

treatment of the officer and her poor judgment during the incident.

"But we all have bad days and stress, and it was wrong for me to take it out on an officer who was just doing his job," Doorley said in a prepared statement.

She has agreed to refer the matter for review to a district attorney from another county and self-report to the grievance committee.

In New York, the grievance committee can impose various disciplinary measures on attorneys, including district attorneys, who are found guilty of professional misconduct.

These actions range from admonitions, which are private reprimands for minor offenses,

to censures, public reprimands that express disapproval without affecting the attorney's ability to practice law.

For more severe violations, the committee may opt for suspension, temporarily barring the attorney from practicing law, or disbarment, permanently revoking their legal license.

The committee considers the nature of the misconduct, the attorney's disciplinary history, and any mitigating circumstances when determining the appropriate disciplinary action. In cases involving public figures like district attorneys, the impact of their actions on public trust and the integrity of the legal system is also a factor.

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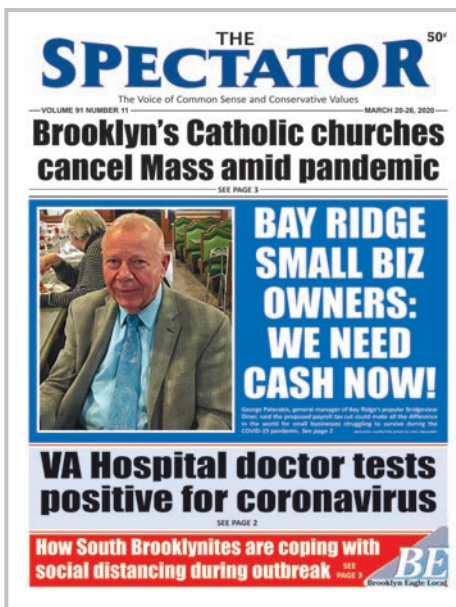
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Jen Hopewell,  
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# Neighborhoods that most need basement apartment legalization left out of state pilot

By Haidee Chu  
THE CITY

Gov. Kathy Hochul has a plan to bring New York City's illegal basement and cellar apartments above board — but it won't apply to homeowners and tenants in many neighborhoods where the need for legalization is most dire because of gridlock during Albany budget negotiations, sources say.

For years, homeowners and tenants alike have pushed to make these flood- and fire-prone underground rentals safer for tens of thousands of New Yorkers by bringing them out of the regulatory shadows. Mayor Eric Adams has also endorsed the idea of legalizing these subterranean abodes as part of a solution to the ongoing housing crisis.

But the city's attempt to legalize and convert these homes, piloted in just one Brooklyn neighborhood, has been cost-prohibitive and near-impossible for homeowners without changes in state laws.

The state's basement conversion pilot program, approved last week by the Legislature as part of the state budget, is meant to clear that red tape by waiving stringent elements of the state's multiple dwelling law, allowing homeowners a pathway to legalize existing basement and cellar units by meeting city health and safety standards.

Under the state multiple dwelling law, property owners who want to convert basement apartments within existing two-family homes would be required to make a number of costly upgrades that advocates say do not improve basement safety — like digging out the building's foundation to add a few inches of ceiling height.

Cellar apartments, on the other hand, would be banned altogether outside of the pilot program. (In New York City, a cellar is defined as being mostly below curb-level, while a basement is typically more than half above curb-level.)

The new Albany pilot will open up legal conversions to 15 community districts across the city.

"It's big to have a quarter of the community districts in the city ready to take this project on," said Sadia Rahman, deputy director of policy at Chhaya CDC, a Queens-based nonprofit that focuses on housing and serves South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities. "I think the part that is frustrating and disappointing is that there are communities in Queens who equally, if not more, need a basement conversion and safety program."

The pilot program, for example, would've been to no use for eight of the 11 people killed in their subterranean apartments during Hurricane Ida, including Yue Lian Chen, an 86-year-old woman who drowned to death in her Elmhurst apartment, and Darlene Hsu, 48, who never made it out of her Forest Hills basement.

The illicit nature of these underground apartments makes it difficult to accurately account for the number of basements and cellars occupied by residents at the moment. But of the 15 community board districts included in the pilot program, just one is located in Queens, where nearly 40% of the city's estimated 376,478 basement and cellar spaces in one- to three-family homes are located — the most of any borough. By comparison, six of the pilot districts are located within Manhattan, where just about 1% of those subterranean spaces are located. Four each are located in Brooklyn and The Bronx.

"There doesn't seem to be a city planning- or data- or climate-based study that was happening in the background that was informing these districts that we know of," Rahman said.

"Part of the problem is that many of the neighborhoods — not all — but many of the neighborhoods where this pilot applies sim-



People take a morning stroll through Jamaica, Queens, April 25, 2024.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

ply doesn't have the housing typology that would benefit from these reforms," said Ryan Chavez, who directs a city-level pilot basement conversion program at Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, located within Brooklyn Community District 5, an area excluded by the new state program. The neighborhood is also where Roberto Bravo, 66, died in his basement during Hurricane Ida.

That Brooklyn pilot program received overwhelming demand from local homeowners in Cypress Hills and East New York when it was launched in partnership with the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development in 2019, Chavez said. But the number of regulatory barriers triggered by the state's multiple dwelling law, coupled with a budget cut during the COVID pandemic, soon meant that homeowners would be disqualified or eliminated one by one.

Though about 900 homeowners had initially inquired about the program, Chavez said, by last year, just five were able to remain active in the program.

"That's why this latest announcement was so disappointing. This is a real missed opportunity," said Chavez. "The state's negligence is ensuring that tenants in basement units remain vulnerable, remain in harm's way and ensures their housing remains precarious, unstable, and at worst, and potentially unsafe."

The governor's initial budget proposal would've created a pathway for basement legalization for all of New York City, because "we need every bit of space we can," the governor said then. But a source familiar with the legislative budget negotiation told THE CITY that "this ended up as a pilot program because certain members made a fuss and refused to let their neighborhood be included."

Hochul's office did not comment on THE CITY's inquiry about how the pilot areas were selected, and how the state plans to address concerns from tenants and homeowners in vulnerable areas.

As advocates like Rahman and Chavez decried the state's decision to exclude many vulnerable areas in the pilot program, noting also a lack of transparency in the selection process, some state legislators say they were equally blindsided.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas (D-Queens), for one, said she is also disappointed in how the program has left out many areas of needs in Queens. She had expressed her support of the new pilot program to her colleagues, she added, and encouraged that her constituents in Astoria, Corona, East Elmhurst and Jackson Heights be included. Another source familiar with the matter also said that Corona was also supposed to be included in the program.

"But for some reason, they only included Community District 2," Gonzalez-Rojas said, referring to a district including Long Island City, Sunnyside and parts of Woodside. "I wish I had more information, but I don't understand why the others were excluded."

## Only Affordable Option

Unregulated subterranean apartments have remained one of the most affordable ways to live in the city, Rahman said, which meant many working-class immigrants and people of color often turn to them for shelter despite risks of safety and sudden evictions, either by their landlords or by city agencies charged with enforcing housing and building regulations.

People are going to keep living in illegal basement apartments with or without reforms, she added, but "a program gives the city

and experts the ability to go into these homes for safety assessments and inspections where homeowners don't have to be scared of fines, and tenants don't have to be scared of eviction."

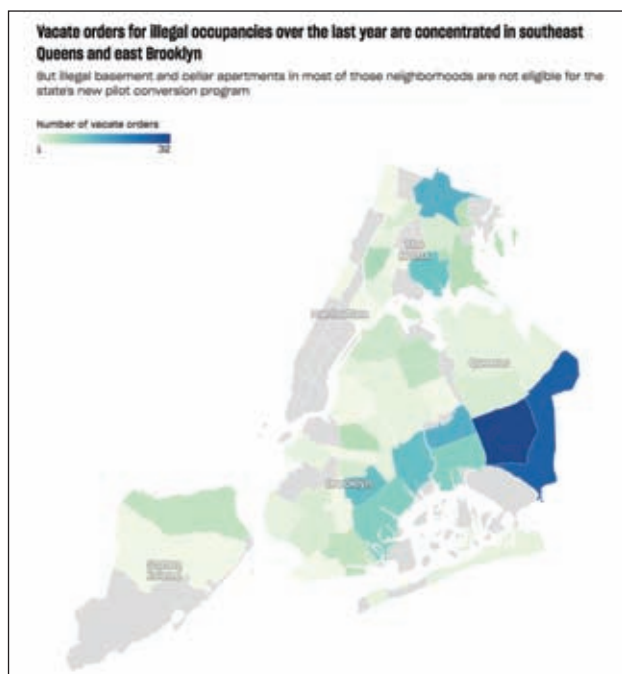
In Queens, however, a majority of basement tenants who seek legal advice for poor living conditions, evictions or agency vacate orders tend to live in areas excluded from the new pilot programs — like Corona, Elmhurst, Flushing, and many parts of southeast Queens, including Jamaica, St. Albans and Ozone Park — said Queens Legal Services housing attorneys Johnny Thach and Rob Sanderman.

Nearly half of all vacate orders issued for illegal occupancies were doled out in Queens, according to Department of Housing Preservation and Development records — more than any other borough. Not all vacate orders in the data are for illegal basement apartments, however advocates say the records roughly sketch a picture of the issue.

Tenants are "very often" unaware that their apartments are illegitimate, Sanderman said, and have less protection against evictions compared to a legal tenant. They also have little recourse to housing code violations, Thach added, due to fear of retaliation from their landlords, and because contacting city agencies means involving themselves in high risks of receiving a vacate order.

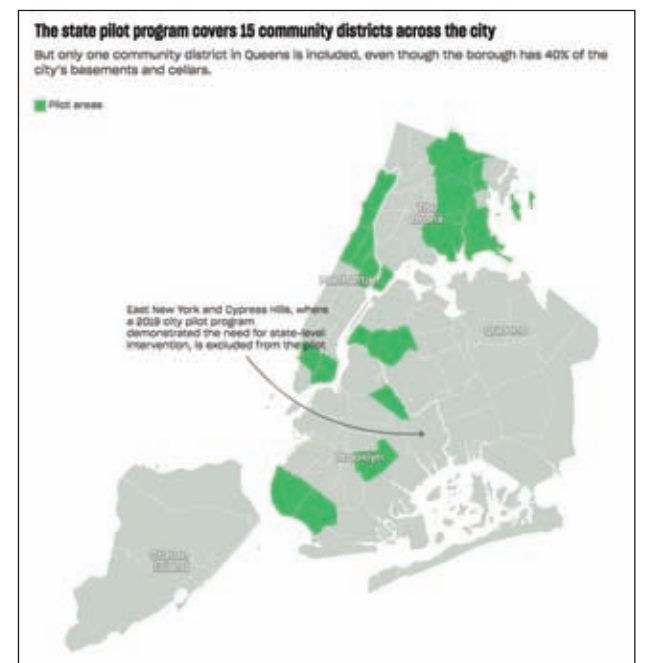
"I will say that all my clients that are living in basements, they really are struggling the most," Thach said. "Oftentimes they're undocumented, they're low-income, and so they really are part of the housing crisis where rent is just too high, and it's really all that they can afford."

THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.



Note: Not all vacate orders in the data are for illegal basement apartments, however advocates say the records roughly sketch a picture of the issue. Map: Haidee Chu / THE CITY

Source: Department of Housing Preservation & Development via Open Data NYC



Map: Haidee Chu / THE CITY

## Climate Engineering Carries Serious National Security Risks

By Ben Kravitz and Tyler Felgenhauer  
The Conversation

The historic Paris climate agreement started a mantra from developing countries: “1.5 to stay alive.” It refers to the international aim to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.8 Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial times. But the world will likely pass that threshold within a decade, and global warming is showing little sign of slowing.

The world is already facing natural disasters of epic proportions as temperatures rise. Heat records are routinely broken. Wildfire seasons are more extreme. Hurricane strength is increasing. Sea-level rise is slowly submerging small island nations and coastal areas.

The only known method able to quickly arrest this temperature rise is climate engineering. (It’s sometimes called geo-engineering, sunlight reduction methods or solar climate intervention.) This is a set of proposed actions to deliberately alter the climate.

These actions include mimicking the cooling effects of large volcanic eruptions by putting large amounts of reflective particles in the atmosphere, or making low clouds over the ocean brighter. Both strategies would reflect a small amount of sunlight back to space to cool the planet.

There are many unanswered questions, however, about the effects of deliberately altering the climate, and there is no consensus about whether it is even a good idea to find out.

One of the largest concerns for many countries when it comes to climate change is national security. That doesn’t just mean wars. Risks to food, energy and water supplies are national security issues, as is climate-induced migration.

Could climate engineering help reduce the national security risks of climate change, or would it make things worse? Answering that question is not simple, but researchers who study climate change and national security like we do have some idea of the risks ahead.

### The massive problem of climate change

To understand what climate engineering might look like in the future, let’s first talk about why a country might want to try it.

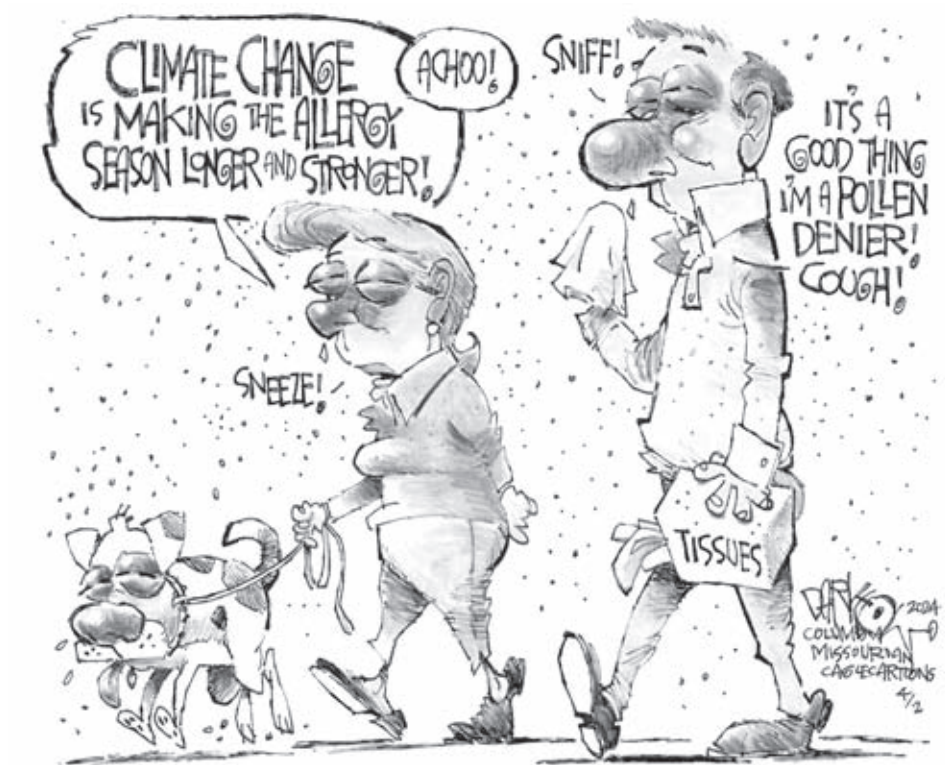
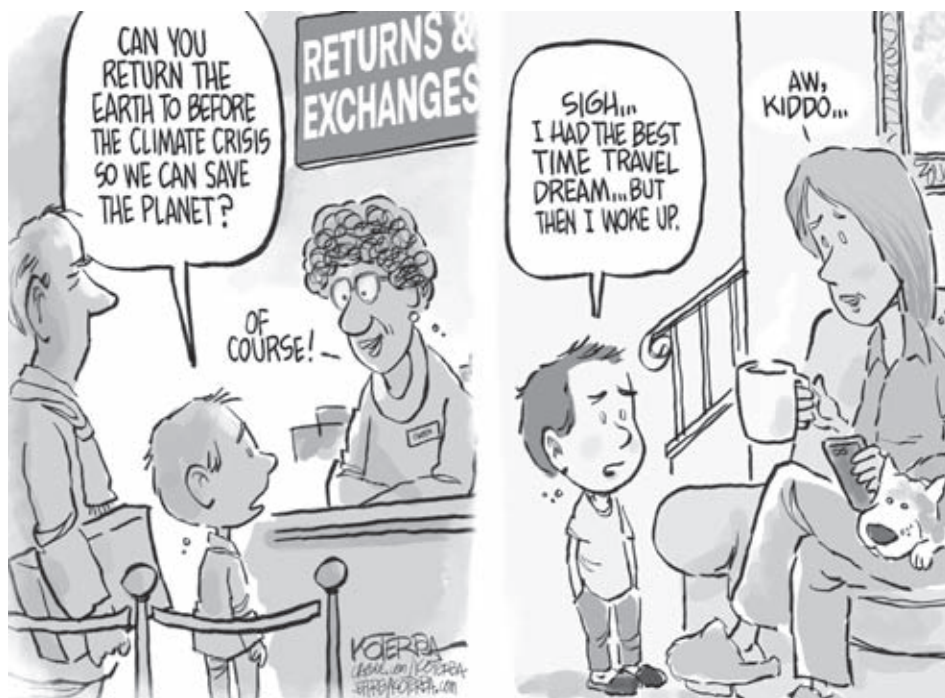
Since the industrial revolution, humans have put about 1.74 trillion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, largely by burning fossil fuels. That carbon dioxide traps heat, warming the planet.

One of the most important things we can do is to stop putting carbon into the atmosphere. But that won’t make the situation better quickly, because carbon stays in the atmosphere for centuries. Reducing emissions will just keep things from getting worse.

Countries could pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and lock it away, a process called carbon dioxide removal. Right now, carbon dioxide removal projects, including growing trees and direct air capture devices, pull about 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere per year.

However, humans are currently putting over 37 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually through fossil fuel use and industry. As long as the amount added is larger than the amount removed, droughts, floods, hurricanes, heat waves and sea-level rise, among numerous other consequences of climate change, will keep getting worse.

It may take a long time to get to “net-zero” emissions, the point at which humans aren’t increasing greenhouse gas concen-



trations in the atmosphere. Climate engineering might help in the interim.

### Who might try climate engineering and how?

Various government research arms are already gaming out scenarios, looking at who might decide to carry out climate en-

gineering and how.

Climate engineering is expected to be cheap relative to the cost of ending greenhouse gas emissions. But it would still cost billions of dollars and take years to develop and build a fleet of airplanes to carry megatons of reflective particles into the stratosphere each year. Any billionaire considering such a venture would run out

of money quickly, despite what science fiction might suggest.

However, a single country or coalition of countries witnessing the harms of climate change could make a cost and geopolitical calculation and decide to begin climate engineering on its own.

This is the so-called “free driver” problem, meaning that one country of at least medium wealth could unilaterally affect the world’s climate.

For example, countries with increasingly dangerous heat waves may want to cause cooling, or countries that depend on monsoon precipitation may want to restore some dependability that climate change has disrupted. Australia is currently exploring the feasibility of rapidly cooling the Great Barrier Reef to prevent its demise.

### Creating risks for neighbors raises conflict alarm

The climate doesn’t respect national borders. So, a climate engineering project in one country is likely to affect temperature and rainfall in neighboring countries. That could be good or bad for crops, water supplies and flood risk. It could also have widespread unintended consequences.

Some studies show that a moderate amount of climate engineering would likely have widespread benefits compared with climate change. But not every country would be affected in the same way.

Once climate engineering is deployed, countries may be more likely to blame climate engineering for extreme events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts, regardless of the evidence.

Climate engineering may spark conflicts among countries, leading to sanctions and demands for compensation. Climate change can leave the poorest regions most vulnerable to harm, and climate engineering should not exacerbate that harm. Some countries would benefit from climate engineering and thus be more resilient to geopolitical strife, and some would be harmed and thus left more vulnerable.

While small experiments have been carried out, nobody has conducted large-scale climate engineering yet. That means that a lot of information about its effects relies on climate models. But while these models are excellent tools for studying the climate system, they’re not good at answering questions about geopolitics and conflict. On top of that, the physical effects of climate engineering depend on who is doing it and what they’re doing.

### What’s next?

For now, there are more questions about climate engineering than answers. It’s hard to say whether climate engineering would create more conflict, or if it could defuse international tensions by reducing climate change.

But international decisions on climate engineering are likely coming soon. At the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2024, African countries called for a moratorium on climate engineering, urging all precaution. Other nations, including the United States, pressed for a formal scientific group to study the risks and benefits before making any decisions.

Climate engineering could be part of an equitable solution to climate change. But it also carries risks. Put simply, climate engineering is a technology that can’t be ignored, but more research is needed so policymakers can make informed decisions.

Ben Kravitz is an assistant professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Indiana University. Tyler Felgenhauer is a research scientist in civil and environmental engineering at Duke University.

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## Candace Parker, 3-Time WNBA Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist, Announces Retirement

By Doug Feinberg  
Associated Press

Candace Parker always said she'd know when it would be time to retire. That day came Sunday.

The three-time WNBA champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist announced on social media that her career was over after 16 seasons.

"The competitor in me always wants 1 more, but it's time," Parker wrote in an Instagram post. "My HEART & body knew, but I needed to give my mind time to accept it."

Parker, 38, had told The Associated Press in November she wanted to play another season if she could get healthy from a foot injury that kept her off the court last season. But she cautioned that she didn't want to "cheat the game," or herself, and expressed the same in announcing her retirement ahead of the Aces' attempt to win a third title in a row. Parker has had 10 surgeries over her career.

"I promised I'd never cheat the game & that I'd leave it in a better place than I came into it. ... I always wanted to walk off the court with no parade or tour, just privately with the ones I love," she wrote. "What now was to be my last game, I walked off the court with my daughter. I ended the journey just as I started it, with her."

Parker played her first 13 seasons in the league with the Los Angeles Sparks, establishing her dominance early as a No. 1 pick who won Rookie of the Year and league MVP in the same season. Parker was the only WNBA player to accomplish that feat, averaging 18.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and 3.4 assists while helping the Sparks to a 10-win improvement in 2008.

Parker earned her second MVP award in 2013 and won her first title in 2016 with the Sparks. She'd go on to win a second title with the Chi-

cago Sky in 2021 and a third with the Las Vegas Aces last season.

"It's tough, it's bittersweet for myself because I would have loved to have her with us this year. On the other hand I know exactly what it feels like when it's time, it's time. The body tells you. It's not what your mind or your heart is saying. It's your body," Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "She changed the game. She changed what it meant to be a positional basketball player. She played all positions. She's the one when you talk about people that are now playing and coming up, they practiced Candace Parker's moves."

She's the only player in league history to win a championship with three different teams.

"The memories Candace Parker created for a generation of women's basketball fans will remain ingrained in our collective conscience forever, but she has given so much more to the game beyond her accolades and statistics," the Aces said in a statement. "As a teammate and mentor, a mother and wife, a baller, broadcaster, and businesswoman she has inspired countless young people, both boys and girls, to chase and achieve their dreams."

Parker played for the late Pat Summitt's last two national championship teams at Tennessee in 2007 and 2008. She then left with one year of eligibility remaining.

She won Olympic gold medals in 2008 and 2012 before shockingly being left off the 2016 team.

"I think obviously Candace has had an amazing career. I'm a little bit sad about it because you love going up against her, the legend that she is," Liberty star Breanna Stewart said. "What she has done on and off the court has been amazing for our league. Appreciate all she's done to help me get to where I am. We'll definitely miss her this season."



Los Angeles Sparks forward Candace Parker celebrates during the second half in Game 3 of the WNBA basketball finals, Sept. 29, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, file



Las Vegas Aces forward Candace Parker reacts during the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Seattle Storm, May 20, 2023, in Seattle. AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson, File

Liberty coach Sandy Brondello coached Parker overseas in Russia for a few years during the winter.

"She's a trailblazer. Just a wonderful human being and what she's done for this sport," Brondello said. "Hopefully it's celebrated. I've got a lot of respect for her. Our kids grew up together when I was coaching in Russia. It's kind of sad. Everyone knows when it's the right time."

Parker began working in broadcasting during her playing career. She has worked as an analyst

for the NCAA Tournament with CBS Sports and for NBA TV.

She had surgery on her foot in July 2023 and told the AP it still pained her at the end of last year.

"This offseason hasn't been fun on a foot that isn't cooperating," she wrote in her post Sunday. "My mission in life, like Pat Summitt always said, is to 'chase people and passions and you will never fail.' Being a wife & mom still remains priority #1 & I've learned that time flies, so I plan to enjoy my family to the fullest!"





# Our World In Pictures

**FRANKFURT — ‘Hey, let’s run toward that photographer...’:** Icelandic horses are driven to their paddock for the first time in the season in Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Photo: Michael Probst/AP



**SAUDI ARABIA — King of Air Miles, and diplomacy:** Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, right, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second right, walk to a Joint Ministerial Meeting of the GCC-U.S. Strategic Partnership to discuss the humanitarian crises faced in Gaza, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Monday April 29, 2024.

Photo: Evelyn Hockstein/Pool via AP



**KENYA — Nature’s revenge, even against churches:** A man swims from a submerged church compound, after the River Tana broke its banks following heavy rains at Mororo, border of Tana River and Garissa counties, North Eastern Kenya, Sunday, April. 28, 2024. Heavy rains pounding different parts of Kenya have led to dozens of deaths and the displacement of tens of thousands of people, according to the U.N.

Photo: Andrew Kasuku/AP



**BOLIVIA — All over the world — the universal engagement of soccer:** A fan of Bolivia’s Always Ready smiles as he waits for the start of a Copa Sudamerica Group A soccer match against Peru’s Universidad Cesar Vallejo at Municipal de Villa Ingenio stadium in El Alto, Bolivia, Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Photo: Juan Karita/AP



# Our World In Pictures



**LONDON — Decker in mellow yellow, it's GOAL!** Barcelona's Fridolina Rolfo celebrates after scoring her side's second goal during the Women's Champions League, semi-final second leg, soccer match between FC Chelsea and FC Barcelona in London, England, Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Photo: Zac Goodwin/PA via AP



**INDIANAPOLIS — 'You seem excited, let me take your pulse':** Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner (33) dunks against Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez (11) during the second half of Game 4 of the first round NBA play-off basketball series, Sunday, April 28, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Photo: Michael Conroy/AP



**TEXAS — America's next superstar:** Gabby Douglas performs her floor routine while competing at the American Classic gymnastics meet, Saturday, April 27, 2024, in Katy, Texas.

Photo: David J. Phillip/AP



**BERLIN — Protesting a rapper's death sentence:** Protesters attend a rally against a death sentence given to a popular rapper in Iran and to support the women of Iran, in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, April 28, 2024. Toomaj Salehi a 33-year-old, was sentenced to death by an Iranian court earlier this week for his support of the Woman, Life, Freedom movement, which developed after protests in Iran in 2022.

Photo: Ebrahim Noroozi/AP

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# Have you heard the one about Trump? Biden tries humor on the campaign trail

By Chris Megerian and Josh Boak  
Associated Press

President Joe Biden is out to win votes by scoring some laughs at the expense of Donald Trump, unleashing mockery with the goal of getting under the former president's thin skin and reminding the country of his blunders.

Like a comic honing his routine, the Democratic president has been testing and expanding his jokes over the past few weeks. It started with jabs about his Republican opponent's financial problems, and now Biden regularly pokes fun at Trump's coiffed hair, his pampered upbringing and his attempt to make a few extra bucks by selling a special edition of the Bible.

The jokes are the latest attempt to crack the code on how to clap back at Trump, whose own insult comedy schtick has redrawn the boundaries of what is acceptable in modern politics. Few have had much luck, whether they try to take the high road or get down and dirty with Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president.

"This is a constant challenge," said Eric Schultz, a senior adviser to former President Barack Obama. Trump is "not someone who plays by the rules. So it's up to Biden to figure out how to adapt and play by new rules of engagement."

So far, Biden has been trying to thread a delicate needle to boost his chances of a second term. He uses humor to paint Trump as a buffoon unworthy of the Oval Office, but the president stops short of turning the election into a laughing matter.

Sometimes he finds that a few jokes can energize an audience even more than a major policy victory and draw precious attention away from an opponent who otherwise commands the spotlight even while stuck in a New York courtroom for his first criminal trial.

The latest example came at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on Saturday night. After years of Trump constantly needling Biden as "sleepy" and mocking his age (Biden is 81, Trump is 77), Biden lobbed the insult back after Trump appeared to doze off in court. Trump's campaign disputed that he was asleep, and with no video camera in place and trained on him there's no way of knowing for sure.

Still, Biden nicknamed his rival "Sleepy Don," adding, "I kind of like that. I may use it again."

"Of course the 2024 election's in full swing and, yes, age is an issue," he said. "I'm a grown man running against a 6-year-old."

Trump didn't seem to appreciate the ribbing, posting on his social media platform that the dinner was "really bad" and Biden was "an absolute disaster."

But jokes at the annual black-tie affair, which also features a professional comedian (this year it was Colin Jost of NBC's "Saturday Night Live"), are nothing new. The real meat of Biden's routine



President Joe Biden attends the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton, Saturday, April 27, 2024, in Washington.  
AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

comes during campaign speeches in which he devotes a few moments to taking digs at Trump in between recitations of policy proposals and legislative accomplishments.

"Remember when he was trying to deal with COVID? He suggested: Inject a little bleach in your vein," Biden said Wednesday to a labor union, describing Trump's guidance from the White House during the pandemic. "He missed. It all went to his hair."

In Tampa, Florida, the day before, he assailed Trump for the Supreme Court's ruling that overturned abortion protections — with three justices nominated by Trump voting in the majority of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* — and then pivoted to the former president's hawking of a \$60 "God Bless the USA" Bible.

"He described the *Dobbs* decision as a 'miracle,'" Biden said of Trump. "Maybe it's com-

ing from that Bible he's trying to sell. Whoa. I almost wanted to buy one just to see what the hell is in it."

Biden rarely references Trump's court cases, but jokes about financial problems that began soon after the former president was ordered to pay \$454 million in a civil case in New York.

"Just the other day," Biden said at a fundraiser in Dallas last month, "a defeated-looking guy came up to me and said, 'Mr. President, I need your help. I'm being crushed with debt. I'm completely wiped out.' I had to say, 'Donald, I can't help you.'"

Even when Biden tries his hand at humor, he rarely strays far from talking about policies. He likes to note that he signed a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law — after his opponent failed to do so despite repeatedly holding White House events to drum up support for an idea that never materialized.

"He promised 'Infrastructure Week' every week for four years and never built a damn thing," Biden said this month to a group of laughing union members.

The dilemma is that Trump, who tells voters the whole American political system is hopelessly corrupt, can get away with name-calling that would backfire on other candidates. During his rallies, Trump imitates Biden as a feeble old man who cannot find the stairs after giving a brief speech, and he calls the president "crooked" and "a demented tyrant."

The Republican's campaign said the insults will only intensify as Biden tries to give them a taste of their own medicine.

Steven Cheung, a Trump campaign spokesman, said Biden is "shuffling his feet like a short-circuited Roomba," referring to the robot vacuum, while failing to address the "out-of-control border" and "runaway inflation."

Rick Tyler, who worked on the presidential campaign of Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, in 2016, said voters have a double standard because expectations are different for Trump, who first became famous as a real estate developer and the star of the reality TV show "The Apprentice."

"Celebrities don't really have standards, and Trump is in that lane," Tyler said. For a politician going up against Trump, "it's like trying to play a sport with the wrong equipment."

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., found that out the hard way in the Republican primary in 2016. After Rubio joked about Trump having "small hands" — suggesting that another part of him was small, too — Trump swung back by saying, "I guarantee you there's no problem."

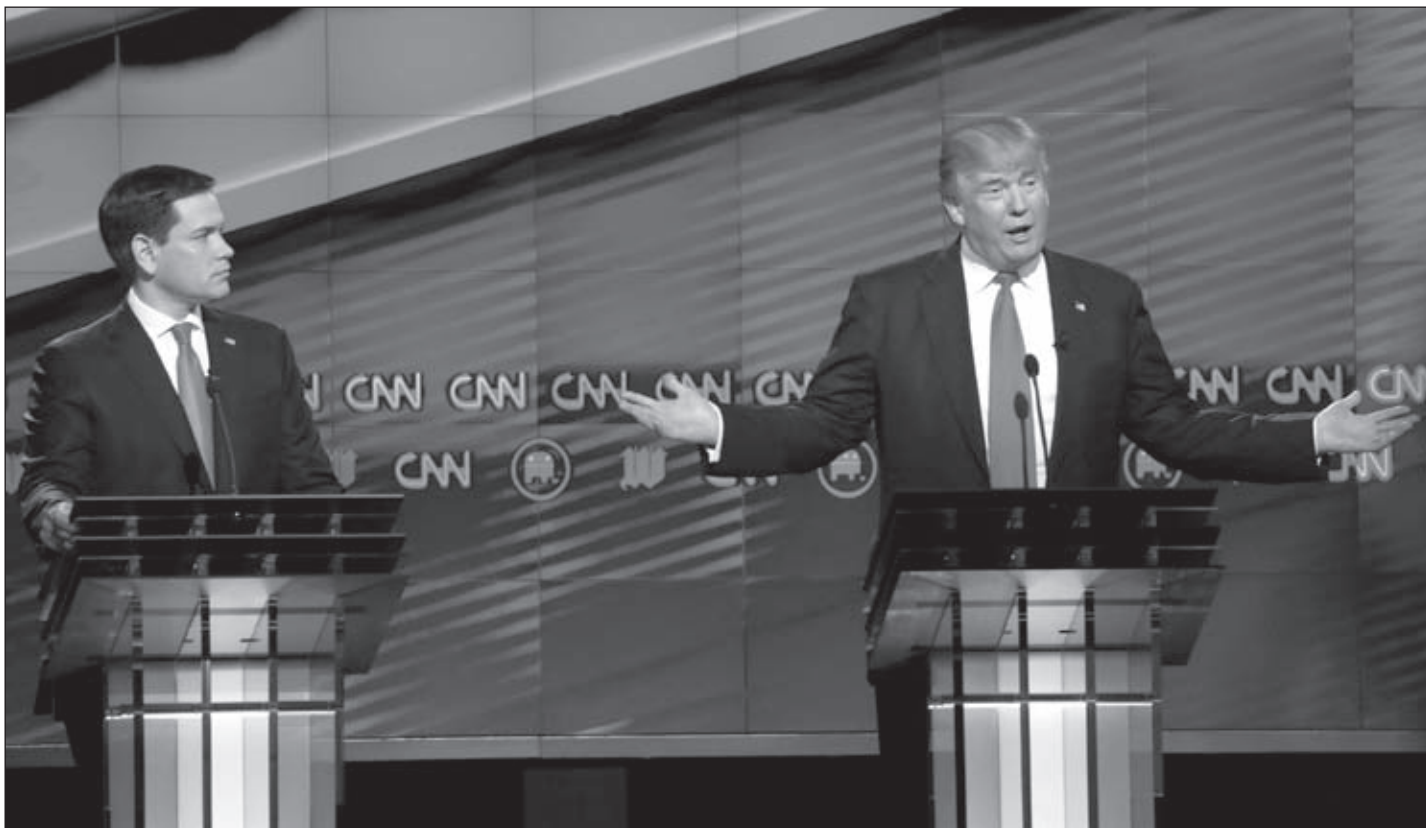
"Nobody has ever beaten Trump by getting in the ring with him," said Alex Conant, communications director for Rubio's campaign.

Karen Finney, who advised Democrat Hillary Clinton in her 2016 White House run, said Trump can bait opponents into "communicating on his terms, not your terms."

"It's the kind of thing where you have to have a balance," she said. "You could spend all day just responding."

But if Trump's humor is blunt, Biden sometimes tries to get the most mileage by staying subtle. During a Pittsburgh stop earlier this month, Biden spoke elliptically about Trump's trial, betting his audience was already in on the joke.

Trump, he said, is "a little busy right now."



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& GORDON, LLP ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF 53 GIBSON STREET BAY SHORE, NEW YORK 11706 (631) 969-3100 OUR FILE NO.:01-065730-F00 #217223

## SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS NYC-TL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, PLAINTIFFS, -AGAINST- DAVID SINGH, IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DISTRIBUTUTES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS HAVING OR CLAIMING UNDER, BY OR THROUGH SAID DEFENDANTS WHO MAY BE DECEASED, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE AMENDED COMPLAINT HEREIN, DAVID PERSAUD, QUEENS SUPREME COURT, CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CITY OF NEW YORK PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, "JOHN DOE NO. 1" THROUGH "JOHN DOE NO. 100" INCLUSIVE, THE NAMES OF THE LAST 100 DEFENDANTS BEING UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, IT BEING INTENDED TO DESIGNATE FEE OWNERS, TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF THE TAX LIEN PREMISES AND/OR PERSONS OR PARTIES HAVING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN OR A LIEN UPON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, IF THE AFORESAID INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS ARE LIVING, AND IF ANY OR ALL OF SAID INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS BE DEAD, THEIR HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DISTRIBUTUTES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND THE ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THEM, AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS HAVING OR CLAIMING UNDER, BY, THROUGH, OR AGAINST THE SAID DEFENDANTS NAMED AS A CLASS, OF ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, DEFENDANTS.

INDEX NO. 716000/2019 DATE OF FILING: 3/27/2024 PLAINTIFF DESIGNATES QUEENS COUNTY AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL. VENUE IS BASED UPON COUNTY IN WHICH PREMISES ARE SITUATED. SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE BLOCK: 11859; LOT: 47 A/K/A 135-24 126 STREET TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT IN THIS ACTION AND TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER, OR, IF THE COMPLAINT IS NOT SERVED WITH THIS SUMMONS, TO SERVE A NOTICE OF APPEARANCE, ON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY(S) WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DAY OF SERVICE (OR WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE IS COMPLETE IF THIS SUMMONS IS NOT PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO YOU WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW YORK); AND IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR ANSWER, JUDGMENT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU BY DEFAULT FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT OF THE ABOVE ENTITLED ACTION IS TO FORECLOSE THE FOLLOWING TAX LIENS: A TAX LIEN IN THE ORIGINAL TAX LIEN PRINCIPAL BALANCE OF \$29,548.09 WITH INTEREST AS DESCRIBED IN A CERTAIN TAX LIEN CERTIFICATE DATED

## Wall Street rises to start a week full of earnings reports and a Fed meeting

By Stan Choe  
Associated Press

U.S. stocks ticked higher Monday to begin a week packed with potentially market-moving reports.

The S&P 500 rose 16.21 points, or 0.3%, to 5,116.17, coming off its best week since November. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 146.43, or 0.4%, to 38,386.09, and the Nasdaq composite gained 55.18, or 0.3%, to 15,983.08.

This week will see about a third of all the companies in the S&P 500 reporting how much profit they made during the first three months of the year. That includes such heavyweights as Amazon and Apple. So far reports have largely been better than expected, with roughly half the S&P 500's reports in, highlighted last week by Alphabet, Microsoft and others.

Domino's Pizza added to the pile Monday, reporting stronger-than-expected results thanks to a second straight quarter of rising orders for deliveries and carryout. Its stock steamed 5.6% higher.

Tesla was also a big force pushing upward on the market and jumped 15.3%. Its CEO, Elon Musk, met with a high-ranking Chinese official as it tries to rev up sales in the world's largest automobile market.

On the losing end was SoFi Technologies, which fell 10.5%. The financial services company reported better results for the latest quarter than analysts expected, but its forecast for net income in the current quarter fell short.

Solid earnings reports last week helped the S&P 500 rally to its first winning week in four. The companies in the index look to be on track to report a third straight quarter of growth in earnings per share, according to FactSet.

The stock market will need such strength to steady it following a shaky April. The S&P 500 fell as much as 5.5% during the month as signals of stubbornly high inflation forced traders to ratchet back expectations for when the Federal Reserve could begin easing interest rates.

After coming into the year forecasting six or more cuts to rates during 2024, traders are now placing many bets on just one, according to data from CME Group.

When the Federal Reserve announces its latest policy decision on Wednesday, no one expects it to move its main interest rate, which is sitting at its highest level since 2001. Instead, the hope is that the central bank could offer some clues about when the first cut to rates could come.

This week's Fed meeting

won't include the publication of forecasts by Fed officials about where they see rates heading in upcoming years. The last such set of forecasts, released in March, showed the typical Fed official at the time was penciling in three cuts for 2024.

But Fed Chair Jerome Powell could offer more color in his press conference following the central bank's decision. He suggested earlier this month that rates may stay high for longer because the Fed is waiting for more evidence that inflation is heading sustainably down toward its 2% target.

A report hitting Wall Street on Friday could shift policy makers' outlook even more. Economists expect Friday's jobs report to show that hiring by U.S. employers cooled in April and that growth in workers' wages held relatively steady.

The hope on Wall Street is that the job market will remain strong enough to help the economy avoid a recession but not so strong that it feeds upward pressure into inflation.

Because inflation has been hotter than forecast and because the economy has remained so resilient, economists at BNP Paribas recently pushed out their forecast for the Fed's first rate cut.

They had been forecasting a July move, but they said punting to September may prove to be uncomfortably close to the U.S. presidential election in November. So they're now calling for the Fed to make its first cut in December.


Skipping September would not only help the Fed avoid looking like it's trying to affect the election's outcome, it would also give the Fed the chance to see if the election results in significant changes to policy that affect where the economy and inflation are heading, according to the BNP Paribas team, led by Andy Schneider.

"Even if the economy evolves so as to justify a cut by September, we think these risks likely outweigh whatever marginal economic benefits might come from" cutting just ahead of the election, they said.

In markets abroad, Japan's stock market was closed for a holiday. But the Japanese yen continued to swing sharply after falling back to where it was against the U.S. dollar in 1990.

In other markets, stock indexes rose across much of Asia while remaining mixed in Europe.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury eased to 4.61% from 4.67% late Friday.



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# Our World In Pictures

New York Rangers left wing Artemi Panarin (10) celebrates after scoring a goal against the Washington Capitals during the third period in Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series, Sunday, April 28, 2024, in Washington. AP Photo/Tom Brenner



## 2ND DEPARTMENT / PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

### SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS INDEX NO. 709075/2014 DATE FILED: 4/19/2024 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, PLAINTIFF, -AGAINST- KEVIN CANTY; AMBER TAMM CANTY; K.C.; K.C.: 'ANY

UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTIBLES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE JESSICA MERA A/K/A JESSICA CANTY, IF THEY BE LIVING OR IF THEY BE DEAD, THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTIBLES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF; NOMURA CREDIT CAPITAL; CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; CITY OF NEW YORK PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; CITY OF NEW YORK TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; RICHARD BOWEN; JAHDON HART; MARIE BELLANTON, DEFENDANTS.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 97-44 104TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY 11416 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT IN THIS ACTION AND TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER, OR A NOTICE OF APPEARANCE ON THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DAY OF SERVICE. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IF DESIGNATED AS A DEFENDANT IN THIS ACTION, MAY APPEAR WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF SERVICE HEREOF. IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR ANSWER, JUDGMENT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU BY DEFAULT FOR THE RELIEF DE-

MANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: THE FOREGOING SUMMONS IS SERVED UPON YOU BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF THE HON. LUMARIE MALDONADO-CRUZ, A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, QUEENS COUNTY, ENTERED APR. 18, 2024 AND FILED WITH THE COMPLAINT AND OTHER PAPERS IN THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED ACTION IS TO FORECLOSE A CONSOLIDATION AND/OR MODIFIED MORTGAGE (HEREINAFTER "THE MORTGAGE") TO SECURE \$340,000.00 AND INTEREST, RECORDED IN THE QUEENS COUNTY OFFICE

OF THE CITY REGISTER ON OCTOBER 13, 2006, IN CRFN 2006000573994 COVERING PREMISES KNOWN AS 97-44 104TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY 11416 A/K/A BLOCK 4885, LOT 68. THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE WITHIN ACTION IS A FINAL JUDGMENT DIRECTING THE SALE OF THE PREMISES DESCRIBED ABOVE TO SATISFY THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE. PLAINTIFF DESIGNATES QUEENS COUNTY AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL. VENUE IS BASED UPON THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MORTGAGED PREMISES IS SITUATED. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR

HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: APRIL 3, 2017 STEVEN M. PALMER, ESQ. ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF 175 MILE CROSSING BOULEVARD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624 (585) 247-9000 FAX: (585) 247-7380 OUR FILE NO. 14-037928

#217183

## 2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

### LICTB LLC

LICTB LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 03/11/2024. OFFICE LOC.: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 40-09 21ST STREET, UNIT E, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. REG AGENT: SUHAIL SITAF, 3 WINDSOR DRIVE, OLD WESTBURY, NY 11568. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#216178

### JJ42E LLC

JJ42E LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY ON 3/28/2024. OFF. LOC.: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIG. AS AGT. UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 133-10 39TH AVE, FLUSHING, NY 11354. GENERAL PURPOSES.

#216358

### RENARI AM LLC

RENARI AM LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY 12/26/2017. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT FOR PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO: C/O ROBINSON BROG LEINWAND GREENE GENOVESE & GLUCK, P.C., ATTN: CHARLES MCKEEN, ESQ., 875 3RD AVE., 9TH FL., NY, NY 10022. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY.

#216582

### RENARI NM LLC

RENARI NM LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY 12/26/2017. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT FOR PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO: C/O ROBINSON BROG LEINWAND GREENE GENOVESE & GLUCK, P.C., ATTN: CHARLES MCKEEN,

ESQ., 875 3RD AVE., 9TH FL., NY, NY 10022. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY.

#216583

### ROOTED PSYCHOTHERAPY, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PLLC

ROOTED PSYCHOTHERAPY, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PLLC FILED ARTS. OF ORG. WITH THE SECT'Y OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 3/18/2024. OFFICE: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED AND SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: C/O THE PLLC, 675 136TH ST, APT A, FLUSHING, NY 11367. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT.

#216821

### ASF INTERNATIONAL LLC

ASF INTERNATIONAL LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON

03/07/24. OFFICE: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC, C/O KHANDKER AHNAF ABRAR, 169-24 HILLSIDE AVENUE, FL2 SUITE 3, JAMAICA, NY 11432. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217094

### JACKSON AVENUE BAGELS LLC

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF JACKSON AVENUE BAGELS LLC APPL. FOR AUTH. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/08/24. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. LLC FORMED IN DELAWARE (DE) ON 04/04/24. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO C/O CORPORATION SERVICE CO.,

80 STATE ST., ALBANY, NY 12207-2543. DE ADDR. OF LLC: 251 LITTLE FALLS DR., WILMINGTON, DE 19808. CERT. OF FORM. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE, DIV. OF CORPS., JOHN G. TOWNSEND BLDG., 401 FEDERAL ST. - STE. 4, DOVER, DE 19901. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217111

### AGGELIS PROPERTY MGT LLC

AGGELIS PROPERTY MGT LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 4/25/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC 15205 11TH AVE WHITESTONE NY 11357. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217263

### 11106 METAMARTIAL LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: METAMARTIAL LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/5/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS XSAVIER DANIELS 31-62 33RD STREET, ASTORIA, NY, 11106. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217050

# Teacher Lawsuits Over Inflating Students' Grades Won't Fix Problem — Here's What Could

By Laura Link  
The Conversation

After refusing to give some students grades they hadn't earned, high school chemistry teacher Toni Ognibene sued the Clovis Unified School District in California for allegedly retaliating against her. The lawsuit was filed in December 2023.

In 2020, Michael Ramsaroop, a teacher at the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism High School in Brooklyn, New York, sued his principal, his union and the city's Department of Education after he was fired following a series of disputes that began when he refused to change his students' grades.

In 2018, fifth grade teacher Sheri Mimbs sued Henry County Schools in Georgia. She claimed she was fired in 2017 for objecting to the assistant principal's directive to change a number of zeroes she reported for students' missing assignments. The district had a policy, she asserts, indicating that a failing grade of 60% is the lowest possible score a student can receive on any particular assignment or exam.

Ognibene, Ramsaroop and Mimbs are among a growing group of teachers rebelling against orders to change grades — and filing federal lawsuits to allege they've been disciplined for their refusals or protests.

They object to directives to ease grading standards, pass failing students and implement minimum grade policies — for example, policies requiring all students to receive a grade no less than a "D" or 60%. The educators assert that these are dishonest and unfair practices that misrepresent students' true academic performance.

As a scholar of education who studies grading practices, I view these lawsuits as proof that some districts are undermining teacher autonomy and disregarding the importance of accurate grades. I'm also aware that in many cases, administrators are trying to correct unfair grading itself.

I believe the system needs serious reforms, and I have some ideas.

## Lawsuits over 'grade inflation'

Each of these lawsuits is alike despite differences in geography, subject matter and grade level.

Ognibene said she received a formal "Memorandum of Concern" after resisting pressure to raise students' grades on multiple occasions. "I didn't want to do it, but along with being against it for ethical and moral reasons, my credential was at risk," Ognibene told the Sacramento Bee. Her lawsuit is pending.

Ramsaroop alleges that his refusal to inflate grades began a series of disputes



The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism High School is in this building on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, otherwise known as the Erasmus Hall campus. Michael Ramsaroop, a teacher in this school, got into hot water when he refused to change students' grades.

Google Maps photo

that led to his 2017 termination. The principal "created a hostile work environment based upon his age and seniority at the Academy ... in retaliation for his opposition to falsifying student grades," the lawsuit claims. Ramsaroop's lawsuit was dismissed in 2022.

Likewise, in 2018, Mimbs alleged that she was fired for protesting an administrator directive to not give grades below 60%. The case, dismissed on technical grounds, was revived by the Georgia Supreme Court in 2022. It is still pending. Mimbs, meanwhile, says she hasn't been able to find a teaching job since her firing.

If teachers give students grades they haven't earned, "how do we know when kids are failing or when they're doing well?" Mimbs asked WSB-TV in Atlanta.

It's an important question. Grades remain the primary basis for making important decisions about students. They determine a student's promotion, honor roll status and enrollment in advanced or remedial classes. They factor into special education services and college admissions. Parents turn to grades to reward their child or determine if support, such as tutoring, is needed.

Everyone involved — the school, the teacher, the specific student, their classmates and colleges — suffers harm when grades are inaccurate, inflated and unjustified.

## Research shows bias, inequity in grading is real

Still, there are serious concerns with how grading works. As I wrote for The Conversation in March 2023, there is also a wave of litigation across the U.S. in which students and parents are suing schools over grading schemes they claim are unjust and inappropriate.

While teacher autonomy is a bedrock tradition in education, my research shows it also results in inconsistency, inequity and even unreliability. What one teacher considers a quality assignment or paper, for example, can differ greatly from another. Teachers often include aspects of students' behavior, such as effort and participation, in the grades they assign.

I contend that mixing students' behavior with their academic performance distorts the meaning of grades and diminishes their academic accuracy. Students of col-

or may get lower grades when teachers' implicit biases influence how they consider behavioral factors when assigning grades, studies show.

Minimum grade requirements, then, are a way some schools address these issues. But multiple recent investigations show that report-card grades often don't accurately reflect how students perform on tests at the end of the year.

## Three ways to fix the problem

School leaders shouldn't wait until a conflict arises to ensure grade integrity. Here are three practical steps administrators can take to head off problems in advance.

First, schools could conduct gradebook audits throughout each marking period to detect common issues like grade deflation, in which an overabundance of lower-than-expected grades or lack of grades are reported. A proactive intervention could avert headaches later.

Second, schools can create grade reports using a three- to five-point scale. This would provide a more accurate reflection of academic proficiency than a conventional 100-point scale. In a three- to five-point scale, a zero or low number wouldn't excessively penalize a student for one missed assignment or poor performance early in a marking period. Students would still be able to recover from low scores, and this provides an incentive to try.

Finally, teachers could use grading rubrics that are explained to students at the start of the semester or when an assignment is given. As I have written, by establishing clear and detailed criteria for grading, teachers can be more transparent and lessen the potential for their own biases to affect how they grade.

Conflict over grades is a fixable problem. The teachers who are suing feel it's a professional affront to be forced to alter grades, and families suing believe the grading systems are unfair. Both have important points and perspectives. If these three proactive solutions are implemented, many of the conflicts and legal challenges over grades can be averted.

Laura Link is an associate professor of teaching and leadership at the University of North Dakota.



A group of students are seen taking a test in New York. Teachers at some, although by no means all, schools throughout the country are under pressure to keep their students' grades up.

AP file photo

# No new dorm plan as CUNY prepares to raze hundreds of affordable student rooms

By Gabriel Poblete  
THE CITY

Hunter College sophomore Molly Gardiner pays one of the lowest rates for a dorm room in New York City — just \$7,500 a year for a single room at the Brookdale dormitories. An out-of-state student from New Jersey, Gardiner says she turned to Hunter after Boston University proved too expensive, and the affordable housing it offered her in Manhattan was a big part of the appeal.

“I feel like if it wasn’t this, I don’t know what I would’ve done,” she told THE CITY.

But at the end of the next academic year, Gardiner and about 600 other Hunter College students who dorm at Brookdale will have to find somewhere else to live. The City University of New York is preparing to shut down the dormitory at 425 E. 25th St. at the end of the 2024-25 academic year, replacing it with a 2-million-square-foot science and research campus.

Gardiner said that she’ll still need dorm housing next school year, and said about the looming Brookdale closure: “Hopefully, it’ll be by the time I’m not here.”

In the year and half since the school and elected officials announced the plan, CUNY has yet to outline what they will do to replace the rooms.

Hunter’s other dorm options start around \$12,000 a year.

CUNY spokesperson Noah Gardy said the science campus is a “first-of-its kind investment in CUNY’s students,” bringing three CUNY schools into a single campus while also offering open spaces for the public, an ambulatory care center and new high school.

“As this transformative project comes to life we’re committed to supporting students who may be impacted, including transition to CUNY dorms in Manhattan,” Gardy said, but did not share further details.

Those who lived at the Brookdale dorms prior to the project announcement will be guaranteed housing at their existing rate, according to a CUNY official. Those students who moved to Brookdale after the announcement who want to remain within CUNY housing will have housing options at other CUNY dorms elsewhere in Manhattan, the official said.

The Brookdale change comes as available housing is more and more rare, especially in Manhattan. Students in New York have often turned to dorms as a cheaper option, but, as Nerdwallet reports, dorm costs have also risen over the past decades.

Nearby CUNY school, Baruch College charges \$14,500 for the academic year for its most affordable housing option, while the cheapest option at New York University, a private institution, starts just shy of \$5,000 a semester.

Housing isn’t part of the science campus project despite persistent calls from Hunter students, elected officials and the community. Students interviewed said they’ve not yet heard of alternative housing options at a similar price point.

The Science Park and Research Campus in Kips Bay, Manhattan is expected to generate bil-



Hunter College sophomore Molly Gardiner works outside her dorm in Kips Bay, April 22, 2024. Credit: Gabriel Poblete/THE CITY

ions of dollars and create thousands of permanent jobs, Mayor Eric Adams has said. The city and the state have committed \$1.6 billion to the project, expected to begin construction in late 2025.

CUNY and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) are among the partners for the project. They are currently going through a solicitation process for the campus, with \$2 billion in private investment expected.

The campus will house several CUNY institutions, including Hunter College’s School of Nursing, several Borough of Manhattan Community College programs, and the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, as well as several research labs. It will also feature a new public high school, facilities for both Health + Hospitals and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, cutting-edge research labs and public space.

Hunter College President Ann Kirschner created a task force to tackle the housing issue and a spokesperson for Hunter said the college’s student affairs office has held two meetings with students so far. However, students and others have continued to call for Hunter to maintain an affordable option for students on site or elsewhere in Manhattan.

EDC spokesperson Adrien Lesser said in a statement that, “no student will lose housing, and

NYCEDC will continue to support CUNY, an essential partner in this project, as they work on long-term plans for operations and programming in advance of this work.”

Colleen Denmon, a senior at Hunter and member of the undergraduate student government, was among those who testified at an EDC virtual

meeting in March, and called on the university to build a replacement with similarly priced rooms.

“I’ve lived in the Brookdale campus dorms for the past four years, which is actually the only reason why I attended Hunter,” Denmon said in her testimony. “Not only was it affordable, but it was also the only option for me to attend as an out-of-city student.”

## Housing Push on Public Land

Back in October 2022 when the mayor announced the plan to transform the Brookdale Campus, the backlash from Hunter and CUNY students was fairly immediate.

A petition that has garnered hundreds of signatures criticized CUNY for its lack of communication with students and demanded an alternative housing plan.

“While CUNY celebrates this initiative of revitalizing the area with ‘labs, office spaces, classrooms, and business incubators,’ nearly 700 students worry about the fate of affordable housing,” the petition reads.

Manhattan Community Board 6 passed a resolution back in February calling on the city to include affordable housing in the campus. At a committee meeting earlier this month, members drafted another resolution that specifies that New York State and CUNY should also replace the units with housing at the same site or elsewhere in Manhattan, while also prioritizing CUNY students and staff.

State Assemblymember Harvey Epstein (D-Manhattan) also called into the March meeting, arguing that the project should include housing because it’s on public land.

“This is something where since we do have government land is a clear opportunity for us to think about housing in this site,” Epstein said during the meeting, “and would encourage us all as we go through this process to have a plan that includes housing for our community.”

*THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.*



Hunter College’s Brookdale Campus in Kips Bay, April 22, 2024. Credit: Gabriel Poblete/THE CITY

IN CELEBRATION OF AAPI HERITAGE MONTH  
THE ASIAN AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK &  
QUEENS SUPREME COURT CIVIL TERM EQUAL JUSTICE IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

The Asian American/ Pacific Islander & LGBTQ  
**Struggle for Justice**

Wednesday, May 8th  
12:30 - 2 PM  
QUEENS SUPREME COURT  
88-11 Sutphin Blvd, 2nd Fl, Courtroom 25

KINDLY RSVP BY MAY 3RD TO [AAPIEVENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AAPIEVENT@GMAIL.COM)

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER // GLENN MAGPANTAY**  
COMMISSIONER, US CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION & CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY

ALL ARE INVITED!  
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

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## Council calls for reformed detainee complaint process on Rikers Island

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The number of complaints filed per 100 detainees has nearly doubled in the last four years, Nurse said.

According to the councilmember, detainee complaints about food, the facilities on Rikers Island, their access to medical care, alleged instances of sexual harassment and assault and their access to clean clothing equally go unaddressed.

“Clearly, there’s been a breakdown,” Nurse said.

The DOC divides detainee complaints into two categories – “grievable” and “non-grievable.”

The grievable complaints often relate to operations on Rikers Island run by the DOC, including programming and facilities issues.

Non-grievable complaints include those regarding medical appointments – healthcare on Rikers Island is run by Correctional Health Services, a division of the city’s hospital system – or cases of sexual assault.

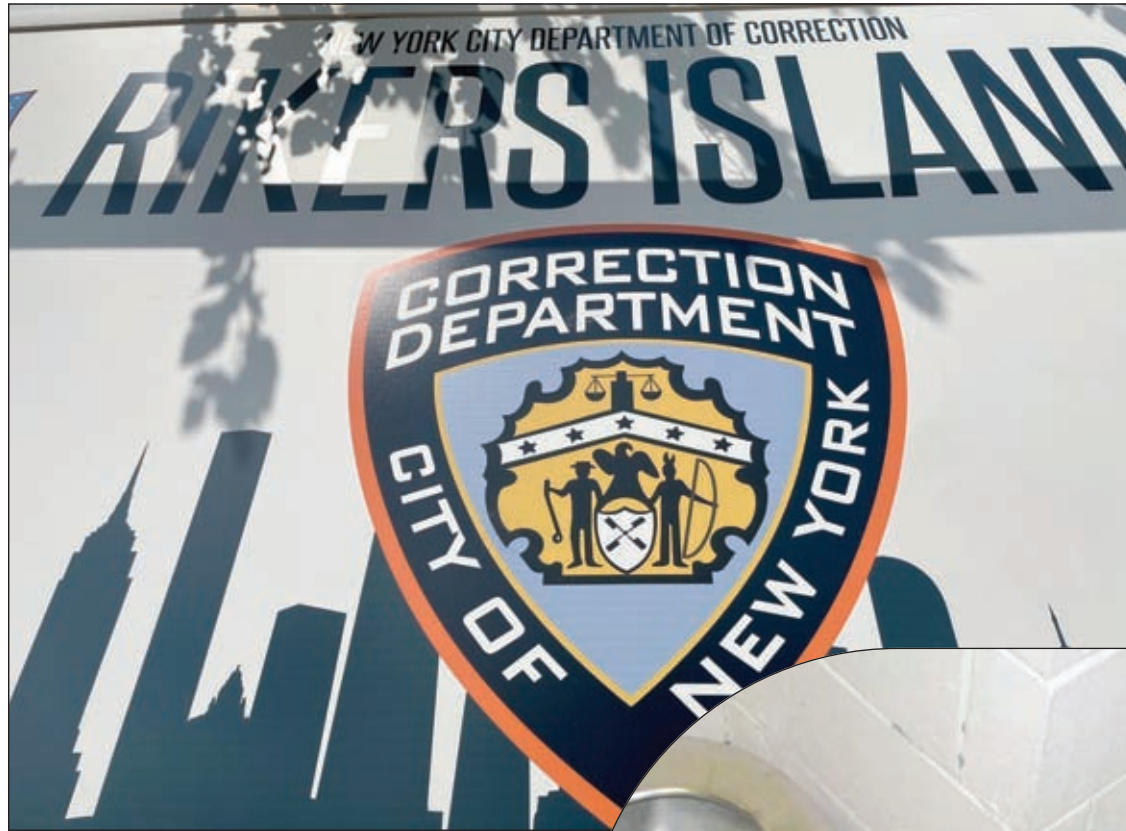
Nurse said that having the two separate categories for complaints meant that detainees were often confused by who was handling their complaint and what further action they may have needed to take. She said it also meant that the DOC didn’t have a complete picture of the complaints because of the multiple processes.

The City Council hearing last week came after a recent report from Gothamist that found that a bulk lawsuits filed last year under the state’s Adult Survivors Act related to sexual abuse allegations on Rikers Island.

In all, 700 lawsuits were filed against the DOC alleging that detainees had been sexually harassed or abused while in DOC custody.

“The details of these hard allegations are pretty horrific and many of the lawsuits claim that jail officials knew these allegations and assaults were occurring on their watch,” Nurse said. “This is why we’re having this hearing and this is why opportunities to safely file a grievance are so important.”

Though DOC officials defended the agency’s grievance process throughout the hearing, Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Levine said

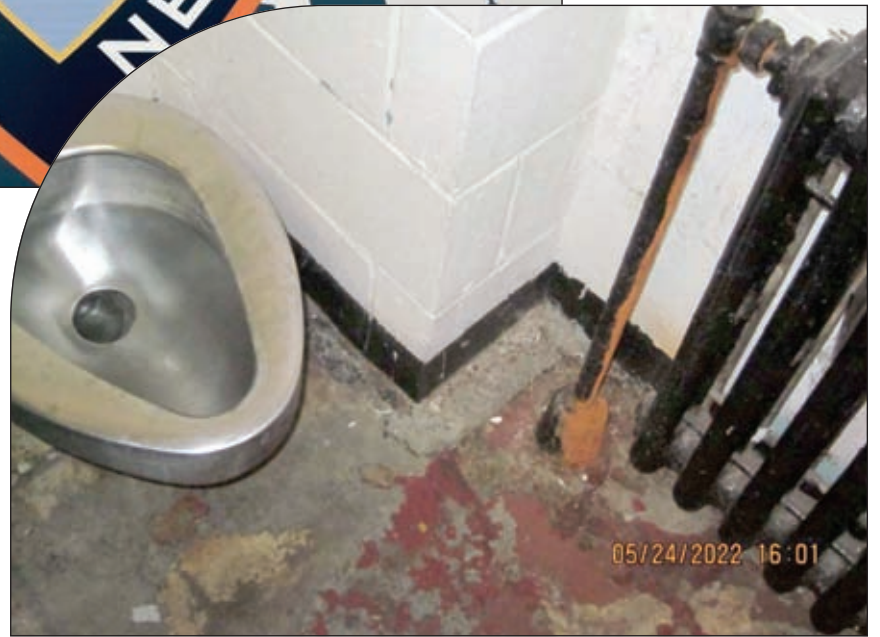


Top photo, detainees on Rikers island rarely have complaints addressed, lawmakers claim.

Eagle file photo by Jacob Kaye

Right, detainee complaints about the dirty conditions on Rikers Island rarely get resolved, according to the City Council.

File photo via the Legal Aid Society



that the agency shares the “concern that the jails should be safe.”

“Any form of behavior involving sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and sexual abuse is unacceptable,” Levine said.

Natalie Fiorenza, a corrections specialist with New York County Defender Services, told lawmakers that simplifying the grievance process and eliminating the “non-grievable” complaint category is a necessary first

step toward reforming the grievance process.

“The whole system needs to be fixed in its entirety because as it stands now, people are going through this with no answer,” Fiorenza said.

The same idea was echoed by Barbie Melendez, director of public accountability and oversight for the Board of Corrections, who said that the DOC needs to do a better job at keeping track of the types of complaints made by detainees.

“They’re treating grievances like individual incidents, instead of part of a bigger picture to prevent the grievances from continuing to be called in,” Melendez said.

## Whitestone Bridge turns 85

By **Ryan Schwach**  
Queens Daily Eagle

The Whitestone Bridge, which connects Northern Queens and the Bronx, celebrated its 85th birthday on Monday.

The MTA celebrated the 85th anniversary of the opening of the crossing, known as the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, which opened in 1939, in conjunction with the New York World’s Fair.

To celebrate the octogenarian bridge, the MTA has an anniversary display in Grand Central Terminal’s Vanderbilt Passage. The display features historic photos from the MTA Bridges & Tunnels Special Archive collection and artifacts from the bridge’s storied past, including an original mercury vapor necklace light that illuminated the bridge for nearly 77 years before being replaced with LED lighting in 2016.

“Whether it’s daily commuters getting to work, or delivery drivers moving goods across boroughs, the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge has been moving hundreds of thousands of drivers across the Long Island Sound every day for 85 years,” said MTA Bridges and Tunnels President Cathy Sheridan. “We look forward to celebrating even more milestones for the bridge as it continues to serve drivers in the Bronx, Queens and across the region.”

The bridge officially opened to traffic on April 29, 1939, the day before the start of the World’s Fair in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The bridge’s sleek, streamlined style kept with the theme of the fair – “Building the World of Tomorrow.”

The idea for the bridge began with Robert Moses, the city’s most infamous planner who proposed building the bridge as part of his planned Belt Parkway system. He persuaded the New York State Legislature to support his plan, and construction contracts for the bridge were awarded in June 1937.

The bridge was completed in just under two years.

Each of its towers was erected in 18 days and it took just 41 days to construct the bridge’s two cables. In 1939, its 2,300-foot main suspension span was the fourth longest in the world, surpassed in length only by the Golden Gate and Transbay Bridges in San Francisco and the George Washington Bridge.

The total cost of the bridge was \$17.7 million, which in today’s money is equal to over \$4 billion.

When it opened it was cheaper to cross too – just 25 cents got you over the crossing, where drivers now pay \$6.94 with E-ZPass.

Othmar Hermann Ammann was the chief engineer during the building process and Allston Dana was its engineer of design. The pair were also responsible for the design of the Triborough Bridge, now known as the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s George Washington Bridge.

“The Bronx-Whitestone Bridge is a critical connection for New York City and the region, linking two boroughs – the Bronx and Queens – and connecting Hudson Valley counties to Long Island,” said MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieb-



The Bronx-Whitestone Bridge celebrates its 85th anniversary.

Photo via the MTA

er. “Today we celebrate this majestic feat of engineering, which has served billions of drivers over the past 85 years.”

In 2020, the MTA completed a significant project on the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, which

improved the access to the Whitestone Expressway and Cross Island Parkway and added upgrades like a full-width right shoulder, new guide rails, a new LED roadway lighting system, and a new overhead sign structure.