

## QUEENS TODAY

APRIL 16, 2024

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ELECTED** officials in the Rockaways are pushing back against a proposed housing development from a landlord with an already troubled reputation, The Wave reports. On April 4, the New York Department of City Planning held a public scoping meeting for a large development from Alma Realty, which includes four high-rise towers, townhouses, commercial space and community facilities. The new buildings will go around the property's existing three buildings in the area. "We are outraged [with] what this Alma proposal contains and then the burden it introduces to the residents of Surfside and the Rockaway community," tenant association leader Barbara Bufolino said. "This project is trying to change the current zoning laws that are in place to protect the current residents and the environment. These changes will allow over a 300 percent increase in population density, allow structures that are double the size of the current buildings, and reduce the required spacing between buildings." The proposal, which locals worry would harm the community, has already received pushback from the local community board, Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato and Councilmember Joann Ariola, who called Alma a "slumlord."

**TWO PEOPLE WERE SHOT IN JAMAICA** on Saturday morning at an event space, amNY reports. Gunfire erupted at Amazura, on 114th Place in Jamaica at around 4:30 a.m., police said. Officers responded and found two men, one in his 20s and a 56-year-old, both with gunshot wounds to the leg and head respectively. Both are listed in stable condition and are being treated at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center. Little is known about what sparked the incident, and reports suggest one of the victims has not been cooperative with law enforcement. No arrests have been made.

**THE NYPD IS LOOKING INTO THE** circumstances of the discovery of a headless body found in Jamaica Bay over the weekend, ABC reports. On Saturday night around 9 p.m., police responded to a water rescue call. Ultimately, the FDNY removed an unidentified male body, which they say had been decapitated. Authorities are still trying to determine the cause of death, and if there was any foul play involved.

**METS PITCHING LEGEND DOC GOODEN** finally got his due in Queens on Sunday when his number 16 was hoisted to the rafters and retired by the team, SNY reports. "I never thought this would happen," he said. "Because of my struggles off the field...I never thought I would get the chance to thank the fans for all their support over the years." Gooden spent a full decade with the Mets, which included four all-star appearances and a Cy Young win in 1985.



## Despite residents' complaints, concerts at Forest Hills Stadium will go on, judge rules

A Queens judge ruled on Monday that the Forest Hills Stadium concert season will go as scheduled, shooting down an injunction on its start as locals continue to seek relief against loud concerts.

Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

**By Ryan Schwach**  
Queens Daily Eagle

It is likely the concert season at Forest Hills Stadium will start on time this year, after a Queens judge ruled against a group of locals hoping to at least delay the start of concert season while the court considers their allegations that the venue has lowered quality of life in the residential neighborhood.

On Monday, Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert Caloras ruled against a request for a preliminary injunction brought by the plaintiffs in the lawsuit known as Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills v. the West Side Tennis Club, which would have suspended concerts at the venue until the case came to its conclusion.

For years, residents of the private neighborhood Forest Hills Gardens and those living in Forest Hills proper have claimed the stadium's resurgence as a concert venue in recent years has brought with it large-scale quality of life issues relating to loud, allegedly window-shaking concerts and unruly crowds in the usually quiet suburban Central Queens community.

But in his decision, Caloras ruled that the defendants in the case – a group of residents – had failed to prove the noise from the stadium was "unreasonable."

He also noted that there doesn't seem to be consensus among residents of Forest Hills Gardens about the effects of the venue's visiting artists, which this year include Neil Young,

Pitbull, Pixies and Idles.

"The affidavits submitted by...plaintiffs conflict with the affidavits of residents submitted by defendant regarding the impact of the sound emanating from the stadium during events, with some complaining of disturbed sleep and high levels of noise, and others claiming no disturbances," court documents obtained by the Eagle read. "It is not clear to the court how two neighbors could have such extraordinarily different experiences. Whether the homes of the residents defendant obtained affidavits from contain features that 'ameliorate the effect of the sound' is not for the court to surmise."

Residents the Eagle had spoken to in recent

*Continued on page 16*



## Queens teen charged for shoving elderly woman down stairs at Briarwood church

A teenager was charged in the attack of a woman in Briarwood, Queens earlier this month.

Eagle photo by Walter Karling

**By Ryan Schwach**  
Queens Daily Eagle

A Queens teenager was charged last week for the attack of a 68-year-old woman in Briarwood that included pushing her down a flight of stairs and for a separate attack three days earlier.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said on Friday that the Jamaica teen, whose identity is being withheld due to his age, was hit with multiple charges in the two incidents, and faces 25 years in prison.

According to the charges, the victim of the April 7 crime, 68-year-old Irene Tahliambouris, was walking up a flight of stairs to enter Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church when she encountered the teen on the top step.

Surveillance camera footage reportedly shows the teen running up the staircase beside her and then stepping in front of Tahliambouris.

The teen allegedly struck her, causing her to fall backwards down the stairs, landing head-first on the concrete sidewalk. The fall left Tahliambouris with serious injuries.

Once Tahliambouris was on the ground, the defendant was allegedly seen on video sur-

*See story on page 2*



# Queens teen charged in Briarwood church attack

Continued from page 1

veillance picking up her purse which contained money, credit cards, her cell phone and car key.

He was allegedly seen putting his hands near the victim's waist and pockets while she lay motionless on the ground.

The teen is then seen on video entering Tahliambouris' 2006 Nissan Altima and driving it away.

Tahliambouris was taken to a local hospital with a fractured skull and bleeding of the brain.

She remains in critical but stable condition, unable to stand or move on her own. Her family told reporters she had been "fighting for her life" in the hospital.

"She has a fractured skull and although she's in stable condition she now has a long road to recovery with many unexpected obstacles ahead," Tahliambouris daughter wrote on a GoFundMe for her mother.

"My mom is a happy, good spirited, loving 68 year old grandmother who's always been there for our family and friends," she added. "She loves her church and always looks forward to Sundays spent there. This senseless attack has brought our family so much grief as we are unsure of what lies ahead, but we want to thank everyone for the tremendous amount of support and well wishes we have received. Please continue to pray for my mom's recovery. For now we are thankful to the NYPD detectives that have caught the person responsible for

the attack. We will try to keep everyone updated on her journey."

The GoFundMe has raised \$46,667 towards its \$150,000 goal as of Monday afternoon.

The teen was arrested four days after the attack, on April 11.

He was then separately charged in an incident in which he allegedly followed a woman into an elevator at a building on 127th Avenue in Rochdale Village on April 4 at approximately 10:15 a.m.

He allegedly told the woman he followed her from a bank and saw her take money out and then demanded the money and her keys. He allegedly put his hand in his pocket and pointed what appeared to be a weapon at the woman. The victim gave the teen her car keys.

According to the Queens district attorney's office, the teen was then seen on video surveillance leaving the building, getting into the woman's Toyota Corolla and driving away.

In the April 7 incident, the teen was charged with assault in the first degree, robbery in the first degree, assault in the second degree, two counts of grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree and criminal possession of stolen property in the fifth degree.

He was charged in the April 4 case with two counts of robbery in the first degree, two counts of robbery in the second degree, grand larceny in the third degree, robbery in the third degree,



A teen was charged in the April 7 attack and robbery of 68-year-old Irene Tahliambouris outside of her church in Central Queens.

Photo via GoFundMe

criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, three counts of grand larceny in the fourth degree, criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, menacing in the

second degree, petit larceny and unauthorized use of a vehicle in the third degree.

He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

"The viciousness with which the defendant is accused of having committed the robbery at the church struck the city at its core," Katz said in a statement. "As alleged, he chose to rob an elderly woman by first pushing her down the stairs and then proceeded to take her purse and leave her to suffer while he took off in her car. He will now have to answer for the serious charges levied against him by my office."

According to a report in ABC News, the teen has been arrested nine times, all in Queens, since August 2023.

Eight of those arrests involved robberies and one was for criminal possession of stolen property.

## Leader of Center for Court Innovation appointed to NYC's first nonprofit advisory council

By Robert Abruzzese  
Queens Daily Eagle

Courtney Bryan, the executive director of the Center for Court Innovation, has been appointed to New York City's inaugural Nonprofit Advisory Council.

Recently announced by Mayor Eric Adams, this council seeks to enhance collaboration between the city government and the nonprofit sector, addressing crucial issues across housing, healthcare, education and more.

The Nonprofit Advisory Council, comprising leaders from various nonprofits, aims to streamline communication and foster cooperation between the city government and nonprofit organizations. The Center for Court Innovation, known for its work on justice reform and community initiatives, is among the organizations poised to contribute its expertise to the new council.

The participation of the Center for Court Innovation in the advisory council is expected to bring innovative solutions to pressing issues such as housing, healthcare, and education. By working closely with the Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services, the center aims to leverage its experience in justice innovation to influence policy making and enhance support services across the city.

"I'm honored to be appointed to New York City's first-ever Nonprofit Advisory Council," Bryan said. "I look forward to working with the Mayor's Office and an illustrious group of



Courtney Bryan, the executive director of the Center for Court Innovation.

Photo courtesy of the Center for Justice Innovation

leaders and experts from the nonprofit sector to strengthen our vital sector."

She emphasized the evolution of nonprofits from traditional charity roles to crucial partners in government and community efforts.

"In fiscal year 2023, the city budgeted nearly \$10 billion for nonprofits to provide millions of New Yorkers with critical services, including

mental health treatment, housing, food and afterschool programs," Bryan said.

She also celebrated the recognition of community justice initiatives, such as community violence prevention, alternatives to incarceration and preserving housing stability, as essential components contributing to the safety and wellbeing of the city.

## Northwell Health penalized over \$1 million for deceptive COVID-19 testing site advertising

By Robert Abruzzese  
Queens Daily Eagle

A local health care network tried to double-dip into patients' pockets and didn't get away with it.

Attorney General Letitia James announced on Friday that Northwell Health has been fined and ordered to pay refunds totaling more than \$1 million for deceiving New Yorkers during the pandemic.

The largest healthcare network in New York will pay the fine after it advertised its emergency departments as COVID-19 testing sites, leading to wrongful charges for emergency-room services that were never asked for nor received.

"During a time of great stress at the height

of the pandemic, Northwell Health caused more worry and frustration for New Yorkers who were sent emergency room bills for simply taking a COVID-19 test," said James. "Today, we are putting money back in New Yorkers' pockets after Northwell Health misled them. New York patients should not get surprise fees."

The investigation by the Office of the Attorney General found that between March 2020 and March 2021, Northwell Health misleadingly advertised COVID-19 testing at three of its emergency locations — Lenox Hill Hospital, Lenox Health Greenwich and Huntington Hospital.

Signs posted at the sites did not disclose that visitors would incur emergency room charges, not just testing fees, for getting tested for

COVID-19 at the height of the pandemic.

Consequently, 2,048 individuals who visited these locations for a COVID-19 test were unexpectedly billed for emergency room visits, accumulating over \$400,000 in charges.

In response to the findings, Northwell has agreed to issue refunds totaling \$400,164.29 and will also pay a \$650,000 penalty to the state. The agreement also mandates that Northwell Health must clearly notify patients about potential emergency department charges when seeking COVID-19 tests in the future.

The Attorney General's Office also continues to encourage any New Yorker who suspects they have been subjected to deceptive advertising or billing practices to reach out to the OAG Health Care Bureau.

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# Hochul housing deal prompts pushback and a big question: Will it be enough?

By Greg David  
THE CITY

With a deal in a state budget expected to be announced as early as Monday, legislative leaders and Gov. Kathy Hochul have struck a compromise on housing legislation that will allow the governor and Mayor Eric Adams to claim they have engineered a package that will jumpstart badly needed construction to solve the city's housing crisis.

But whether the changes are enough to achieve Hochul's and Adams' aims will depend on details that have not yet been made public, say experts on housing, especially about a new tax break for rental housing.

One provision that is well known, so-called "good cause" legislation to protect tenants in market rate housing, is likely to be subject to continued lobbying in future years as tenant advocates try to strengthen legislation they are denouncing as hopelessly inadequate.

When the details of the deal became public Friday evening, nobody was happy. Real estate groups like the Rent Stabilization Association and the Community Housing Improvement Program, tenant activists like Housing Justice for All, and progressive Democrats like city Comptroller Brad Lander all denounced the package.

But given the way Albany works, where controversial legislation is bundled within in a massive budget that can only be voted up or down, Assembly members and state Senators will find it very difficult to derail the plan agreed to by Hochul, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-The Bronx) and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Westchester), with the support of Mayor Adams.

"That's why they do it in the budget," said one person close to the negotiations who asked not to be identified given the uproar about the deal.

## Reforms to Rent Reform

Hochul made her position clear more than a week ago. Asked at a press conference what she had been doing when the April 8 earthquake struck, she responded: "Working on the budget in the room next door and on a once-in-a-lifetime housing deal."

In early 2023, Hochul proposed sweeping legislation designed to spur the construction of 800,000 units statewide in a decade. But the legislature didn't enact a single one of the measures, inaction that also derailed provisions backed by Adams as part of his "moonshot" goal of adding 500,000 new housing units in the city in the next decade.

The key provisions in the new budget deal, some of which were previously reported by THE CITY and were revealed by people close to the talks, include changes to the 2019 rent reforms



Governor Kathy Hochul presents the Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget in the Red Room at the State Capitol, Jan. 16, 2024.

Credit: Mike Groll/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

that have so far limited the amount a property owner could recoup for repairs to vacated apartments to \$15,000. Those reforms also limited rent increases for the next tenant to \$89 per month for buildings with 35 or fewer units and \$83 for larger ones.

According to City & State, the individual apartment improvement changes will come in three tiers.

The lowest tier, which would apply to any apartment, would allow landlords to recoup up to \$30,000 by raising the monthly rent by up to \$167. Tiers 2 and 3 – which would include units vacated by tenants who had lived there for at least 25 years – would allow landlords to recoup up to \$50,000 of the cost of improvements.

Buildings with fewer than 35 units would qualify for Tier 2, allowing them to raise monthly rents by up to \$347. Buildings with 35 or more units would qualify for Tier 3, allowing them to raise monthly rents by up to \$320.

Even when the landlord has recouped the investment, the higher rents remain in effect.

The plan was denounced by progressive Democrats who sent a letter to the governor and legislative leaders telling them not to touch the 2019 law.

"We are writing to firmly oppose any measures to weaken New York's rent stabilization system, an important source of affordable housing for working families across New York City," said the letter from the comptroller, public advocate and 20 legislators.

The Rent Stabilization Association and CHIP said the amounts were insufficient to bring back on the market apartments that landlords have left vacant because they can't be economically rehabbed. If they are right, the impact of the increases will be minor, despite the complaints from progressives.

## New Tax Break But Limited 'Good Cause'

The deal includes a new tax break for new apartment construction to replace the controversial 421-a tax break that expired in June 2022. Few details are available except that it will include requirements that more of the "affordable" apartments set aside go to people with very low incomes, while requiring higher wages for construction workers. Whether that will spur construction, which has plunged since the tax break expired, is likely to be a matter of debate.

The most immediate impact will be agreement to extend the 2026 completion deadline for projects that qualified for 421-a by laying their foundations before the law expired. Some projects that have been on hold because of an inability to meet the deadline could get restarted.

Also in the package and not reported previously are changes that will ease the conversion of office buildings to residential use. The package will offer a tax break for buildings that set aside an unknown percentage of the new apart-

ments as affordable, which had been a key sticking point between legislators on the one side and the Adams administration and real estate groups on the other.

It will allow New York City to increase the density of residential projects to 15 times the land area from 12. While that will be helpful for office conversions, its immediate impact is limited since it will take time as it works its way through the city's complicated land use process.

The new tenant "good cause" protections are radically different from an original tenant-inspired proposal from State Sen. Julia Salazar (D-Brooklyn) and offer even more exemptions than a model law in effect in California.

Tenant advocate Cea Weaver of Housing Justice for All labeled the compromise the weakest good cause law in the country and called it, "a total disaster for New York state, and an embarrassment."

For example, instead of setting a standard rent increase at 1.5 times the increase in the consumer price index as initially proposed (which would be about 5.5% this year), the deal allows rent increases of CPI plus 5 percentage points or 10%, whichever is less.

Local governments would have to opt in to the law. It also exempts new construction for 30 years, small landlords who own 10 units or fewer and apartments with high rents.

While the use of how many units a landlord owns as a threshold is a new concept that makes it difficult to assess the impact, research by the New York Housing Conference has found half of unregulated renters live in one-to-three-unit buildings and 66% live in buildings with fewer than 10 units, suggesting it will have limited impact.

Still real estate groups denounced the plan as an unwarranted extension of rent regulation, and they see this as a victory for tenant groups.

"This good cause is better than what Salazar proposed in 2019, but it's still imposing rent control on free market units which is a dangerous concept, particularly with a legislature that seems likely to increase restrictions once good cause eviction is in place," said Sherwin Belkin, an attorney for landlords specializing in rent regulation.





# Taylor Swift's Homage To Clara Bow

**Brooklyn-Born Star Was the 'It Girl' of the 1920s**

By *Deirdre Clemente and Annie Delgado*  
The Conversation

One track on Taylor Swift's new album, "The Tortured Poets Department," honors a long-celebrated, oft-miscast heroine of American feminism: actress Clara Bow.

As historians of the 1920s, we've studied Bow's fame and her cultural legacy. At her ranch in rural Nevada, we oversee a collection of her personal artifacts, including her clothing and a makeup case.

Bow was a woman way ahead of her time, a star who owned her success and her sexuality. There's the popular perception that Bow was a victim of her own demons. But her story is anything but a cautionary tale.

It is a victory march.

## America's 'hottest Jazz baby'

Bow's career got its start in her native New York, where in 1921, at the age of 16, she won a beauty contest and got a bit part in a film as her prize. She had grown up in Brooklyn, where her troubled family frequently moved from one address to another, mainly in Prospect Heights. The building where they last lived before Bow became a star, 33 Prospect Place, is still there today. Around the same time, she was a student at what was then Bay Ridge High School for Girls.

Once she was in show business, Bow took every opportunity to be on set and learn the craft. She showed up early, stayed late and studied how to work with the cameras and lights. In a nascent film industry, Bow's professionalism and graciousness defined her success.

After she moved to Hollywood in 1923, Bow's ability to steal a scene earned her a series of roles as a peppy sidekick in films such as "Dancing Mothers" (1926). The actress's star turn happened in 1927's "It," in which she starred as a department store clerk who tries to woo her boss.

Variety went on to dub Bow, who had become known for her trademark pout, flirty eyes and fiery red hair, Hollywood's "hottest jazz baby."

## 45,000 fan letters a month

Off the screen, a string of high-profile romances made her personal life fodder for

the gossip pages.

In 1926, Photoplay told readers that Clara "plays the reckless younger generation — on and off the screen," noting that she kissed her boyfriend "so hard that his jaw was 'sore for two days.'"

Bow's relationship with the press ran hot and cold. But the stories were unremitting. They ranged from studio-sponsored puff pieces in big trade publications to thinly sourced stories about orgies and abortions, published by small-time papers battling it out in Los Angeles' cutthroat media environment.

According to the press, Bow was plagued by "nervous breakdowns," unlucky at love, and too brash for her own good. Her legions of fans loved her anyway.

By 1929, she was receiving 45,000 fan letters a month. That same year, sales of the reddish dye henna tripled as fans tried to mimic her look. On set, she played cards, told rude jokes and doled out generous gifts, including an emerald-encrusted watch that she bestowed on one of her hairdressers.

A century before Swift's "Eras Tour," Bow's brand of American femininity — cocksure, adventurous, sexy — had real reach.

In his 1981 memoir, producer Budd Schulberg wrote, "Millions of followers wore their hair like Clara's and pouted like Clara, and danced and smoked and laughed and necked like Clara."

## A cog in the Hollywood machine

As powerful as Bow was in the late 1920s, she was largely powerless to direct her own career.

Time and again, she signed lowball deals from male studio heads who demanded a nonstop production schedule.

At the beginning of her career, her bosses at Preferred Pictures loaned her to other studios and pocketed her pay. They imposed rules and codes of conduct in her contracts to hem in her behavior.

The demands of work were relentless. Exhausted, Bow told Motion Picture magazine in 1930, "People don't know the studios are factories, that you get up at seven and work hard all day under uncomfortable conditions. People don't know it because the studios don't want them to know it."

Her family mooched. Maids stole. A



Clara Bow is seen with her new husband, Rex Bell, in 1931, holding a marriage certificate. AP file photo

friend-turned-personal assistant embezzled money and then sold her secrets to the press, sparking a scandal and trial. She had a gambling problem and mental health issues that reporters greedily chronicled. Bow ended up making 58 films in just over a decade. The studios owned her.

Then she pulled the ultimate power move.

## She quit.

In the early 1930s, Bow left Hollywood and moved to the Walking Box Ranch in rural Nevada, a 400,000-acre property owned by her husband, cowboy film star Rex Bell. The press was unaware of her whereabouts. Some colleagues wondered if her Brooklyn accent had done her in with the arrival of talkies, or if she had experienced another breakdown.

In reality, she had fallen in love. She said of Rex, "He's given me the only unselfish devotion I have ever had."

Together, they raised two sons. He stayed in Nevada and moved on to a career in politics. Although they never divorced, Bow eventually returned to California, where she spent her later years living quietly in Santa Monica with her black poodle, Angel. She read voraciously, a habit fueled by her lifelong insomnia. She loved to decorate for Christmas.

It turns out, Bow was not a victim of her time. She wasn't pushed out of film because talkies exposed her Brooklyn accent. Nor was she shunned by Hollywood society for the ever more scandalous stories that emerged.

She simply left and, for the most part, didn't look back. As to her reputation as a recluse, her eldest son, Rex Bell Jr., said, "She wasn't near as reclusive as people thought." She hid behind scarves and

glasses, "hoping people wouldn't recognize her," but when they did, "they'd walk up and say, 'You're Clara Bow, aren't you?'" Of his mother's fame, he remembered, "She was always nice to people. She really was."

Her legacy as a figurehead of American feminism is accurate, if incomplete.

Bow came to the fore of American culture at a time when Hollywood's nascent studio system developed the formula for selling sex. In the late 1920s, the press realized celebrity gossip sold papers, and the personal lives of actors and actresses were fair game. Realizing that any attention is good attention, studio executives embraced the media's sensational coverage of Bow's implied abortions or mental health issues.

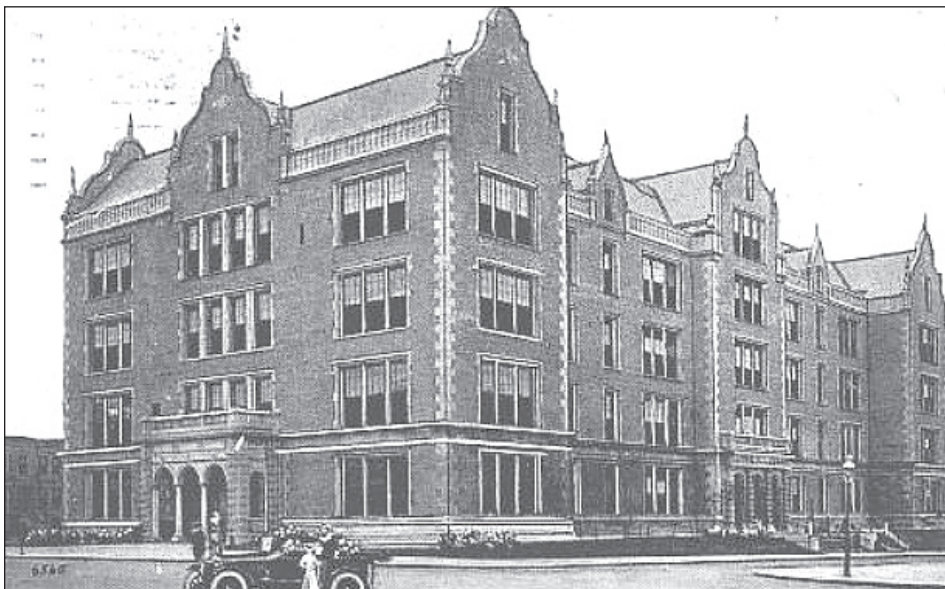
Taylor Swift and Clara Bow have much in common: a meteoric rise to fame built on talent and hard work; a series of closely watched love affairs; and legal drama with managers, former friends and the press. Both women redefined expectations of what an American woman could — and should — be.

In 2019, in the midst of a dispute with her former label, Big Machine Records, Swift decided to rerecord her prior records and rebrand them as "Taylor's Version" in order to regain ownership of her music.

There was no "Taylor's Version" for Bow. But her choice to leave Hollywood ended up being a middle finger to the men whom she had made rich and powerful.

Now, Swift is bringing Bow back into the spotlight for an encore — and for a new generation of fans to appreciate.

*Deirdre Clemente is an associate professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Annie Delgado is a PhD student in history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.*



Bay Ridge High School in 1920, around the time that Clara Bow was a student there. At the time, it was known as Bay Ridge High School for Girls. Public domain photo via Wikimedia



The block on Prospect Place, Brooklyn, where Clara Bow's family settled during her teens, just before she entered show business. Google maps photo



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## There's a Basketball Power Brewing in Clinton Hill

By **Andy Furman**  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Be careful, please. It may be spreading — and it could very well be in the water.

The good news, thus far, is that it seems to be in the Clinton Hill neighborhood of the borough.

But really, it is a good thing. It's young basketball talent being produced and developed at P.S., 11, Purvis J. Behan Elementary School, 419 Waverly Ave.

The teacher is Mike Senior. And, he knows talent.

"Carter Sawyer is a special student-athlete," Senior told the Eagle. "Graduated from P.S. 11 last year with honors. He's a gym-rat and a 'workaholic.'"

According to Senior, the young Sawyer worked out the entire summer a year ago at Pratt Institute (Emerson Park). "He was one of the top players at Nike Basketball Camps (at St. Joseph's University)," Senior said.

The 76-year-old Senior coached basketball at Tilden High School and Benjamin Banneker Academy. Presently, he directs the Selwyn Smith Memorial Sports and Educational Program, whose alumni, he says, reach about 14,000.

He met Sawyer at P.S. 11, where he trains young basketball stars-to-be every Monday and Wednesday mornings, from 7 to 8:15 a.m.

"The coach gave me a list of kids," Senior said. "As for Carter, well, he just joined in; and he outworked everyone else."

Carter's mom — Jessica Cumberbatch — said, "He (Carter) wanted to get up early, and he wanted to be there for the workouts."

His mother said she saw a growth spurt in young Carter during the summer from fifth-to-sixth grade. "That's when he developed a real interest in basketball," she said.

Cumberbatch admits she doesn't really know where the basketball-bug came from, but was "pleasantly surprised."

Sawyer shot up from about 4-foot-8 to 5-foot-1 that summer, she said, and he

started watching basketball videos on YouTube.

"Mostly skills and drill videos," she said.

"He's a very good listener and takes well to instruction," Cumberbatch said of her son. "He is very structured, and he will teach those with no basketball background skills as well."

"I didn't know he was as good as he is," she said.

Sawyer credits Senior for his growth in the sport. "He taught me not only basketball fundamentals; but how to act like a young man," he said. "As for basketball, he worked with me on agility drills, shooting, form, and how to play good defense."

All this while Carter Sawyer suffers from asthma.

"It (asthma) doesn't affect me too much," he said, "I'm dealing with it much better now."

What he is dealing with now is his first year at Leman Manhattan Preparatory School — a private school located in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan.

The school serves students from early childhood (age 24 months) through 12th grade.

Founded as the Claremont Preparatory School in 2005, it was renamed to emphasize its sister-school status to College du Leman in Switzerland. In 2010, Leman joined Meritas, an international network of college preparatory schools. In 2015, it became an affiliate school of Nord Anglia Education as part of an acquisition deal.

Leman Manhattan Preparatory School enrolls students representing more than 70 countries of origin. As of 2019, tuition for K-12-day students averages \$50,850 per year, while the boarding tuition is \$91,000 per year.

Carter Sawyer's first-year daily routine looks something like this — 6:30 a.m. wake-up call; leave his Sheepshead Bay home between 7 and 7:25; then a 40- to 55-minute subway ride to Lower Manhattan to school — sometimes by car, he says. School starts at 8:35; ends at 2:25 or 3:15, depending on the day, and he stays after school until around 5.



Carter Sawyer on the court in the streets of Brooklyn.

Photo courtesy of Andy Furman

"There's no sixth-grade basketball team at Leman," says Mike Senior "But he has been playing with the seventh- and eighth-graders."

"He's got attitude, game and work ethic at a top level," Senior said. "He's prepared."

So was another youngster — Mark Collins, who was recently profiled in these

pages.

Perhaps that's because both attended that mini-basketball powerhouse, P.S. 11.

Andy Furman is a Fox Sports Radio national talk show host. Previously, he was a scholastic sports columnist for the Brooklyn Eagle. He may be reached at: [andyf@brooklyneagle.com](mailto:andyf@brooklyneagle.com) Twitter: @AndyFurmanFSR.

**STATE UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION FUND**  
**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The State University Construction Fund will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. **141089-00** Titled **Rehab Building Envelope – Student Activities Building** at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on **May 15, 2024**, at the Fund's Office at H. Carl McCall SUNY Building, 353 Broadway, Albany NY 12246, where such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Contractor shall complete all work necessary for substantial completion within **912** calendar days from receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

The Fund's project specific goals for this project are 17% MBE and 13% WBE and 6% SDVOB.

A pre-bid conference and project walkthrough will be held on **April 25, 2024, at 1:00 pm** with all contractors assembled at the **Student Activities Building Main Entrance located at 394 Lenox Rd, Brooklyn, N.Y. between New York Ave and 34<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus and at:

Consultant's Office	Alenya Becker, Project Manager Superstructures 14 Wall St, Fl 25, NY, NY 10005 Tel: 212-505-1133
Site (SUNY Campus)	Michelle Williams Facilities Management & Development (FM&D) SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University 450 Clarkson Ave, MSC #13, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098

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Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from the Consultant's printer online or at their offices, Camelot Print & Copy Centers, located at 822 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533, 845-226-4153, in either electronic or paper format. Bidders can access the project online at the Printer's web site: <https://www.camelotplanroom.com/> upon receipt of a payment of \$49.00 for a printed copy or \$10 for an electronic copy, made payable to the Consultant, for each complete set. The Fund waives fees and deposits for sets of the Contract Documents requested by NYS certified Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid. Each bid must be identified, on the outside of the envelope, with the name and address of the bidder and designated a bid for the Project titled above. When a sealed bid is placed inside another delivery jacket, the bid delivery jacket must be clearly marked on the outside "BID ENCLOSED". Visit <https://sucf.suny.edu/sites/default/files/docs/BidandPostBidChecklist.pdf> and download the "Bid and Post Bid Checklist" that gives bidders a one-page summary of how to be prepared if bidding.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the Fund to encourage minority/women's business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

**STATE UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION FUND**



Carter Sawyer learned how to play basketball at P.S.11 Now, he plays for Leman Manhattan Preparatory School.

Photo courtesy of Andy Furman





Please scan QR code to see more photos and the stories behind them.



## Our World In Pictures



**FRANKFURT — Not even a thought of leaving ma-ma's side:** A gosling sits in the plumage of its mother, in a meadow in Frankfurt, Germany, Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Photo: Michael Probst/AP



**GREECE — The setting, the costumes and the live flame for an ancient, revered ceremony:** Performers take part in the final dress rehearsal of the flame-lighting ceremony for the Paris Olympics, at the Ancient Olympia site, Greece, Monday, April 15, 2024. The flame for the Paris Olympics will be officially lit Tuesday at the birthplace of the ancient games, and will then be carried through Greece for 11 days before being handed over to Paris organizers on April 26.

Photo: Thanassis Stavrakis/AP



**AUGUSTA — It's a silver, highly detailed replica of the original clubhouse for the Augusta National Club:** Scottie Scheffler holds the trophy after winning the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 14, 2024, in Augusta, GA.

Photo: Matt Slocum/AP



**SYDNEY — Vivid and moving tribute, mourning losses most probably attributed to social and other media, affecting deranged minds:** The Sydney Opera House is illuminated with a black ribbon Monday, April 15, 2024, as part of the national day of mourning following the stabbing deaths of several people at a shopping mall on April 13. Australian police are examining why a lone assailant who stabbed several people to death in a busy Sydney shopping mall and injured more than a dozen others targeted women while avoiding men.

Photo: Mark Baker/AP





Please scan QR code to see more photos and the stories behind them.



## Our World In Pictures



**LIVERPOOL** — Close up view of the four-legged gladiator action on the race course: I Am Maximus, ridden by jockey P. Townend, competes to win the Randox Grand National Handicap Chase race on the third day of the Grand National Horse Racing meeting at Aintree racecourse, near Liverpool, England, Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Photo: Mike Egerton/PA via AP



**SAO PAULO** — Don't mess with that right arm: Laura Siegemund of Germany celebrates after defeating Carolina Alves of Brazil during their Billie Jean King Cup tennis match in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Photo: Andre Penner/AP



**TEHRAN** — Ancient, unresolvable conflicts continue with modern weapons, slogans and social media: Demonstrators wave a huge Iranian flag in their anti-Israeli gathering in front of an anti-Israeli banner on the wall of a building at the Felestin (Palestine) Square in Tehran, Iran, Monday, April 15, 2024. World leaders are urging Israel not to retaliate after Iran launched an attack involving hundreds of drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles. The sign on the banner reads in Hebrew: "Your next mistake will be the end of your fake country." And the sign in Farsi reads: "The next slap will be harder."

Photo: Vahid Salemi/AP



**RUSSIA** — Nature's revenge — floods burst a dam on the Ural: A local resident swims in the flooded street between houses in Orenburg, Russia, on Saturday, April 13, 2024. More than 11,700 houses remain flooded in the Orenburg region and some 10,700 people have already been evacuated from flooded areas. The deluge hit the region after a dam on the Ural River burst last week under surging waters.

Photo: AP



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<i>Class of 2025</i> Frank Bruno, Jr. Etan Hakimi Sharifa Milena Nasser Tammi D. Pere A. Camila Popin	<i>Class of 2026</i> Desiree Claudio Ruben Davidoff Mark L. Hankin Adam Moses Orlov Estelle J. Roond	<i>Class of 2027</i> Michael D. Abneri Beverly Benjamin-George Janet L. Brown Sydney A. Spinner Jasmine I. Valle
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**INSTALLING OFFICER:**  
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NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

Cocktails: 5:30 pm • Dinner & Program: 7:00 pm  
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Reservations: \$190 per person  
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\$135 per person for QCBA members admitted to practice 4 years or less (through May 12)  
Same Day Reservations: \$225 per person (day of dinner or at the door)  
Kosher meals available if registered by May 19 (\$25 additional)



# No discipline for officers who killed Kawaski Trawick

By Yoav Gonen  
THE CITY

On Friday afternoon, two days shy of the five-year anniversary of the police killing of Kawaski Trawick in The Bronx, the NYPD announced in a 259-word statement that Commissioner Edward Caban had decided the officers involved in the fatal shooting would face no discipline.

The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), an independent oversight body that investigates and prosecutes cases involving use of force by police officers, had sought last year to terminate officers Brendan Thompson and Herbert Davis at an administrative trial for their roles in Trawick's shooting death in April 2019.

Trawick had been cooking in his kitchen, holding a serrated knife and a long stick, at an apartment building that offered supportive services to its tenants, including for mental health challenges and substance abuse, when the officers arrived.

They had responded to 911 calls from the building, including one made by the 32-year-old dancer and personal trainer, who had been locked out of his apartment.

From his kitchen, Trawick asked them repeatedly why they had pushed into his apartment, but got no answer. Within two minutes of arriving, Thompson shot Trawick with a Taser, which prompted Trawick to move toward the officers for the first time.

Thompson then shot him four times.

The NYPD's statement noted that because the CCRB had brought charges against the officers after the expiration of a statute of limitations, the only way the officers could be disciplined was if their conduct was deemed to be criminal.

Caban determined their actions hadn't met that higher bar.

The statement also noted that the NYPD had turned over the body-worn camera footage from the incident to CCRB investigators in January 2021, "five months before the expiration of the statute of limitations governing disciplinary matters."

The CCRB then had just five months to investigate the fatal shooting and file charges in order for normal disciplinary rules to apply, a deadline the board missed.

For its part, the NYPD's Force Investigation Division had taken 21 months to conclude its own investigation of the fatal shooting, which found no wrongdoing by the two officers.

Caban's determination took seven months, following a recommendation by an NYPD administrative judge in September that Thompson and



Criminal justice-reform advocates rally in front of NYPD headquarters after internal charges against two officers who fatally shot Kawaski Trawick were thrown out on a technicality, Sept. 28, 2023.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Davis should face no discipline under the higher, criminal act bar.

But the administrative judge highlighted a number of significant concerns with the NYPD's investigation of the incident, and wrote in her draft decision that she was left with "disquieting questions about FID's conclusion that Respondent Thompson acted 'consistent' with 'Department guidelines.'"

An article published months earlier by ProPublica revealed that FID investigators failed to ask key questions about the incident, including about discrepancies between what the officers said and what the video showed.

In a statement released shortly after Caban's decision was made public, the parents of Trawick — Ellen and Rickie Trawick — decried the outcome. They had been advocating for nearly five years for both officers to be terminated.

"Thompson and Davis broke into my son's

home and murdered him within seconds, without even attempting to administer aid," the statement said. "They should have already been fired, but Mayor Adams and the NYPD don't seem to care about protecting New Yorkers from cops who kill."

Davis, who several times during the encounter with Trawick sought to prevent Thompson from using his Taser and his gun, retired from the police force last month, according to 50-a.org, which aggregates information from public databases.

Thompson remains an active duty police officer, according to the site.

The NYPD's statement on Caban's decision said that withholding the video footage from the CCRB during the 21-month long Force Investigation Division probe was governed by a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies at the time.

That memo generally says the NYPD can't re-

fuse to disclose or delay the release of footage on the grounds that it's conducting an investigation, but it contains a carveout specifically "for those investigations being conducted by the Force Investigation Division."

That's the unit that handles the most sensitive cases, in which civilians are killed or seriously injured by police.

This past December, the NYPD and CCRB signed a new memorandum, under which the department must share its body-worn camera footage and other documentation — even in FID cases — within 90 days of a request.

Gothamist reported that month, however, that the Civilian Complaint Review Board's executive director acknowledged there are no penalties in place if the NYPD fails to meet that timeline.

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

## Justice Thomas misses Supreme Court session Monday with no explanation

By The Associated Press

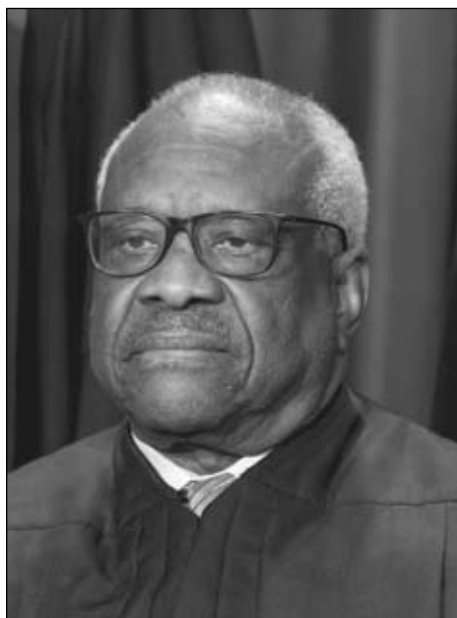
Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was absent from the court Monday with no explanation.

Thomas, 75, also was not participating remotely in arguments, as justices sometimes do when they are ill or otherwise can't be there in person.

Chief Justice John Roberts announced Thomas' absence, saying that his colleague would still participate in the day's cases, based on the briefs and transcripts of the arguments. The court sometimes, but not always, says when a justice is out sick.

Thomas was hospitalized two years ago with an infection, causing him to miss several court sessions. He took part in the cases then, too.

He is the longest serving of the current justices, joining the Supreme Court in 1991.



Associate Justice Clarence Thomas joins other members of the Supreme Court as they pose for a new group portrait, at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022. Thomas is absent from the court Monday with no explanation. The 75-year-old Thomas also is not participating remotely in arguments, as justices sometimes do when they are ill or otherwise can't be there in person. Chief Justice John Roberts announced Thomas' absence, saying that his colleague would still participate in the day's cases, based on the briefs and the transcripts of the arguments. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

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# 2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

## NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST 2007-A, -AGAINST- FAZAL M HAFEEZ, ET AL. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO A FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE ENTERED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS ON OCTOBER 31, 2023, WHEREIN DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST 2007-A IS THE PLAINTIFF AND FAZAL M HAFEEZ, ET AL. ARE THE DEFENDANT(S). I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION RAIN OR SHINE ON THE COURTHOUSE STEPS OF THE QUEENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD., JAMAICA, NY 11435, ON MAY 17, 2024 AT 12:00PM, PREMISES KNOWN AS 103-24 FARMERS BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11433; AND THE FOLLOWING

TAX MAP IDENTIFICATION: 10368-57. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX NO.: 711107/2015. STEPHEN D. HANS, ESQ. - REFEREE. ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 900 MERCHANTS CONCOURSE, SUITE 310, WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11590, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF. ALL FORECLOSURE SALES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COVID-19 GUIDELINES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASK WEARING. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

#216413

## PROBATE CITATION

FILE NO. 2019-3339 SURROGATE'S COURT- QUEENS COUNTY CITATION

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A DECREE SHOULD NOT BE MADE IN THE ESTATE OF HAROLD HASSELBUSCH A/K/A HAROLD E. HASSELBUSCH, JR., LATELY DOMICILED AT 144-21 68TH DRIVE, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11367, ADMITTING TO PROBATE A WILL DATED JULY 6, 2016, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED AS THE WILL OF HAROLD HASSELBUSCH, DECEASED, RELATING TO REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND DIRECTING THAT LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUE TO: SAMUDRA NARAIWAR DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED MARCH 4, 2024 HON. PETER J. KELLY SURROGATE JANET EDWARDS TUCKER, CHIEF CLERK ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER: JOHN NAPOLITANO, ESQ. 94-09 101 AVENUE, OZONE PARK, NY 11416 (718) 845-3070 MELJOHN922@AOL.COM [NOTE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU.]

#216346

## Pro-Palestinian demonstrators shut down airport highways and key bridges in major U.S. cities



A passenger walks on the highway as he carries his luggage to at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Monday, April 15, 2024. Pro-Palestinian demonstrators blocked a freeway leading to three Chicago O'Hare International Airport terminals Monday morning, temporarily stopping vehicle traffic into one of the nation's busiest airports and causing headaches for travelers.

AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh

By Sophia Tareen  
Associated Press

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators blocked roadways in Illinois, California, New York and the Pacific Northwest on Monday, temporarily shutting down travel into some of the nation's most heavily used airports, onto the Golden Gate and Brooklyn bridges and on a busy West Coast highway.

In Chicago, protesters linked arms and blocked lanes of Interstate 190 leading into O'Hare International Airport around 7 a.m. in a demonstration they said was part of a global "economic blockade to free Palestine," according to Rifqa Falaneh, one of the organizers.

Traffic in the San Francisco Bay Area was snarled for hours as demonstrators shut down all vehicle, pedestrian and bike traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge and chained themselves to 55-gallon drums filled with cement across Interstate 880 in Oakland. Protesters marching into Brooklyn blocked Manhattan-bound traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge. In Eugene, Oregon, protesters blocked Interstate 5, shutting down traffic on the major highway for about 45 minutes.

O'Hare warned travelers on the social platform X to take alternative forms of transportation with car travel "substantially delayed this morning due to protest activity."

Some travelers stuck in standstill traffic left their cars and walked the final leg to the airport along the freeway, trailing their luggage behind them.

Among them was Madeleine Hannan from suburban Chicago. She was headed to O'Hare for a work trip to Florida when her and her husband's car ended up stalled for 20 minutes. She got out and "both ran and speed walked" more than a mile (1.6 kilometers). She said she made it to the gate on time, but barely.

"This was an inconvenience," she said in a telephone interview from Florida. "But in the grand scheme of things going on overseas, it's a minor inconvenience."

While individual travelers may have been affected, operations at the airport appeared near normal with delays of under 15 minutes, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation.

Inbound traffic toward O'Hare resumed around 9 a.m. Near Seattle, the Wash-

ington State Department of Transportation said a demonstration closed the main road to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Social media posts showed people holding a banner and waving Palestinian flags while standing on the highway. State authorities urged people to use light rail instead.

About 20 protesters were arrested at the Golden Gate Bridge demonstration and traffic resumed shortly after noon, according to the California Highway Patrol. The agency said officers were making arrests at two points on the interstate, including one spot where roughly 300 protesters refused orders to disperse.

"Attempting to block or shut down a freeway or state highway to protest is unlawful, dangerous, and prevents motorists from safely reaching their destinations," the agency said in a statement.

Oregon State Police said 52 protesters were arrested for disorderly conduct following the Interstate 5 protest in Eugene, Oregon, about 110 miles (177 kilometers) south of Portland. Six vehicles were towed from the scene.

New York Police made numerous arrests, saying 150 protesters were initially involved in the march around 3:15 p.m., but that number quickly grew. The bridge was fully reopened by 5 p.m.

In Chicago, dozens of protesters were arrested, according to Falaneh. Chicago police said Monday that "multiple people" were taken into custody after a protest where people obstructed traffic, but they did not have a detailed count.

Protesters say they chose the location, in part, because O'Hare is one of the largest airports. Among other things, they've called for an immediate cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Anti-war protesters have demonstrated in Chicago near daily since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that killed around 1,200 people. Israeli warplanes and ground troops have conducted a scorched-earth campaign on the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli offensive has killed more than 33,700 Palestinians, according to the Gaza health ministry. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count but says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead.

# 2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

## WIN 946 7TH AVENUE CAPITAL LLC

WIN 946 7TH AVENUE CAPITAL LLC. FILED 1/31/2024. OFFICE: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL TO: 35-20 LEVERICH STREET, UNIT B522, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372. PURPOSE: GENERAL.

#215879

## 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 LO-

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#216582

## RENARI NM LLC

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## 11101 KATE'S COOKIE CO. LLC

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#215643

## 11415 DAEDALUS TCG LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: DAEDALUS TCG LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/4/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT

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#215644

## 12207 SHEFFIELDERS LLC

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# Trump's historic hush money trial gets underway; 1st day ends without any jurors being picked

By Jennifer Peltz, Michael R. Sisak, Eric Tucker and Jake Offenhardt  
Associated Press

The historic hush money trial of Donald Trump got underway Monday with the arduous process of selecting a jury to hear the case charging the former president with falsifying business records in order to stifle stories about his sex life.

The day ended without any jurors being chosen. The selection process was scheduled to resume Tuesday.

The first criminal trial of any former U.S. president began as Trump vies to reclaim the White House, creating a remarkable split-screen spectacle of the presumptive Republican nominee spending his days as a criminal defendant while simultaneously campaigning for office. He's blended those roles over the last year by presenting himself to supporters, on the campaign trail and on social media, as a target of politically motivated prosecutions designed to derail his candidacy.

"It's a scam. It's a political witch hunt. It continues, and it continues forever," Trump said after exiting the courtroom, where he sat at the defense table with his lawyers.

After a norm-shattering presidency shadowed by years of investigations, the trial amounts to a reckoning for Trump, who faces four indictments charging him with crimes ranging from hoarding classified documents to plotting to overturn an election. Yet the political stakes are less clear because a conviction would not preclude him from becoming president and because the allegations in this case date back years and are seen as less grievous than the conduct behind the three other indictments.

The day began with pretrial arguments — including over a potential fine for Trump — before moving in the afternoon into jury selection, where the parties will decide who might be picked to determine the legal fate of the former, and potentially future, American president.

After the first members of the jury pool, 96 in all, were summoned into the courtroom, Trump craned his neck to look back at them, whispering to his lawyer as they entered the jury box.

"You are about to participate in a trial by jury. The system of trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of our judicial system," Judge Juan Merchan told the jurors. "The name of this case is the People of the State of New York vs. Donald Trump."

Trump's notoriety would make the process of picking 12 jurors and six alternates a near-herculean task in any year, but it's likely to be especially challenging now, unfolding in a closely contested presidential election in the



Former President Donald Trump attends the first day of his criminal trial, at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City on April 15, 2024. Angela Weiss/AFP via AP Pool

heavily Democratic city where Trump grew up became a celebrity decades before winning the White House.

Underscoring the difficulty, only about a third of the 96 people in the first panel of potential jurors remained after the judge excused some members. More than half the group was excused after telling the judge they could not be fair and impartial. At least nine more were excused after raising their hands when Merchan asked if they could not serve for any other reason.

A female juror was excused after saying she had strong opinions about Trump. Earlier in the questionnaire, the woman, a Harlem resident, indicated she could be neutral in deciding the case. But when asked whether she had strong opinions about the former president, the woman answered matter-of-factly, "Yes."

When Merchan asked her to repeat the response, she replied, "Yeah, I said yes." She was dismissed.

Merchan has written that the key is "whether the prospective juror can assure us that they will set aside any personal feelings or biases and render a decision that is based on the evidence and the law."

No matter the outcome, Trump is determined to benefit from the proceedings, casting the case, and his indictments elsewhere, as a broad "weaponization of law enforcement" by Democratic prosecutors and officials. He maintains they are orchestrating sham charges in hopes of impeding his presidential run.

He's lambasted judges and prosecutors for

years, a pattern of attacks that continued Monday as he entered court after calling the case an "assault on America."

"This is political persecution. This is a persecution like never before," he said.

The judge denied a defense request to recuse himself from the case after Trump's lawyers claimed he had a conflict of interest. He also said prosecutors could not play for the jury the 2005 "Access Hollywood" recording in which Trump was captured discussing grabbing women sexually without their permission. However, prosecutors will be allowed to question witnesses about the recording, which became public in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign.

Prosecutors with the Manhattan district attorney's office also asked Merchan to fine Trump \$3,000 over social media posts they said violated the judge's gag order limiting what he can say publicly about witnesses. Last week, he used his Truth Social platform to call his former lawyer Michael Cohen and the adult film actor Stormy Daniels "two sleaze bags who have, with their lies and misrepresentations, cost our Country dearly!"

Trump lawyer Todd Blanche maintained Trump was simply responding to the witnesses' statements.

"It's not as if President Trump is going out and targeting individuals. He is responding to salacious, repeated vehement attacks by these witnesses," Blanche said.

Merchan setting a hearing for next week on the request.

Trump has pleaded not guilty to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. Prosecutors say the alleged fraud was part of an effort to keep salacious — and, Trump says, bogus — stories about his sex life from emerging during his 2016 campaign.

The charges center on payments Trump's company made to Cohen to reimburse him for \$130,000 he paid to keep Daniels from going public, a month before the election, with her claims of a sexual encounter with the married mogul a decade earlier.

Prosecutors say the payments to Cohen were falsely logged as legal fees in order to cloak their actual purpose. Trump's lawyers say the disbursements indeed were legal expenses, not a cover-up.

After decades of fielding and initiating lawsuits, the businessman-turned-politician now faces a trial that could result in up to four years in prison if he's convicted, though a no-jail sentence also would be possible.

Trump's attorneys lost a bid to get the hush money case dismissed and repeatedly sought to delay it, prompting a flurry of last-minute appeals court hearings last week.

Among other things, Trump's lawyers maintain that the jury pool in overwhelmingly Democratic Manhattan has been tainted by negative publicity about Trump and that the case should be moved elsewhere.

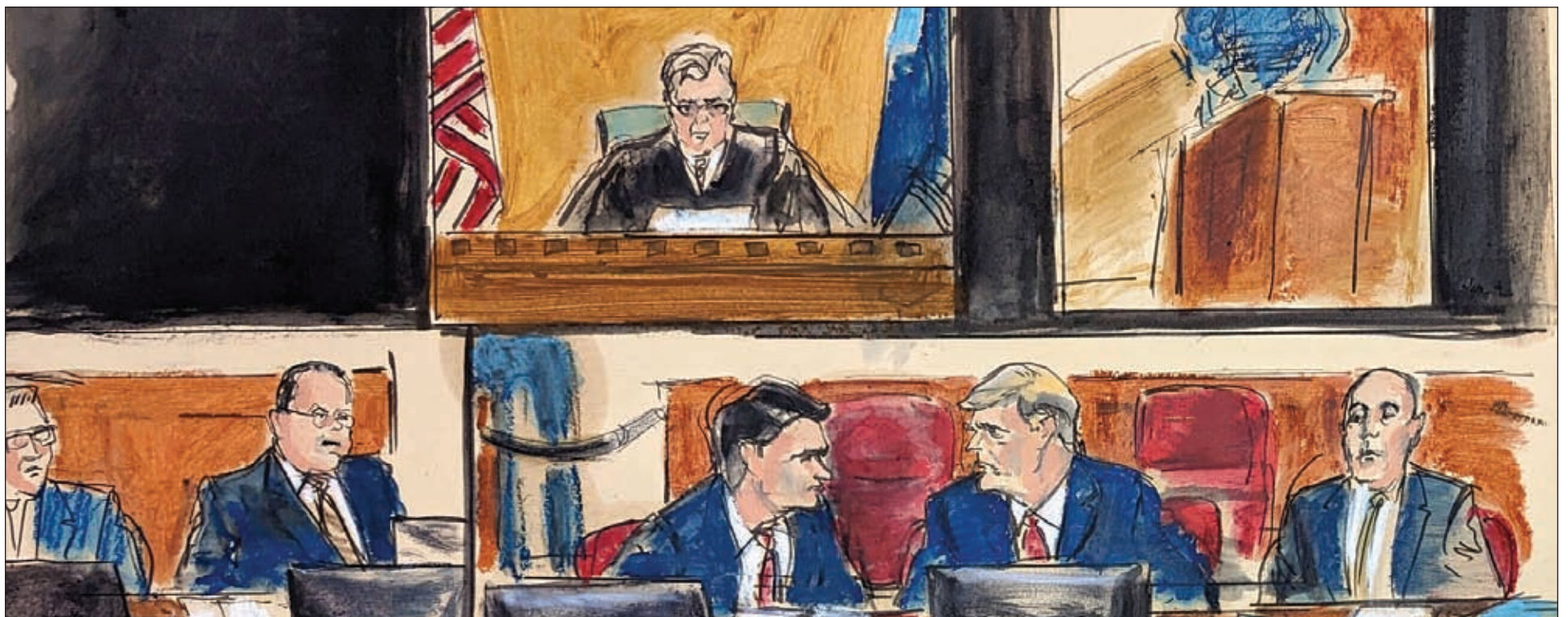
An appeals judge turned down an emergency request to delay the trial while the change-of-venue request goes to a group of appellate judges, who are set to consider it in the coming weeks.

Manhattan prosecutors have countered that a lot of the publicity stems from Trump's own comments and that questioning will tease out whether prospective jurors can put aside any preconceptions they may have. There's no reason, prosecutors said, to think that 12 fair and impartial people can't be found amid Manhattan's roughly 1.4 million adult residents.

The prospective jurors will be known only by number, as the judge has ordered that their names be kept secret from everyone except prosecutors, Trump and their legal teams.

They're being asked 42 questions about their backgrounds, hobbies and news habits, whether they hold strong beliefs about Trump that would prevent them from being impartial and about attendance at Trump or anti-Trump rallies.

Based on the answers, the attorneys can ask a judge to eliminate people "for cause" if they meet certain criteria for being unable to serve or can't be unbiased. The lawyers also can use "peremptory challenges" to nix 10 potential jurors and two prospective alternates without giving a reason.



In this courthouse sketch drawn from a divided video monitor, former President Donald Trump, lower right frame, center, confers with defense attorney Todd Blanche as Judge Juan Merchan, upper left, and prosecutor Joshua Steingless, lower left, look on during jury selection in Manhattan criminal court, Monday, April 15, 2024, in New York.

Elizabeth Williams via AP



# Librarians Fear New Penalties, Even Prison, as Activists Challenge Books

By Hillel Italie and Kimberly Kruesi  
Associated Press

When an illustrated edition of Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" was released in 2019, educators in Clayton, Missouri needed little debate before deciding to keep copies in high school libraries. The book is widely regarded as a classic work of dystopian literature about the oppression of women, and a graphic novel would help it reach teens who struggle with words alone.

But after Missouri legislators passed a law in 2022 subjecting librarians to fines and possible imprisonment for allowing sexually explicit materials on bookshelves, the suburban St. Louis district reconsidered the new Atwood edition, and withdrew it.

"There's a depiction of a rape scene, a handmaid being forced into a sexual act," says Tom Bober, Clayton district's library coordinator and president of the Missouri Association of School Librarians. "It's literally one panel of the graphic novel, but we felt it was in violation of the law in Missouri."

Across the country, book challenges and bans have soared to the highest levels in decades. Public and school-based libraries have been inundated with complaints from community members and conservative organizations such as Moms for Liberty. Increasingly, lawmakers are considering new punishments — crippling lawsuits, hefty fines, and even imprisonment — for distributing books some regard as inappropriate.

The trend comes as officials seek to define terms such as "obscene" and "harmful." Many of the conflicts involve materials featuring racial and/or LGBTQ+ themes, such as Toni Morrison's novel, "The Bluest Eye," and Maia Kobabe's memoir, "Gender Queer." And while no librarian or educator has been jailed, the threat alone has led to more self-censorship.

Already this year, lawmakers in more than 15 states have introduced bills to impose harsh penalties on libraries or librarians.

Utah enacted legislation in March that empowers the state's Attorney General to enforce a new system of challenging and removing "sensitive" books from school settings. The law also creates a panel to monitor compliance and violations.

Awaiting Idaho Gov. Brad Little's signature is a bill that empowers local prosecutors to bring charges against public and school libraries if they don't move "harmful" materials away from children.

"The laws are designed to limit or remove legal protections that libraries have had for decades," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Since the early 1960s, institutions including schools, libraries and museums — as well as educators, librarians and other staffers who distribute materials to children — have largely been exempt from expensive lawsuits or potential criminal charges.

These protections began showing up in states as America grappled with standards surrounding obscenity, which was defined by the Supreme Court in 1973.

Ruling 5-4 in *Miller v. California*, the justices said obscene materials are not automatically protected by the First Amendment, and offered three criteria that must be met for being labeled obscene: whether the work, taken as a whole, appeals to "prurient interest," whether "the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law," and whether the work lacks "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

Eventually, almost every state adopted protections for educators, librarians and



Tom Bober, librarian and President of the Missouri Association of School Librarians, poses for a photo Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in Clayton, Mo. AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

museum officials, among others who provide information to minors.

"Until recently, police and prosecutors were unable to pursue charges against public libraries over materials that make certain individuals uncomfortable. These exemptions have prevented spurious prosecutions of teachers over health and sexuality curriculum, art, theater, and difficult subjects in English classes," stated a 2023 report from EveryLibrary, a national political action committee that opposes censorship.

Arkansas and Indiana targeted educators and librarians with criminalization laws last year. Tennessee criminalized publishers that provide "obscene" materials to public schools.

Some Republicans are seeking penalties and restrictions that would apply nationwide. Referring to "pornography" in the foreword to Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's blueprint for a possible second Donald Trump administration, the right-wing group's president, Kevin Roberts, wrote that the "people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders."

Arkansas' version was temporarily blocked by a federal judge after a coalition of librarians and publishers challenged the legality of subjecting librarians and booksellers to criminal charges if they provide "harmful" materials to minors.

Indiana lawmakers stripped away "educational purposes" as a defense for school librarians and educators charged with giving minors "obscene" or "harmful" material — felonies punishable by up to 2½ years in jail and \$10,000 in fines. The law also requires public catalogs of what's in each school library and systems for responding to complaints.

Indiana's law took effect January 1. It's likely a matter of when — not if — a lawsuit is filed, and the anxiety has created a chilling effect.

"It's putting fear into some people. It's very scary," said Diane Rogers, a school librarian who serves as president of the Indiana Library Federation. "If you're a licensed teacher just being charged with a felony potentially gets rid of your license even if you're found innocent. That's a very serious thing."

Rogers said she's confident Indiana's school libraries don't offer obscene materials, but she's seen reports that some districts have moved certain titles to higher age groups or required parental approval to check them out.

A PEN America list shows 300 titles were removed from school libraries across 11 Missouri districts after lawmakers in 2022 banned "sexually explicit" material, punishable by up to a year in jail or a \$2,000 fine. The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and library groups challenged the law last year, but it remains in effect pending a motion for the state to intervene.

"Gender Queer" is another title no longer available to high schoolers in Clayton, where district officials recently turned their attention to Mike Curato's graphic novel, "Flamer," about a teenager who struggles with his sexual identity and how to fit in at Boy Scout camp. The American Library Association included "Flamer" on its list of 2023's most challenged and/or banned books.

"We had a lot of conversations about how to interpret the law and not be in violation," Bober said. "But we also didn't want to overreach and overcensor our collections. With 'Flamer,' we did not feel we were in violation of the law."



A Banned Books Week display is at the Mott Haven branch of the New York Public Library in The Bronx on October 7, 2023. AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey



# Federal judge lets human rights case against Access-A-Ride proceed

By Jose Martinez  
THE CITY

The MTA may be violating New York City Human Rights Law for requiring people with disabilities to book Access-A-Ride trips by 5 p.m. the day before travel, a federal judge has found.

While U.S. District Court Judge Jessica Clarke ruled that the paratransit system's scheduling requirement does not violate the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, she did indicate that its routing operation can lead to excessively long trips because of "illogical and unnecessarily circuitous routes."

The March 29 decision stems from an April 2023 lawsuit in Manhattan federal court that charged the MTA with failing to provide Access-A-Ride users with paratransit options that offer "comparable" service to what is provided to people without disabilities who take the subways and the buses.

"I have to make reservations one day in advance," said Luz Paulino-Santos, 57, a plaintiff in the case, who commutes via paratransit every weekday between her home in Upper Manhattan and her job in Midtown. "That's a big inconvenience, because that limits things."

The class-action suit was filed by Paulino-Santos and two other paratransit patrons along with the New York Integrated Network, an organization which represents people with a range of disabilities.

"There is some assumption that people with disabilities are asking for some sort of grand, private chauffeur service," said Britney Wilson of the Civil Rights and Disability Justice Clinic at New York Law School Legal Services Inc., which represents the plaintiffs. "By and large, that is not what people with disabilities are asking for — they are asking for the ability to travel with the same level of flexibility as people without disabilities."

The lawsuit was filed in the wake of an October 2022 Justice Department report that hit New York City Transit's paratransit operation for excessive travel times and untimely dropoffs — and after the fall of 2021, when THE CITY reported that Access-A-Ride service reliability sunk to its lowest level in years because of driver shortages and increased traffic.

In October 2021, just 66.8% of all paratransit broker trips arrived on time at pickup locations no more than 15 minutes after the promised time, MTA shows.

But in recent months, the MTA has pointed to key turnarounds in paratransit service, including improved on-time performance in 2023, as well as fewer driver no-shows, a drop in wait times, in-



Access-a-Ride user Luz Paulino-Santos tries to find her vehicle while commuting home from Midtown to Inwood, April 11, 2024.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

creased customer satisfaction and ridership returning to pre-COVID levels.

On-time performance for broker trips — which account for most Access-A-Ride trips — was at 83.2% in February, according to agency statistics. The paratransit service's goal is that no less than 85% of all trips arrive at the pickup location no more than 15 minutes after the promised time.

MTA data shows that in February there were nearly 176,000 people registered to use paratransit services — up from under 150,000 in 2018 — and agency spokesperson Kayla Shults added that a record 213,512 trips were booked in the seven-day period between March 8 and 14.

She pointed out that the federal judge had sided with the MTA on claims that the transit agency had violated parts of the ADA.

"The Court's decision dismissed some of the plaintiffs' claims and did not include any findings of liability against the MTA on the other claims, as Access-A-Ride is compliant with all federal and local accessibility and human rights regulations," Shults told THE CITY in a statement.

The judge, however, noted that city Human Rights Law deems it "unlawful discrimination for a provider of public accommodation like the MTA to 'because of any person's ... disability ... refuse, withhold from or deny to such person the full and equal enjoyment, on equal terms and condi-

tions, of any of the accommodations, advantages, services, facilities or privileges of the place or provider of public accommodation.'"

## 'Just Not Feasible'

Paulino-Santos said she had joined the lawsuit because of frustration over the unpredictable reliability of a service she began using in 2017 after multiple surgeries on her lower back and upper neck.

Diagnosed with a severe spinal condition, she uses a cane to assist her in walking and no longer rides the subway.

"I wanted to continue working," said Paulino-Santos, a dental office manager. "I didn't want to stay home just because I can't walk or I can't go up and down the steps."

As she waited last Thursday for a ride home from Midtown, a scheduled 2 p.m. pickup she had booked the previous day did not materialize. Instead, she received a message that her ride would show up at 2:30.

"The ultimate hope is that we can book trips the same day, that they are reliable," Paulino-Santos said, adding that service can be unpredictable on both ends of her commute.

"If I want a pickup time of, say, 6:15 in the morning, which is my usual, they want to give me a 5 a.m. pickup," she said. "Usually they will give it to me like an hour-and-a-half or two [hours] in advance. And I'm like, 'Guys are you serious?'"

She added that she has, on several occasions, been taken through The Bronx while en route to her Midtown job — in the opposite direction of her destination.

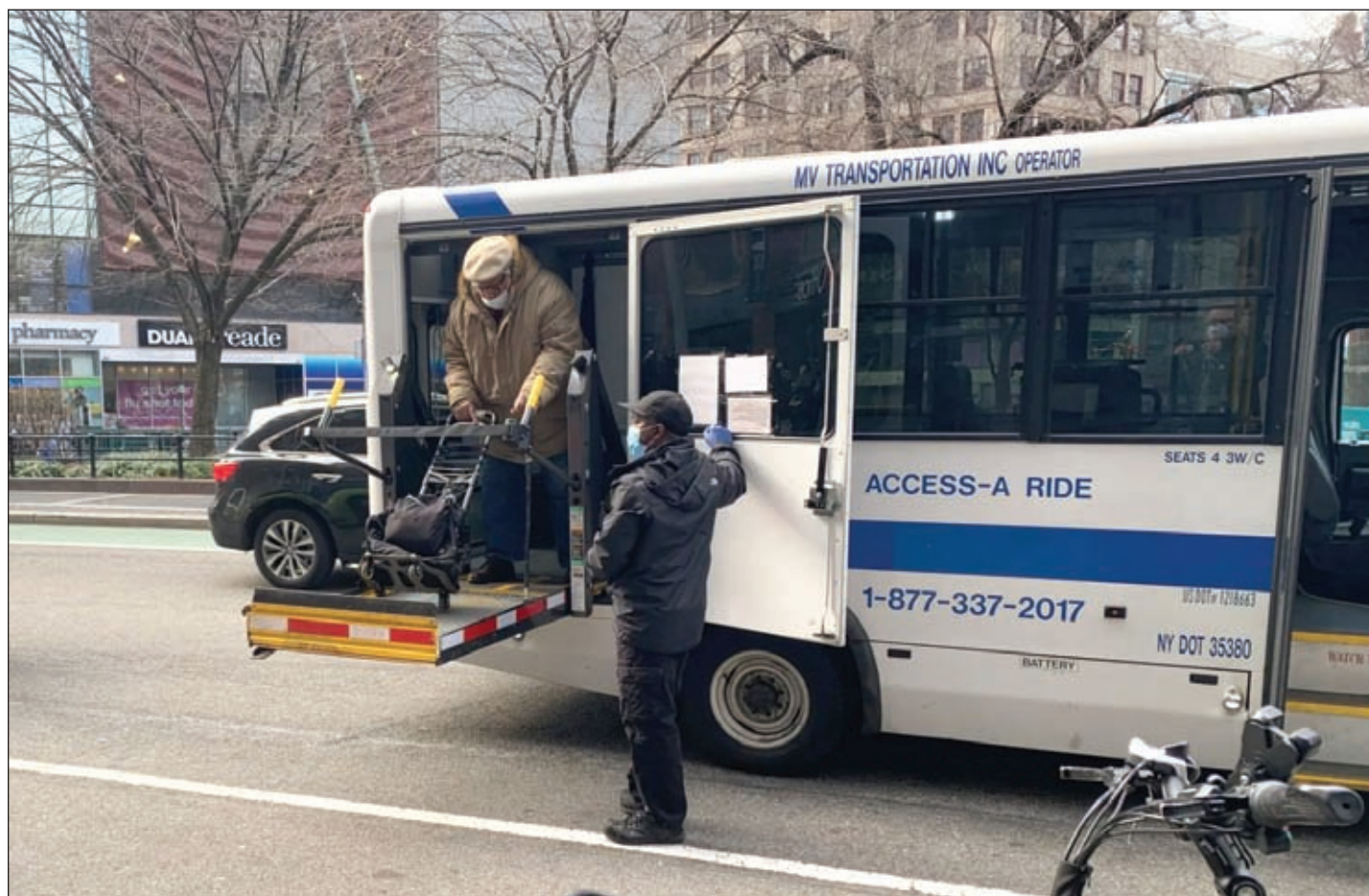
"It's very stressful," Paulino-Santos said.

Wilson, of New York Law School Legal Services Inc., cited the MTA's On-Demand E-Hail program — which allows 3,600 paratransit participants to book same-day trips — is a sign that the transit agency is capable of providing Access-A-Ride service that is more comparable to what commuters without disabilities use.

"Having to schedule your rides at 5 p.m. the day before you travel is just not feasible," she said.

The case will now continue in the discovery phase, with both sides exchanging information that will be used to prove or defend against the claims.

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



A man is lowered by an Access-A-Ride vehicle in Union Square.

Credit: Jose Martinez/THE CITY



# Judge allows concert season at Forest Hills Stadium to return

*Continued from page 1*

months have had differing views on how much the stadium's concert noise affects their daily life.

The court also said that affidavits from two independent sound experts retained by both parties who measured the noise from the stadium also reached different conclusions.

In its request for a preliminary injunction, the resident group said that if a full injunction wasn't warranted, they would want to see the stadium craft a plan to mitigate certain sound issues. However, Caloras ruled that the appropriate parties were not named in the lawsuit, thus didn't feel as though he was able to render any kind of order on sound mitigation.

"This court will not venture into asking artists to alter their live performances by adjusting their bass and the levels of various frequencies in their songs – especially when those artists are not parties to the case," court documents read.

Tiebreaker, the company which operates the concerts, is also not a party to the lawsuit.

The judge also said that Tiebreaker has "extended great effort and expense" to try to mitigate the noise issues and work with city agencies.

In conclusion, the judge ordered the stadium to continue working with the Department of Environmental Protection and NYPD to stay within the law and noise regulations.

Akiva Shapiro, an attorney for Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, who represents the stadium in the Concerned Citizens lawsuit, applauded the Monday ruling.

"Forest Hills Stadium is grateful for today's decision, in which the court found that the stadium has been working for years with all relevant city authorities and experts to address neighbor concerns," Shapiro said in a statement to the Eagle.

"After decades of bringing entertainment and music to Queens, the stadium knows that a collaborative and open relationship with its neighbors is key," Shapiro added. "Reasonability, cooperation, and engagement make the



Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert Caloras denied locals' preliminary injunction against Forest Hills Stadium on Monday, allowing the concert season to go as planned.  
Eagle file photo

experience better for those attending the shows and everyone in the area. The stadium does not take its role as stewards of this 101-year-old icon lightly and deeply appreciates all the support and encouragement."

In response to the Monday ruling, Concerned Citizens said in a statement that they don't see the outcome of the ruling on the injunction as a total loss.

"We are reviewing the judge's opinion and considering our options, however, we do note that, even though the court said that Concerned Citizen's motion 'is denied,' it did in fact grant some of Concerned Citizen's requested preliminary relief," they said. "Our motion sought an order requiring that the Stadium comply with

the Noise Code. The Court ordered this, stating that it 'orders Defendants to continue working with the DEP and NYPD to comply with relevant rules and regulations including the Noise Code.'"

The group also said that despite Caloras' ruling on the conflicting affidavits from noise experts, that they were "confident that after we have the opportunity to cross-examine defendant's witness at trial, the court will agree with us that the noise levels from the concerts are indeed unreasonable and constitute a nuisance, thereby entitling us to a permanent injunction stopping the concerts."

Regardless, the locals see this as just the beginning of a continuing court fight.

"This is just the beginning of what promises to be a long legal battle if city officials and the West Side Tennis Club fail to place reasonable restrictions on these events and if the DEP continues to fail to enforce the noise code," they said. "In the end, the facts, the law, and basic common decency are on our side. No one should be able to break the law, cause their neighbor's homes to shake, and get away with it."

Concerned Citizens have argued that there has been a massive uptick in the amount of loud concerts at the stadium in recent years, which has violated noise regulations by both being too loud and happening too late in the night. Also, residents have said the large crowds leave trash and damage the insulated community when they descend on the neighborhood for shows.

In return, lawyers for the stadium have argued the local group represents only a small section of the community, and that stopping concerts would be "catastrophic to the local economy, countless mom-and-pop businesses in the area, and the local job market."

But the group is not alone – two other lawsuits have been brought against the stadium by residents in the past year.

Two of those cases are currently before Queens Supreme Court Justice Joseph Esposito.

The locals in the two other cases make similar arguments to the residents in the Concerned Citizens case.

Esposito recently heard oral arguments in a case brought by the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation, who's residents have similar concerns, but also argue that the stadium's concerts go against the legal zoning framework it operates under.

The Forest Hills Gardens Corporation also filed for a preliminary injunction calling for the stadium to pause its upcoming concert season while the case plays out. The parties made oral arguments in the case on Friday and Esposito is expected to issue a ruling in the case before the start of concert season, which comes during the first week in May.

# Gov says budget is nearly done

By Jacob Kaye  
Queens Daily Eagle

Governor Kathy Hochul late Monday said that she had come to a conceptual agreement with the legislature on the state's budget, half a month after it was originally due.

While full details of the budget's line items and legislative inclusions remained underwraps – and possibly still undecided – at the time of Hochul's announcement, the governor said that the "parameters of a conceptual agreement" on the budget had been agreed upon.

Hochul did however share several broad strokes features of the \$237 billion budget, which comes in around \$4 billion higher than her initial proposal and has yet to be signed off on by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins or Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, neither of which were in attendance at the gover-

nor's announcement.

Central to the budget's hold up was negotiations over a housing deal which Hochul said had mostly been reached on Monday. Hochul called the plan "a transformative deal to reverse the downward spiral on housing stock all while protecting our tenants."

The governor also said the final budget deal will include legislation that will allow local law enforcement to take the enforcement of illegal cannabis shops into their own hands. It was unclear if the legislation featured in the deal is the same legislation that has been pushed by Queens Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar.

The budget also will include funding and legislation Hochul first introduced that she says will tackle retail theft.

Check back with the Eagle later this week for more on the state's budget deal.



Governor Kathy Hochul on Monday evening announced that a conceptual agreement had been reached between her and the legislature on the state's budget.  
File photo by Mike Groll/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

## BEHIND THE BENCH

The Eagle will devote even more coverage to the court officers, law clerks and other workers who make our courts run.

Have someone in mind who deserves a profile?  
Let us know who we should be covering.

Contact managing editor Jacob Kaye  
at [JacobK@queenspublicmedia.com](mailto:JacobK@queenspublicmedia.com)