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QUEENS TODAY

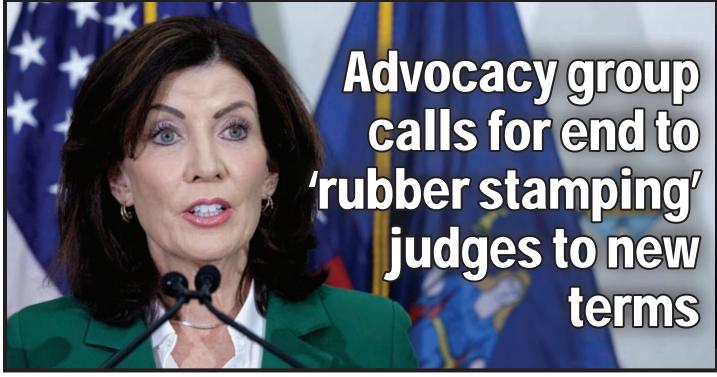
MAY 1, 2024

QUEENS LEGISLATORS, STREET safety advocates and victims of traffic violence gathered in Flushing on Tuesday in celebration of the passage of Sammy's Law and to call for its swift implementation in the five boroughs. Sammy's Law authorizes New York City to reduce its own speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph and from 15 mph to 10 mph in special traffic-calming zones, or "slow zones." Roads outside Manhattan with at least three lanes in a single direction will stay at 25 mph. The legislation was included in the recently passed FY25 state budget. "Too many lives have been lost to traffic violence, including those of young children, because our laws do not protect them," State Senator John Liu said. "Sammy Cohen Eckstein, Allison Hope Liao, Quintas Chen, Bayron Palomino Arroyo, and too many others were all young lives full of promise who were unfairly taken too soon. In a big city like New York, drivers need to slow down. The passage of Sammy's Law this month is a testament to their legacies, and we now call on the City of New York to act with the same urgency and implement these changes so no more families have to endure the heartbreak of losing a loved one to preventable traffic violence."

A WOMAN ON A TRAIN IN LONG ISland City was attacked by another woman last week and police are looking for the suspect, 1010 WINS reports. The 55-year-old victim was riding a northbound E train near the Queens Plaza station around 8:10 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, when police say she was attacked. The suspect punched her in the face multiple times before fleeing. The victim had bruising to her face but declined further medical attention at the scene. The suspect is believed to be in her 30s, and was seen wearing a brown jacket, a blue jumpsuit and fuzzy black sneakers.

CONSTRUCTION HAS TOPPED OUT on Edgemere Commons' second all-affordable housing structure at 5119 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway, New York YIMBY reports. The 247,000-square-foot structure will bring 237 rental apartments to the area, as well as 8,000 square feet of retail space and 7,500 square feet of community facility space.

MULTIPLE SUSPECTS ARE BEING sought for thefts in connection with a burglary pattern in Queens, PIX 11 reports. The first of the two burglaries being investigated occurred on Thursday, March 7, at around 2 p.m., when two suspects forcefully entered a residence in Malba, taking \$12,000 in cash, jewelry,\ and official documents. The second burglary took place around the same time on Friday, March 15. This time three suspects entered a residence in Auburndale, taking passports and official documents, and fled westbound toward Northern Boulevard.



The Center for Community Alternatives has called on Governor Kathy Hochul and lawmakers to take a judicial nominee's record into account when considering whether or not they deserve a second term on the bench. The group, which led the campaign against Hochul's chief judge pick last year, argues judges are often shuffled through without any scrutiny of their record.

By Jacob Kaye Queens Daily Eagle

A little more than a year after successfully lobbying the State Senate to reject the governor's chief judge nominee for the first time in history, the advocacy group behind the push is calling on the governor and state lawmakers to more closely scrutinize judicial appointments and nominations for judicial openings across the state

The Center for Community Alternatives, the group behind the campaign dubbed The Court New York Deserves, launched the next phase of its campaign this week, moving beyond the state's highest court and into its lower ones.

There, the group says that all too often,

termed judicial appointments are treated as lifetime appointments.

Peter Martin, Center for Community Alternatives' director of judicial accountability, said that judges seeking reappointment, re-nomination or reelection are more often than not given the OK by those in power without much of a second look, regardless of their performance on the bench.

"Our goal is to continue engaging constructively in the judicial selection process to courts across New York State and to make sure that our judges are fit for the bench and upholding their ethical responsibilities and the values that New Yorkers want to see the court system uphold,"

File photo by Mike Groll/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

"Judges' terms should mean something," Martin added. "Judges in New York are not given life tenure, and a status quo in which when someone is put on the bench, they can stay there as long as they want without any evaluation or external scrutiny is a status quo that needs to end."

To that end, The Court New York Deserves has begun to specifically lobby against the reappointment of one Brooklyn judge they say "has a long record of cruelty and impropriety on the bench," the group's website reads.

The group has begun to call on Governor Kathy Hochul to deny Court of Claims Judge Vincent Del Giudice any additional time on the *Continued on page 16*



Mayor Eric Adams walked back previous comments saying he could shut all illegal pot shops in 30 days once given the authority.

Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

By Ryan Schwach Queens Daily Eagle

Though Mayor Eric Adams has said for months that if given the power, he could close all the city's illegal smoke shops in 30 days, now that he's been given that power, the mayor says he may need a little more time.

At his weekly "off-topic" press conference on Tuesday, Adams walked back previous statements in which he said that he could close all the illegal smoke shops in the city once given the authority to by the state in a month. This week, he said a "substantial dent" could be made in that same timeline.

"Now we have the tools, we have the authority and we're going to start kicking into place," Adams said. "On the 31st day, don't be standing in front of City Hall and say 'Hey, I saw a shop because they're going to continue to open and we will continue to close it."

Included in the recently passed state budget was a provision that will allow for the city to take enforcement of the illicit shops into its own hands – enforcement was previously primarily handled by the state. The budget also increased See story on page 2

Adams walks back promise to shutter all of the city's illegal pot shops in 30 days

Continued from page 1

the penalty for shop owners who break back into their shop and open for business directly after having their doors padlocked.

Regardless of how long it will take to close shops, Adams said the process has already started.

"There's steps we have to do here also – I was just educated on all the steps we have to do," he said. "While this has taken place, the team has already identified [the illegal shops'] locations. We already have our operations."

The mayor added that he hoped what the city does could be a "model for the rest of the country."

However, Adams also said that shops will be able to find "loopholes" and will continue to open even after stores are officially closed by city officials and law enforcement.

"We got it, but trust me when I tell you there will be those that even when we close them, they're going to try to find a loophole to open them again," he said.

The 30-day statement originated from a release from Queens Assemblymember and Adams ally Jenifer Rajkumar shen she announced her SMOKEOUT Act, a similar bill to the one passed in the budget.

"Mayor Adams says when granted the enforcement power from Albany, he could clear up the smoke shops problem in 30 days," her release said.

Adams and Rajkumar both repeated that statement up until Tuesday.

When the measure was passed, City Hall confirmed to the Eagle that the NYPD will be deputized to take on enforcement, a process that will begin once the budget is wrapped up.

But on Tuesday, Adams said he was reluctant to get the police more involved.

"Ideally we would love to have the police department not have to be deputized, but they have to be deputized," he said.

Previously, only state agencies, including the Office of Cannabis Management, had the ability to actually police stores, although they did so with the assistance of city agencies like the Sheriff's Department.



Included in the state's budget is a bill that will grant New York City and other municipalities the ability to enforce illegal cannabis sales.

The amendment will allow the city to inspect, issue violations, seize cannabis and padlock stores.

Governor Kathy Hochul's office said that New York City will be able to conduct administrative hearings within five days of padlocking a store and will be provided with a decision within four days after the hearing.

"The padlock goes on immediately," Hochul said

For more than a year, the proliferation of il-

legal shops has been a hot button issue across the city, from elected officials down to community boards, who have tried to push back on them opening on local streets.

When announcing the budget measures, Hochul called those who open the illegal shops "rampant bad actors"

"People who run these illicit shops engage in fraudulent advertising about what's in their products, because they don't really care about your health," she said. "They'll source their the ability to enforce illegal cannabis sales. Photo by Susan Watts/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul product from anywhere because they don't care about New York farmers, they'll sell cannabis gummy rings, ice cream cones, chocolate bars, because they don't care about your kids, and they will evade taxes because they don't care about the communities where they operate."

Both Hochul and Adams have pushed back on the premise that expanding enforcement would bring back the overzealous and often racist cannabis policing measures practiced before legalization.

"They're misguided [if] they think that somehow this is going to return us to the bad old days of mass incarceration of people of color," Hochul said. "Nothing could be further from the truth"

New York boosts pay for legal defenders of children and indigent NYers in state budget



Queens Family Court, where 18-B attorneys will see a boost in their pay rate as a result of the latest state budget.

Eagle file photo by Walter Karling

By Robert Abruzzese
Queens Daily Eagle

The New York State Bar Association has praised the recent state budget approval, which secures increased compensation for 18-B attorneys who represent children and indigent adults in Criminal and Family Courts.

The decision comes after a significant push from the NYSBA, including a lawsuit filed at the end of 2022 to address long-standing inadequate pay rates for these essential legal services.

Previously, lawyers outside New York City received \$60 per hour for misdemeanor cases and \$75 for felonies — rates that had not been raised in nearly two decades.

The stagnant compensation led to a shortage of lawyers willing to take on such cases,

compromising the quality of legal defense for some of the most vulnerable populations, the attorneys argued.

"At the end of 2022, the New York State Bar Association filed suit to ensure that children and indigent adults could get meaningful and effective representation in family and criminal courts," said NYSBA President Richard Lewis. "At the time, lawyers outside of New York City were being paid \$60 an hour for a misdemeanor and \$75 an hour for a felony, the same amount they had been paid for nearly two decades."

"Failing to pay adequate compensation to represent children and indigent adults was a flagrant violation of the U.S. and New York constitutions," Lewis added. "The failure to raise rates had led to fewer attorneys who were

willing to take on these matters. Those who remained were overburdened and didn't have sufficient time to devote to each case."

The 2024-25 state budget rectifies this by setting the pay at \$158 per hour for assigned counsel, known as 18-B attorneys. Lewis explained that the previous rates were a "flagrant violation" of both the U.S. and New York constitutions and lauded the governor and the legislature for their commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of these groups.

The NYSBA continues to advocate for state funding for these roles, rather than relying on municipal budgets and is pushing for a mechanism to ensure regular increases to these rates in the future to maintain adequate legal representation for children and indigent adults.

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Jen Hopewell,
Assistant to the Publisher jdh@brooklyneagle.com

















City libraries eliminated late fees three years ago — How has it gone?

By Reuven Blau and Alex Krales

In October 2021, the city's libraries abolished fines on overdue materials and predicted it would unlock hundreds of thousands of people who had their cards blocked.

The result two-and-a-half years later has been a resounding success with a spike in materials taken out, library cards issued, and program attendance, according to officials in charge of New York City's three library systems.

"We've found that fines didn't incentivize returns, but were keeping out the people who most needed our free services, programming and access to knowledge," a joint statement from all systems said.

The Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is seeing at least 25% more new card applications a year, according to BPL spokesperson Fritzi Bodenheimer.

The New York Public Library — which covers Manhattan, The Bronx and Staten Island — has experienced a similar boost in new cards and circulation of branch materials has increased by over two million from fiscal year 2022 to 2023, said NYPL spokesperson Amy Geduldig.

At the Queens Public Library, new card registrations have surpassed pre-pandemic figures by up to 31% some months and the number of in-person visits have jumped by 47% since fines were abolished, according to QPL spokesperson Ewa Kern-Jedrychowska.

Paper Cuts

But library officials are worried the progress will be curtailed if the Adams administration pushes through a \$58.3 million budget cut as planned.

If enacted, the "devastating" cuts "threaten to upend much of the progress we've made over the past few years," a statement issued by the three library systems on Wednesday.

The budget reduction "will severely impact vulnerable communities who need our services the most," they added.

The city's 220 public libraries have already lost seven-day service citywide and are now looking at most branches being open for only five days a week, according to the library officials.

The proposed library funding reduction comes as funding for the city's police force and other uniformed services remain steady.

On Thursday, Mayor Eric Adams said the final \$111.6 billion budget is still being hashed out and predicted "everyone will be happy" with the final result.

"This is the negotiation part of it," Adams told PIX11.

"We're going to get to a meeting [with City Council] where we're going to shake hands... We understand the importance of libraries in our city," he added.



The Ottendorfer Branch on Second Avenue in the East Village was the city's first free public library, Feb. 2, 2022.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

For years, the mayor's initial budget included cuts to beloved libraries and other popular social services like senior centers — only to be partially or fully rescinded after pushback from the City Council and advocacy groups.

In 2016, the Council tried to eliminate the socalled budget dance by establishing baseline funding for oft-cut agencies and organizations.

A Fine Line

As for going fine free, libraries across the country have had similar success increasing usage after lifting monetary penalties, said Jessamyn West, a library technologist based in Vermont.

"It's a big equity issue," she said. "As more and more public libraries get clued into diversity inclusion, going fine free is a big part of it."

When it costs money to use libraries people don't use them as much, she added.

"There's a menacing aspect to fines," she added, noting she understands why some libraries still have fines.

Many public libraries in the United States believed that giving people access to books would make them better people and more educated participants in a Democratic society, according to West.

"I feel like some of the fine history in American public libraries is based on a slightly patronizing idea that you have to teach people how to use the commons — public libraries are a commons in some very real way," she said.

In New York City, patrons returned thousands of long overdue items shortly after the fines were lifted, the New York Times reported in March 2022. That included one item from 1970 and others that were so dated the branch addresses had changed, according to library officials.

One patron in the Mulberry Street Library in SoHo said the fine elimination has led to more frequent visits.

"I've come back here at least three four times a week instead of once every two or three weeks," said John Esposito.

Library officials caution that the fine elimination is likely not the only reason they have experienced an increase in usage. Other factors like the end of the pandemic and the added need for online access have also contributed to the boost in new cards and program attendance, according to city library leaders.

New York City isn't the first library system to eliminate fines — and drive up usage.

Studies have shown that the effects on revenue are minimal compared to library overall budgets. Research has also shown that the new policy does not tend to create a jump in books being returned late.

The new fine policy, however, hasn't come without some pitfalls.

Cards with overdue books are blocked from borrowing additional physical materials — books, magazines, and DVDs — when replacement fees reach \$50 or more in Queens and \$100 in the NYPL.

And some patrons return materials later since the fine has been abolished, according to one staffer at the Mulberry library.

"People are more relaxed returning things," said David Diaz, an information assistant at the branch. "They will return it later than if there were fines. They are not as diligent."

"But I think it's good," he added. "People are still conscientious about returning things."

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



The NYPL's Mulberry Street Branch in SoHo, April 26, 2024.

Credit: Alex Krales/THE CITY

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Gen Zers and Millennials Are Still Big Fans of Books, Even Though They Don't Identify as 'Readers'

By Kathi Inman Berens and Rachel Noorda The Conversation

Identifying with an activity is different from actually doing it.

For example, 49% of Americans play video games, but only 10% identify as gamers.

According to a recent survey we conducted, there's also a small gap between reading activity and identity for younger readers: 61% of Generation Z and millennials have read a print book, e-book or audiobook in the past 12 months, but only 57% identify as readers.

And yet there was a puzzling aspect of our results: The 43% of Gen Z and millennials who didn't identify as readers actually said they read more print books per month than Gen Z and millennials overall.

In other words, young people who don't identify as readers are reading books at a higher rate than their generational cohorts as a whole.

Why?

Our best guess is that "reader" is an identity, not a behavior. And that identity is buttressed by involvement in book clubs, engagement with social media communities such as Book Tok and Bookstagram, and access to libraries and bookstores.

Building bookish communities

Identities of reader, writer and fan seem to reinforce each other.

Millennials and members of Gen Z who identify as readers are also more likely to be writers and participate in fandom.

Community is key to all of these identities. For example, two of the top reasons millennials and members of Gen Z identify as fans are the fact that they're "part of a fan community" and are able to "meet others like me."

Every August, the Edinburgh International Book Festival in Scotland — the largest book festival in the world — puts on an entire month of events around books, authors and readers.

During the 2023 event, which we attended, you could see attendees clamoring to see writers like Alice Oseman, author of the bestselling "Heartstopper" graphic novels.

We heard fans waiting in that line talking about how Oseman's series featured the first gay characters they'd encountered in a book. Readers came to the festival with friends and family, and made new friends and connections at the event. The passion was palpable.

What 'counts' as reading

But does a graphic novel like "Heartstopper" even count as "real" reading?

If the National Endowment

for the Arts definitions from the early 2000s are to be believed, then no — unless it's reading literature for leisure, it must not be "real" reading.

And some millennials and members of Gen Z may believe that the reading they are doing isn't real reading. But a narrow definition of what counts as reading ignores the love Gen Zers and millennials have for content such as graphic novels, manga and comics.

manga and comics.

In our study, 59% said they would prefer a graphic version of a story over text-only. And let's not forget audiobooks, which 34% of Gen Zers and millennials prefer over text-only. Millennials and members of Gen Z are also reading nonfiction or reading for school and work, rather than pleasure.

In a separate study from 2020, we found that 83% of American readers read books for reasons other than entertainment, such as school, work or self-improvement.

What makes a reader?

More Gen Z and millennial women identify as readers, so there could be gender differences at play: Perhaps young men, no matter how much they read, are hesitant to closely identify with an activity they see as the purview of women.

Socioeconomic status may also factor into whether someone feels they can claim a readerly identity. Gen Zers and millennials who didn't identify as readers were less likely to have a job in the past 12 months and earned less money.

So it turns out that identifying as a reader is often about community, wealth and gender — and what counts as reading — than it is about how much someone actually reads.

Perhaps there can be an effort to broaden the definition of "reading" — yes, audiobooks and comics count — and to build bookish communities beyond places such as Bookstagram and BookTok. And being a reader can be more than loving classic literature, though certain social media trends, such as "Reading Like Rory" — a BookTok phenomenon centered on the literary classics read by Rory Gilmore of "Gilmore Girls" — amounted to just that.

If young people were to see being a reader as simply enjoying and engaging with stories, how many of them would start to call themselves readers after all?

Kathi Inman Berens is an associate professor of book publishing and digital humanities at Portland State University. Rachel Noorda is an associate professor of publishing at Portland State University.









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Fernández Filling Assistant Vacancies; New Nets Coach Reportedly Adds Hetzel and Howard

By John Torenli, Sports Editor
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

With the 2024 Summer Olympics looming, new Nets head coach Jordi Fernández has been busy making arrangements to lead Team Canada while also picking out the coaching staff that will oversee Brooklyn's roster while he's trying to earn another medal in Paris.

According to several sources, including ESPN, Fernández has added former Portland assistant Steve Hetzel, as well as ex-University of Michigan coach and Fab Five member Juwan Howard to his bench for the 2024-25 season.

Fernández, who helped Canada grab its first-ever medal, a bronze, in men's basketball at last summer's FIBA World Cup, has three months before the games begin in the City of the Lights.

Officially hired here in Brooklyn last Wednesday, Fernández wasted no time talking about his coaching philosophies.

talking about his coaching philosophies.
"You want to be process-oriented for a long time and sustain it," he said in an exclusive YES Network interview. "If we win as a team, everyone is going to be OK."
"We're gonna fight really hard," he

"We're gonna fight really hard," he added. "(The fans will) be proud watching a real competitive team. ... A team that is connected so everybody sees that they do it together."

Fernández, of course, knows he can't coach the Nets alone.

After spending the past two seasons as Mike Brown's top associate in Sacramento, the 41-year-old Badalona, Spain native is picking an NBA staff for the first time.

Hetzel was first reported to be headed to our borough by ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski even before the new coach took the podium at Industry City's HSS Training Center last week.

An assistant in Charlotte and Orlando previously, Hetzel spent the past three years on Chauncey Billups' bench with the Trail Blazers. He coached the franchise's 2022 Summer League squad to a championship

Howard, of course, broke into the NCAA alongside Chris Webber, Jalen



Former Michigan head coach Juwan Howard has reportedly joined the Nets' staff as one of Jordi Fernandez's assistants.

AP Photo by Carlos Osorio

Rose, Jimmy King and Austin Ray Jackson at Michigan in 1991, helping the Wolverines reach the Final Four in 1992 and 1993. Following a 19-year NBA career that

Following a 19-year NBA career that saw him win a pair of titles in Miami with LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, the 51-year-old Chicago native earned Associated Press Coach of the Year honors at Michigan in 2021.

While Hetzel, a Michigan State alum who never played in the NBA, may be a candidate to lead the Nets' Summer

League team in Las Vegas in mid-July, Howard will be a valuable resource to every man on the roster based on his long and productive career.

He averaged 13.4 points and 6.1 rebounds in 1,208 regular-season games during stops in Washington, Dallas, Denver, Orlando, Houston, Portland and Miami.

After five years at his alma mater, Howard will be trying to help the Nets bounce back from their first non-postseason campaign in six years.

Fernández is still formulating his coaching style and how he hopes to get the most out of the Nets' roster.

"I don't know if I'm good or bad, but I can tell you I try," he said. "We gotta fight. That's what's going to make everybody proud."

While the Nets prepare for a busy offseason, the New York Liberty have already opened training camp in Downtown Brooklyn ahead of their much-anticipated 2024 campaign.

The team officially announced its preseason roster on Sunday, including a septet of returnees, spearheaded by starters Jonquel Jones, Breanna Stewart, Courtney Vandersloot, Sabrina Ionescu and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton.

Rookie Marquesha Davis, selected 11th overall in this year's WNBA Draft at the Brooklyn Academy of Music earlier this month, figures to be the most-watched new addition in camp.

new addition in camp.

Second-round picks Esmery Martinez and Jessika Carter will also be at Barclays Center, along with training-camp signees Rita Igbokwe, Jaylyn Sherrod, Brianna Fraser and Stephanie Mawuli.

New York also revealed that Okako Adika, the Liberty's 30th pick in 2023, will also be in Brooklyn until the team breaks camp next month ahead of its May 14 season opener in Washington.



Sabrina Ionescu and the New York Liberty have opened training camp at Barclays Center ahead of their 2024 campaign.

AP Photo by Darron Cummings

The Liberty also brought in a trio of free agents, including Kennedy Burke, Leonie Fiebich and Ivana Dojkić, each of whom has international and WNBA experience

The defending Eastern Conference champions will begin their exhibition slate on May 7 at Chicago before visiting Connecticut two days later.

New York will open the home portion of its regular-season schedule on May 18 at Barclays vs. Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever.



Ex-Blazers assistant Steve Hetzel (center) is bringing his talents Downtown in the same role with the Brooklyn Nets.

AP Photo by Erin Hooley



Our World In Pictures



LONDON — A royal moment of appreciation: ain's King Charles III holds up flowers he was given as he leaves after a visit to University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in London, Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The King, patron of Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support, and Queen Camilla visited the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre, meeting patients and staff. This visit is to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and will highlight some of the innovative research, supported by Cancer Research UK, which is taking place at the hospital.

Photo: Kin Cheung/AP



OREGON — One more American billionaire... why can't we have a thousand millionaires? Cheng "Charlie" Saephan holds display check above his head after speaking during a news conference where it was revealed that he was one of the winners of the \$1.3 billion Powerball jackpot at the Oregon Lottery headquarters on Monday, April 29, 2024, in Salem, OR.

Photo: Jenny Kane/AP



CHARLOTTE — **Gun violence, police victims:** Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles gets choked up as she speaks at a press conference regarding a shooting in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, April 29, 2024. Several officers on a U.S. Marshals Task Force serving a warrant for a felon wanted for possessing a firearm were killed and other officers were wounded in a shootout Monday in North Carolina, police said.

Photo: Nell Redmond/AP



RIO DE JANEIRO — The best pre-concert testimonial: Beachgoer Elizabeth Goncalves shows off her newly bought Madonna T-shirt ahead of Madonna's concert on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, April 29, 2024.

Photo: Bruna Prado/AP





Our World In Pictures

MADRID — The left-handed Clay Master — eye on ball: Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Pedro Cachin of Argentina during the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 29, 2024.

Photo: Manu Fernandez/AP



BUENOS AIRES — No encampments, just a lone expression of freedom of speech: A protester wears a mask of Argentine President Javier Milei during an anti-government rally outside Congress as law-makers debate Milei's bill that includes a broad range of economic, administrative, criminal, and environmental reforms in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday, April 29, 2024. The sign reads in Spanish "No to the base law. Socialist left."

Photo: Rodrigo Abd/AP



KENYA — **Nature's revenge** — **heavy rains burst a dam:** People try to clear the area after a dam burst in Kamuchiri Village Mai Mahiu, Nakuru County, Kenya, Monday, April 29, 2024. Kenya's Interior Ministry says at least 45 people have died and dozens are missing after a dam collapsed following heavy rains.

Photo: Patrick Ngugi/AP



MASSACHUSETTS — Cuffless defendant walks with swagger: Karen Read, right, is flanked by Massachusetts State Police while leaving Norfolk Superior Court after the opening day of her trial, Monday, April 29, 2024, in Dedham, Mass. Read is charged with killing her Boston police officer boyfriend by intentionally driving her SUV into him.

Photo: Charles Krupa/AP

Judge raises threat of jail as he holds Trump in contempt, fines him \$9,000 at hush money trial

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz, Jake Offenhartz and Colleen Long

Donald Trump was held in contempt of court Tuesday and fined \$9,000 for repeatedly violating a gag order that barred him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to his New York hush money case. And if he does it again, the judge warned, he could be jailed.

Prosecutors had alleged 10 violations, but New York Judge Juan M. Merchan found there were nine. Trump stared down at the table in front of him as the judge read the ruling, frowning slightly.

It was a stinging rebuke of the Republican former president's insistence that he was exercising his free speech rights and a reminder that he's a criminal defendant subject to the harsh realities of trial procedure. The judge's suggestion that he may jail the former president signaled that Trump's already precarious legal standing could further spiral depending on his behavior during the trial.

Trump did not respond to reporters' shouted inquiries about the fine in the courthouse hallway.

Merchan wrote that he is "keenly aware of, and protective of," Trump's First Amendment rights, "particularly given his candidacy for the office of President of the United States."

"It is critically important that defendant's legitimate free speech rights not be curtailed, that he be able to fully campaign for the office which he seeks and that he be able to respond and defend himself against political attacks," Merchan wrote.

Still, he warned that the court would not tolerate "willful violations of its lawful orders and that if necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, it will impose an incarceratory punishment."

With that statement, the judge drew nearer the specter of Trump becoming the first former president of the United States behind bars.

Trump is used to having constant access to his social media bullhorn to slam opponents and speak his mind. After he was banned from Twitter following the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, Trump launched his own platform, where his posts wouldn't be blocked or restricted. And he has long tried to distance himself from controversial messages he's amplified to his millions of followers by insisting they're "only retweets."

But he does have experience with gag orders, which were also imposed in his civil fraud trial. After he was found to have violated those orders, he paid more than \$15,000 in fines.

Tuesday's ruling came at the start of the second week of testimony in the historic case, in



Former President Donald Trump appears at Manhattan criminal court before his trial in New York, Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Justin Lane/Pool Photo via AP

which Manhattan prosecutors argue Trump and his associates took part in an illegal scheme to influence the 2016 presidential campaign by purchasing and then burying seamy stories. The payouts went to a doorman with a torrid yarn; former Playboy model Karen McDougal, who had accusations of an affair; and to porn performer Stormy Daniels, who alleged a sexual encounter with Trump. He has pleaded not guilty and says the stories are all fake.

Trump was ordered to pay the gag-order fine by the close of business Friday and must remove seven offending posts from his Truth Social account and two from his campaign website by 2:15 p.m. EDT Tuesday. The judge is also weighing other alleged gag-order violations by Trump and will hear arguments Thursday. He also announced that he will halt the trial on May 17 to allow Trump to attend his son Barron's high school graduation.

Of the 10 posts, the one Merchan ruled was not a violation came on April 10, a post referring to witnesses Michael Cohen and Daniels as "sleaze bags." Merchan said Trump's contention that he was responding to previous posts by Cohen "is sufficient to give" him pause on whether the post was a violation.

Among those he found to be violations, Merchan ruled that a Trump post quoting Fox News host Jesse Watters' claim that liberal activists were lying to infiltrate the jury "constitutes a clear violation" of the gag order. Merchan noted that the words contained within the quotation marks in Trump's April 17 post misstated what Watters actually said.

Merchan cautioned that the gag order "not be used as a sword instead of a shield by potential witnesses" and that if people who are protected by the order, like Cohen, continue to attack Trump "it becomes apparent" they don't need the gag order's protection.

Cohen, Trump's former attorney, has said he will refrain from commenting about Trump until after he testifies at the trial. On Tuesday, he said in a text message to The Associated Press: "The imposed fine is irrelevant. Judge Merchan's decision elucidates that this behavior will not be tolerated and that no one is above the law."

In other developments, testimony resumed Tuesday with Gary Farro, a banker who helped Cohen open accounts, including one that Cohen used to buy Daniels' silence. She alleged a 2006 sexual encounter with Trump, which he denies.

Jurors also began hearing from Keith Davidson, a lawyer who represented McDougal and Daniels in their negotiations with the National Enquirer and Cohen. He testified that he arranged a meeting at his Los Angeles office to see whether the National Enquirer's parent company was interested in McDougal's story. But Dylan Howard, the Enquirer's then editor in chief, told him the tabloid wasn't keen on the idea because she "lacked documentary evidence of the interaction,"

Justin Lane/Pool Photo V

Davidson testified.

A month after their initial lunch meeting, Howard reached out again to Davidson, suggesting they should resume discussions about the story. At the time, Davidson warned that American Media Inc., the Enquirer's parent company, would need to move quickly.

Davidson testified that McDougal was "teetering" at the time he sent the message and was on the verge of signing a deal to tell her story to ABC News.

Davidson said that he was playing the Enquirer and ABC News against each other to get the best deal for McDougal. The ex-Playboy model didn't want to tell her story publicly, which would've been required if she went to ABC, he said.

The tabloid eventually bought the story.

Trump is charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payments. The detailed evidence on business transactions and bank accounts is setting the stage for testimony from Cohen, who went to federal prison after pleading guilty in 2018 to campaign finance violations and other crimes.

Last week, former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker laid out how he agreed to serve as the Trump campaign's "eyes and ears" by helping to squelch unflattering rumors and claims about Trump and women. Pecker described how he paid \$180,000 to scoop up and sit on stories.

Trump's attorneys have suggested that he was engaged in an effort to protect his name and his family — not to influence the outcome of the presidential election.

The trial — the first of Trump's four criminal cases to come before a jury — is expected to last for another month or more. And with every moment Trump is in court, he's growing increasingly frustrated while the November election moves ever closer.

For his part, Trump has been campaigning in his off-hours, but he is required to be in court when it is in session, four days a week. Outside the courtroom Tuesday, he again criticized the case.

"This is a case that should have never been brought," he said.



Former President Donald Trump appears at Manhattan criminal court before his trial in New York, Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Justin Lane/Pool Photo via AP



Cornell University is one of the more than 60 colleges and universities in New York that continues to consider legacy status in admissions — a practice that a new bill seeks to prohibit. Here, a Cornell student plays frisbee on campus on November 3, 2023 in Ithaca, New York.

Matt Burkhartt / Getty Images

Amid growing calls to end legacy admissions, New York considers banning the practice

By Julian Shen-Berro Chalkbeat

Some New York lawmakers, students, and advocates are calling for colleges in the state to end the practice of legacy admissions, which grants additional priority to the relatives of alumni.

Proponents of the "Fair College Admissions Act" say giving preference to students whose relatives attended an elite institution overwhelmingly favors white, wealthy families. The bill would prohibit the use of legacy admissions for undergraduates by colleges and universities in New York, while establishing financial penalties for those who refuse to comply with the law.

The push for the bill follows a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year that overturned affirmative action, significantly hindering the nation's colleges and universities' ability to consider race during admissions.

State Sen. Andrew Gounardes, a sponsor of the bill, called legacy admissions "a form of affirmative action for students of immense privilege."

"At institutions that do use legacy, the admissions rate at some of the most exclusive schools is four times greater for legacy students versus non-legacy students," he said. "And 75% of all legacy students come from the top 10% of wealthiest families in the country."

Nationwide, nearly 30% of higher education institutions consider legacy status — with that figure rising to over 40% in New York, according to a report by the advocacy group Education Reform Now. And in 2022, a study found a growing number of adults believed legacy status should not play a factor in admissions, including more than 70% of both Democrats and Republicans.

At schools where legacy admissions have long been the norm, opposition has continued to surface on campuses. At Cornell University, students have passed multiple resolutions calling for the university to end the practice.

"It's a fundamentally wrong and unfair practice," said Claire Tempelman, a senior at Cornell who helped introduce a 2021 resolution urging the university to end legacy admissions. The Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action last year only added to the urgency around the issue, Tempelman said.

"It's ridiculous that even though you're getting rid of affirmative action, you're still keeping what is essentially affirmative action for the wealthy," she added. "It's this hypocrisy that makes legacy admissions just seem even more untenable."

Jonathan Lam, a freshman at Cornell, said he's been particularly concerned about the impact of the Supreme Court's decision. As a child of Vietnamese refugees, he said he received significant help navigating college admissions from Thrive Scholars, a nonprofit organization that supports students of color from low-income communities.

"If we're going to overturn affirmative action, and say that these DEI academic programs are problematic and controversial, then it also puts a lot of these organizations that supported students like me at risk," he said. "It adds this urgency to the need to have a conversation about not just temporary solutions to supporting BIPOC and firstgen students, but also understanding the education system."

It's a cause that has earned the support of major advocacy groups in the state. The New York Coalition for Fair College Admissions — which includes the NAACP New York State Conference, the New York Civil Liberties Union, Education Reform Now, and other groups — has repeatedly called for the practice to end.

"The gutting of affirmative action makes ending this practice for New York even more of a racial-justice imperative," said Jake Martinez, deputy director of NYCLU's Education Policy Center. "When you think about the wealth that these families have ... Low-income students, first-generation students don't have those same resources.

"So wealthy families have not only the resources for college readiness, but also an upper hand through legacy admissions," he said.

In May, high school and college students from across the state will travel to Albany, urging law-makers to pass the legislation as part of a youth lobby day, Martinez added.

Other states are also considering changes to the practice. In Virginia, state lawmakers passed legislation earlier this year that barred public universities from giving preferential treatment to the relatives of alumni and donors. Meanwhile, in 2021, Colorado became the first state in the nation to ban legacy admissions — though the broader impact of that change remains unclear.

And in New York and elsewhere, some institutions have voluntarily stopped considering legacy status in admissions. Last year, NYU removed a question asking whether applicants were the children of alumni from its application — with the college affirming that legacy status does not play a role in admissions.

Under the proposed New York law, colleges

that continue to consider legacy status in admissions would face a financial penalty — with the money collected being funneled into the state's tuition assistance program for low-income students.

"All of these institutions benefit from New York state dollars," Gounardes said. "We should not be funding exclusionary practices."

With the state budget now enacted, he is hopeful that lawmakers will move to address legacy admissions. There's been general support for

the bill among colleagues in Albany, according to Gounardes.

"It may seem small, but it strikes at the notion of fairness and justice," Gounardes said.
"To allow a student to get into one of the most elite schools in the country just because their parents went there ... That just seems inherently unfair."

Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news site covering educational change in public schools.



ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER AND INSTALLATION OF THE 2024-2025 OFFICERS & MANAGERS

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HON. ROWAN D. WILSON
CHIEF JUDGE
NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

Cocktails: 5:30 pm • Dinner & Program: 7:00 pm Business Attire

Reservations: \$190 per person

Early Reservations: \$165 per person through May 12 \$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)

2nd Department/Public Legal Notices

FILE NO.: 2021-80/C CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND IN-DEPENDENT TO: ANTHONY R. BALD-WIN, AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL BANK, SPECTRUM, MTA BRIDGES & TUNNELS EZ-PASS BY TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS INC., LIBERTY MUTUAL BY CREDIT COLLECTION SERVICES, ADT, NORTHWELL HEALTH - LIJ MEDICAL CENTER BY PROFESSIONAL CLAIMS BUREAU, LLC, CITIBANK, ACN, CHASE SLATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK THE UNKNOWN DISTRIBUTEES, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND ASSIGNEES OF LOUIS BALDWIN AKA LOUIS JOHN BALDWIN, DECEASED, OR THEIR ES-TATES, IF ANY THERE BE, WHOSE NAMES, PLACES OF RESIDENCE AND POST OFFICE ADDRESSES ARE UN-KNOWN TO THE PETITIONER AND CANNOT WITH DUE DILIGENCE BE ASCERTAINED A COPY OF THIS CI-TATION AND THE ACCOUNTING, AS WELL AS ALL AMENDMENTS TO IT. IF ANY, SHALL BE SERVED ON THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM, JAMES M. KER-INS, ESO, BEING THE PERSONS INTER-ESTED AS CREDITORS, LEGATEES, DIS-TRIBUTEES OR OTHERWISE IN THE ESTATE OF LOUIS BALDWIN AKA LOU-IS JOHN BALDWIN, DECEASED, WHO AT THE TIME OF DEATH WAS A RESI-DENT OF 197-27 FOOTHILL AVENUE. HOLLIS, NY 11423, IN THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, STATE OF NEW YORK. SEND GREETING: UPON THE PETITION OF LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, PUBLIC AD-MINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUN-TY, WHO MAINTAINS HER OFFICE AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAI-CA, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK 11435. AS TEMPORARY ADMINISTRA-TOR OF THE ESTATE OF LOUIS BALD-WIN AKA LOUIS JOHN BALDWIN, DE-CEASED, YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BE-FORE THE SURROGATE AT THE SUR-ROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUN-TY OF QUEENS, TO BE HELD AT THE QUEENS GENERAL COURTHOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOU-LEVARD, JAMAICA, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THE 30TH DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT 9:30 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON, WHY THE AMEND-ED ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUNTY, AS TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID DECEASED, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED, SHOULD NOT BE JUDI-CIALLY SETTLED, AND WHY THE SUR-ROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND AL-LOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO GERARD J. SWEE-NEY, ESO., FOR LEGAL SERVICES REN-DERED TO PETITIONER HEREIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,965.39 AND THAT THE COURT FIX THE FAIR AND REA-SONABLE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR ANY SERVICES TO BE RENDERED BY GE-RARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., HEREAFTER IN CONNECTION WITH PROCEED-INGS ON KINSHIP, CLAIMS ETC., PRI-OR TO ENTRY OF A FINAL DECREE ON THIS ACCOUNTING IN THE AMOUNT OF 4.5% OF ASSETS OR INCOME COL-LECTED AFTER THE DATE OF THE WITHIN ACCOUNTING; AND WHY THE SURROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND ALLOW AN AMOUNT EOUAL TO ONE PERCENT ON SAID SCHEDULES OF THE TOTAL ASSETS ON SCHEDULES A, A1, AND A2 PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL MONIES RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF THIS ACCOUNT, AS THE FAIR AND REASONABLE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUB-LIC ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE EX-PENSES OF SAID OFFICE PURSUANT TO S.C.P.A. SEC. 1106(3); AND WHY THE CLAIM OF AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL BANK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,009.15 SHOULD NOT BE REJECT-ED; AND WHY THE CLAIM OF SPEC-TRUM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$461.15 SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED; AND WHY THE CLAIM OF MTA BRIDGES & TUNNELS EZ PASS BY TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56.37 SHOULD NOT BE REJECT-ED; AND WHY THE CLAIM OF LIB-ERTY MUTUAL BY CREDIT COLLEC-TION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$196.61 SHOULD NOT BE REJECT-ED: AND WHY THE CLAIM OF ADT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$420.73 SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED; AND WHY THE CLAIM OF NORTHWELL HEALTH -LIJ MEDICAL CENTER BY PROFES-SIONAL CLAIMS BUREAU, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$704.00 SHOULD NOT

\$2,367,20 SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED: AND WHY THE CLAIM OF ACN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75.21 SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED: AND WHY THE CLAIM OF CHASE SLATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,670.47 SHOULD NOT BE REJECT-ED: AND WHY ANTHONY BALDWIN SHOULD NOT BE ORDERED TO TURN-OVER THE SUM OF \$290,000.00 TO THE ESTATE OF LOUIS BALDWIN: AND WHY EACH OF YOU CLAIMING TO BE A DISTRIBUTEE OF THE DECEDENT SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH PROOF OF YOUR KINSHIP; AND WHY THE BAL-ANCE OF SAID FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE PAID TO SAID ALLEGED DISTRIB-UTEES UPON PROOF OF KINSHIP, OR DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMISSION-ER OF FINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHOULD SAID ALLEGED DIS-TRIBUTEES DEFAULT HEREIN, OR FAIL TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF KINSHIP. DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED 9TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024 HON. PETER J. KELLY SURROGATE, OUEENS COUN-TY JANET EDWARDS TUCKER CHIEF CLERK GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 MARCUS AVE-NUE, SUITE 200 LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF RE-QUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY ACCOUNT-

CITATION

FILE NO.: 2022-3530/A THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDE-PENDENT TO: JESSE GREENLOW, JACK GREENLOW, LEONA GREEN-LOW-TURNER, MICHAEL GREENLOW. DENISE LEBLANC, DONNIE PAUL RO ZIER, JR., DWAYNE ROZIER, SR., JEF-FREY ROZIER, CHARLENE LEAK, ES-TATE OF WILLIAM A. ROZIER, HELEN ROZIER, WILLIAM A. ROZIER, SR., HOPE S. WIGGINS, STEPHON C. ROZIER, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK THE UNKNOWN DISTRIBUTEES, LEGATEES, DEVI-SEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND ASSIGN-EES OF DEBORAH E. GREENLOW, DE-CEASED, OR THEIR ESTATES, IF ANY THERE BE, WHOSE NAMES, PLAC-ES OF RESIDENCE AND POST OF-FICE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PETITIONER AND CANNOT WITH DUE DILIGENCE BE ASCERTAINED A COPY OF THIS CITATION AND THE AC-COUNTING, AS WELL AS ALL AMEND-MENTS TO IT, IF ANY, SHALL BE SERVED ON THE GUARDIAN AD LI-TEM, DENNIS JAMES WILEY, ESQ. BE-ING THE PERSONS INTERESTED AS CREDITORS, LEGATEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR OTHERWISE IN THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH E. GREENLOW, DECEASED, WHO AT THE TIME OF DEATH WAS A RESIDENT OF 61-25 98TH STREET, APT 3M, REGO PARK, NY 11374, IN THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, STATE OF NEW YORK. SEND GREETING: UPON THE PETITION OF LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF OUEENS COUNTY, WHO MAINTAINS HER OF-FICE AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK 11435, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH E. GREEN-LOW, DECEASED, YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BEFORE THE SURROGATE AT THE SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF OUFFNS, TO BE HELD AT THE QUEENS GENERAL COURT-HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT 9:30 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON, WHY THE ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC AD-MINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUN-TY. AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ES-TATE OF SAID DECEASED, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED, SHOULD NOT BE JUDICIALLY SETTLED. AND WHY THE SURROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND ALLOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., FOR LE-GAL SERVICES RENDERED TO PETI-TIONER HEREIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,717.44 AND THAT THE COURT FIX THE FAIR AND REASONABLE ADDI-TIONAL FEE FOR ANY SERVICES TO BE RENDERED BY GERARD J. SWEENEY, WITH PROCEEDINGS ON KINSHIP CLAIMS ETC., PRIOR TO ENTRY OF A FINAL DECREE ON THIS ACCOUNT-ING IN THE AMOUNT OF 6% OF AS-SETS OR INCOME COLLECTED AFTER THE DATE OF THE WITHIN ACCOUNT-ING: AND WHY THE SURROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND ALLOW AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT ON SAID SCHEDULES OF THE TOTAL ASSETS ON SCHEDULES A, A1, AND A2 PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL MONIES RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF THIS ACCOUNT, AS THE FAIR AND REASONABLE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADMIN-ISTRATOR FOR THE EXPENSES OF SAID OFFICE PURSUANT TO S.C.P.A. SEC. 1106(3); AND WHY EACH OF YOU CLAIMING TO BE A DISTRIBUTEE OF THE DECEDENT SHOULD NOT ESTAB-LISH PROOF OF YOUR KINSHIP: AND WHY THE BALANCE OF SAID FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE PAID TO SAID AL-LEGED DISTRIBUTEES UPON PROOF OF KINSHIP, OR DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHOULD SAID ALLEGED DISTRIBUTEES DE-FAULT HEREIN, OR FAIL TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF KINSHIP, DATED, ATTEST-ED AND SEALED 3RD DAY OF APRIL. 2024 HON. PETER J. KELLY ACTING SURROGATE, QUEENS COUNTY JAN-ET EDWARDS TUCKER CHIEF CLERK GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 MARCUS AVENUE, SUITE 200 LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR: HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OB-JECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTOR-NEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S AT-TORNEY ACCOUNTING CITATION

#2165

CITATION FILE NO.: 2023-994/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT TO: DANIEL J. TUBRIDY, MICHAEL J. TUBRIDY, TIMOTHY J. TUBRIDY, PATRICIA J. TUBRIDY, KATHLEEN J. HORAN, JOHN F. TUBRIDY, JANE M. TUBRIDY, RA-MON VENETUCCI, ATTORNEY GEN-ERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK THE UNKNOWN DISTRIBUTEES, LEG-ATEES, DEVISEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND ASSIGNEES OF GLORIA TUBRIDY, DE-CEASED, OR THEIR ESTATES, IF ANY THERE BE, WHOSE NAMES, PLAC-ES OF RESIDENCE AND POST OF-FICE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PETITIONER AND CANNOT WITH DUE DILIGENCE BE ASCER-TAINED A COPY OF THIS CITATION AND THE ACCOUNTING, AS WELL AS ALL AMENDMENTS TO IT, IF ANY, SHALL BE SERVED ON THE GUARD-IAN AD LITEM, DENNIS JAMES WILEY, ESO. BEING THE PERSONS INTEREST-ED AS CREDITORS, LEGATEES, DIS-TRIBUTEES OR OTHERWISE IN THE ES-TATE OF GLORIA TUBRIDY, DECEASED. WHO AT THE TIME OF DEATH WAS A RESIDENT OF 29 WEST 11TH ROAD, BROAD CHANNEL, NY 11693, IN THE COUNTY OF OUEENS, STATE OF NEW YORK. SEND GREETING: UPON THE PETITION OF LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF OUEENS COUNTY, WHO MAINTAINS HER OF-FICE AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, OUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK 11435, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF GLORIA TUBRIDY, DE-CEASED, YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BE-FORE THE SURROGATE AT THE SUR-ROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, TO BE HELD AT THE QUEENS GENERAL COURTHOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAI-CA, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT 9:30 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON. WHY THE ACCOUNT OF PROCEED-INGS OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRA-TOR OF QUEENS COUNTY, AS ADMIN-ISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID DECEASED, A COPY OF WHICH IS AT-TACHED, SHOULD NOT BE JUDICIAL-LY SETTLED, AND WHY THE SURRO-GATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND ALLOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO GERARD J. SWEE-NEY, ESQ., FOR LEGAL SERVICES REN-DERED TO PETITIONER HEREIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,926.19 AND THAT

SONABLE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR ANY SERVICES TO BE RENDERED BY GE-RARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., HEREAFTER IN CONNECTION WITH PROCEEDINGS ON KINSHIP, CLAIMS ETC., PRIOR TO ENTRY OF A FINAL DECREE ON THIS ACCOUNTING IN THE AMOUNT OF 6% OF ASSETS OR INCOME COLLECT-ED AFTER THE DATE OF THE WITHIN ACCOUNTING: AND WHY THE SUR-ROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND AL-LOW AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT ON SAID SCHEDULES OF THE TOTAL ASSETS ON SCHEDULES A, A1, AND A2 PLUS ANY ADDITION AL MONIES RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF THIS ACCOUNT AS THE FAIR AND REASONABLE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE EXPENSES OF SAID OFFICE PUR-SUANT TO S.C.P.A. SEC. 1106(3); AND WHY EACH OF YOU CLAIMING TO BE A DISTRIBUTEE OF THE DECEDENT SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH PROOF OF YOUR KINSHIP; AND WHY THE BAL-ANCE OF SAID FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE PAID TO SAID ALLEGED DISTRIB-UTEES UPON PROOF OF KINSHIP, OR DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMISSION-ER OF FINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHOULD SAID ALLEGED DIS-TRIBUTEES DEFAULT HEREIN, OR FAIL TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF KINSHIP, DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2024 HON. PETER J. KELLY ACTING SURROGATE, QUEENS COUNTY JANET EDWARDS TUCKER CHIEF CLERK GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-90001981 MARCUS AV ENUE, SUITE 200 LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF RE-OUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY ACCOUNT-ING CITATION

#21662

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION

FILE NO.: 2022-1266/A THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPEN-THE UNKNOWN DISTRIBU-TEES, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND ASSIGNEES OF JOHN SOL-IDAKIS AKA IOANNIS SOLIDAKIS, DE CEASED, OR THEIR ESTATES, IF ANY THERE BE, WHOSE NAMES, PLAC-ES OF RESIDENCE AND POST OF FICE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PETITIONER AND CANNOT WITH DUE DILIGENCE BE ASCERTAINED. A COPY OF THIS CITATION AND THE ACCOUNTING, AS WELL AS ALL AMENDMENTS TO IT, IF ANY, SHALL BE SERVED ON THE GUARDIAN AD LI-TEM, JOHN B. RIORDAN, ESO, BEING THE PERSONS INTERESTED AS CRED ITORS, LEGATEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR OTHERWISE IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SOLIDAKIS AKA IOANNIS SOLIDA-KIS, DECEASED, WHO AT THE TIME OF



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New York special election will fill vacancy in Congress created by resignation of Democrat Higgins

By Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

Voters in an upstate New York congressional district will choose between a Democrat regarded by many as the natural successor to the long-time congressman who vacated the seat earlier this year and a Republican with crossover appeal in a special election Tuesday.

Democratic Rep. Brian Higgins, who arrived in Congress in 2005, resigned in February to become president of Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo. With Republicans holding a narrow margin in the U.S. House, even a race for a seat widely expected to remain in Democratic hands has drawn its share of scrutiny.

The race in the 26th District features state Sen. Timothy Kennedy, a Democrat who regards Higgins as a mentor, and Gary Dickson, the first Republican elected as a town supervisor in the Buffalo suburb of West Seneca in 50 years.

The district spans Erie and Niagara counties, including the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. With registered Democrats outnumbering Republicans by more than 2-to-1, it is considered a safe seat for Democrats.

A state lawmaker since 2011, Kennedy, like Higgins, is the product of a strong South Buffalo base. Describing Washington as "chaotic and dysfunctional," he said he would focus in Congress on reproductive rights, immigration and stronger gun laws like those passed in New York after a 2022 mass shooting at a Buffalo supermarket.

"New York has been a bulwark against Donald Trump's extremist MAGA agenda that has infected our politics and our nation's capital," he said. "The MAGA extremists have made the House of Representatives a laughingstock."

Kennedy enters the race with a huge financial advantage. The Democrat raised \$1.7 million by April 10, compared with Dickson's \$35,430 total, according to campaign finance reports. Kennedy has spent just over \$1 million in the off-season election, compared with \$21,000 for Dickson as the candidates work to remind voters to go to the polls.

Dickson, a retired FBI special agent, acknowledged his uphill climb when he announced his candidacy at the end of February, saying he was running to give voters a choice. He said he supports Trump as the Republican nominee for president, while describing his own politics as "more towards the center."

Drawing from five years at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow while with the FBI, Dickson said he would have voted for the \$95 billion foreign package passed by Congress, which included aid for Ukraine. He called Russian President Vladimir Putin a "vicious, brutal dictator."



West Seneca Town Supervisor Gary Dickson, who is on the Republican ticket for the 26th Congressional District special election, speaks while on his campaign trail, April 25, 2024, in Buffalo, N.Y. In a special election, Tuesday, April 30, voters in upstate New York's 26th Congressional District will choose between state Sen. Timothy Kennedy, a Democrat, and Dickson, the first Republican elected as a town supervisor in the Buffalo suburb of West Seneca in 50

(AP Photo/Jeffrey T. Barnes, File)

"If he is not stopped now, he will keep on going," he said during a late-campaign debate.

Earlier this year, the GOP's slim House majority was narrowed in a closely contested Long Island-area special election that followed New York Republican George Santos' expulsion from Congress. That race, won by Democrat Tom Suozzi, was viewed as a test of the parties' general election strategies on immigration and abortion.

In the 26th District, even a closer-than-expected win for Democrats would say something about the mood of the electorate, said Jacob Neiheisel, an associate professor of political science at the University at Buffalo. He said low turnout could be a sign that enthusiasm is lacking.

"If Dickson is able to make it a tighter race than it is expected to be, it seems likely that Republicans would trumpet this as evidence that their party is ascendant," he said.

The election comes as Trump is on trial in New York City in the first criminal trial of a former American president and the first of four prosecutions of Trump to reach a jury.

The winner of Tuesday's special election will serve the rest of the year.

Kennedy is on the ballot for the general election in November. On Tuesday, former town supervisor Nate McMurray, who planned to challenge Kennedy in a Democratic primary in June, said in a social media post that election officials had removed him from the ballot because of insufficient signatures. Attorney Anthony Marecki is the only Republican candidate who has filed petitions to run. Dickson did not file to run in the general election.

BE REJECTED; AND WHY THE CLAIM

2nd Department/Public Legal Notices

27TH AVENUE, FLUSHING, NY 11358, INTHE COUNTY OF QUEENS, STATE OF NEW YORK. SEND GREETING: UPON THE PETITION OF LOIS M. ROSEN-BLATT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUNTY, WHO MAINTAINS HER OFFICE AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOU-LEVARD, JAMAICA, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK 11435, AS ADMINISTRA-TOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN SOLI-DAKIS AKA IOANNIS SOLIDAKIS, DE-CEASED, YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BE-FORE THE SURROGATE AT THE SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUN-TY OF QUEENS, TO BE HELD AT THE QUEENS GENERAL COURTHOUSE, 6TH FLOOR, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULE-VARD, JAMAICA, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, ON THE 9TH DAY OF MAY, 2024 AT 9:30 O'CLOCK IN THE FORE-NOON, WHY THE ACCOUNT OF PRO-CEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC ADMIN-ISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUNTY, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID DECEASED, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED, SHOULD NOT BE JUDI-CIALLY SETTLED, AND WHY THE SUR-ROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND AL-LOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO GERARD J. SWEE-NEY, ESO., FOR LEGAL SERVICES REN-DERED TO PETITIONER HEREIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,031.95 AND THAT THE COURT FIX THE FAIR AND REA-SONABLE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR ANY SERVICES TO BE RENDERED BY GE-RARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., HEREAFTER IN CONNECTION WITH PROCEED-INGS ON KINSHIP, CLAIMS ETC., PRI-OR TO ENTRY OF A FINAL DECREE ON THIS ACCOUNTING IN THE AMOUNT OF 5.5% OF ASSETS OR INCOME COL-LECTED AFTER THE DATE OF THE WITHIN ACCOUNTING; AND WHY THE SURROGATE SHOULD NOT FIX AND ALLOW AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT ON SAID SCHEDULES OF THE TOTAL ASSETS ON SCHEDULES A, A1, AND A2 PLUS ANY ADDITION-AL MONIES RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF THIS ACCOUNT, AS THE FAIR AND REASONABLE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE EXPENSES OF SAID OFFICE PUR-

SUANT TO S.C.P.A. SEC. 1106(3): AND WHY EACH OF YOU CLAIMING TO BE A DISTRIBUTEE OF THE DECEDENT SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH PROOF OF YOUR KINSHIP; AND WHY THE BAL-ANCE OF SAID FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE PAID TO SAID ALLEGED DISTRIB-UTEES UPON PROOF OF KINSHIP, OR DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMISSION-ER OF FINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SHOULD SAID ALLEGED DIS-TRIBUTEES DEFAULT HEREIN, OR FAIL TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF KINSHIP, DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2024 HON. PETER J. KELLY SURROGATE, QUEENS COUN-TY JANET EDWARDS TUCKER CHIEF CLERK GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESO. (718) 459-9000 1981 MARCUS AVE-NUE, SUITE 200 LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR: HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF RE-QUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY ACCOUNT-ING CITATION

#216620

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT - QUEENS COUN-TY - 104-22 NORTHERN LENDER LLC, PLAINTIFF VS. 104-22 NB, LLC, ET AL; DEFENDANTS. PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DATED MARCH 25, 2024 (THE "JUDGMENT"), I WILL SELL AT PUB-LIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BID-DER ON THE OUTSIDE STEPS OF THE QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, LOCATED AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULE-VARD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK, 11435. ON MAY 17, 2024 AT 12:15 P.M., THE PREMISES KNOWN AS 104-22 NORTH-ERN BOULEVARD, FLUSHING, NEW YORK. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LY-ING AND BEING IN QUEENS COUN-TY AND STATE OF NEW YORK: BLOCK 1719, LOT 10, AS MORE PARTICULAR-

LY DESCRIBED IN THE JUDGMENT, AP-PROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$1,331,701.93, PLUS ADDITIONAL INTEREST AND FEES. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE. INDEX #701039/2023. THE AFORE-MENTIONED AUCTION WILL BE CON-DUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S COVID-19 MITIGATION PROTOCOLS AND AS SUCH ALL PERSONS MUST COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANC-ING. WEARING MASKS AND SCREEN-ING PRACTICES IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF THIS FORECLOSURE SALE. THESE POLICIES, ALONG WITH THE OUEENS COUNTY FORECLOSURE AUCTION RULES, CAN BE FOUND ON THE QUEENS SUPREME COURT - CIVIL TERM WERSITE.

RITA SOLOMON, ESQ., REFEREE. GINS-BURG & MISK, LLP, 215-48 JAMAI-CA AVENUE, QUEENS VILLAGE, NEW YORK 11428, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAIN-

#21652

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS JDRM LLC DBPP, SM, SKP & JD LLC: PLAINTIFF V. MOYNU Z. CHOW-DURY; ET AL.; DEFENDANTS. AT-TORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: HASBANI & LIGHT, P.C., 450 7TH AVE, SUITE 1408, NY, NY 10123; (212) 643-6677 PUR-SUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLO-SURE AND SALE GRANTED HEREIN ON 3/2/2020, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN THE OUEENS COUNTY SUPREME AND COUNTY COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON MAY 17, 2024, AT 10:45 AM PREMIS-ES KNOWN AS 31-15 80TH STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11370 BLOCK: 1151 LOT: 50 ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. AS MORE PARTICULARLY DE-SCRIBED IN THE JUDGMENT OF FORE-CLOSURE AND SALE. SOLD SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN SAID JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$553,182,08 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. INDEX NUMBER: 724520/2020 BARRY M. GOLDSTEIN, ESQ., REFEREE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR BSSP TRUST SERIES 2007-EMX1, PLAINTIFF, VS. PAUL J. HOYLE A/K/A PAUL HOYLE, LILLIAN HOYLE, ET AL., DEFENDANT (S). PUR-SUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORE-CLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON DECEMBER 6, 2019, AND AN OR-DER ENTERED ON JULY 15, 2022 I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE COURT-HOUSE STEPS OF THE OUEENS SU-PREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON MAY 31, 2024, AT 11:15 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 110-46 174TH STREET, JAMAI-CA, NY 11433. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVE-MENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF OUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK: 10272, LOT: 60. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$707,321.18 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVI-SIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX # 709213/2015. IF THE SALE IS SET ASIDE FOR ANY REASON, THE PUR-CHASER AT THE SALE SHALL BE EN-TITLED ONLY TO A RETURN OF THE SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE AGAINST THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGEE, THE MORTGAGEE'S AT-TORNEY, OR THE REFEREE. ALL PAR-TIES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FLEV-ENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S COVID-19 POLICIES CONCERNING PUBLIC AUC-TIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPER-TIES. THESE POLICIES, ALONG WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY FORECLOSURE AUCTION RULES, CAN BE FOUND ON THE OUEENS SUPREME COURT - CIV-IL TERM WEBSITE:(HTTPS://WWW NYCOURTS.GOV/LEGACYPDFS/

COURTS/11JD/SUPREME/CIVILTERM/ PARTRULES/FORECLOSURE_AUC-TION_RULES.PDF) GREGORY J. NEW-MAN, ESQ., REFEREE ROACH & LIN, P.C., 6851 JERICHO TURNPIKE, SUITE 185, SYOSSET, NEW YORK 11791, AT-TORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORA-TION, PLAINTIFF, -AGAINST- JAMAL ANDERSON, AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF ANTHONY ANDERSON A/K/A ANTHONY A. ANDERSON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REV-ENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DE-PARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FI-NANCE, QUEENS SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, ANTHONY ANDERSON A/K/A ANTHONY A. ANDERSON'S UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW, NEXT-OF-KIN, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVI-SEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIEN-ORS, CREDITORS, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS HAVING OR CLAIMING UN-DER, BY OR THROUGH SAID DEFEN-DANT WHO MAY BE DECEASED, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR IN-TEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DE-SCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, AND "JOHN DOE #1" THROUGH "JOHN DOE #10", THE LAST TEN NAMES BE-ING FICTITIOUS AND UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF. THE PERSON OR PARTIES INTENDED BEING THE PER-SONS OR PARTIES, IF ANY, HAVING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON THE MORTGAGED PREM-ISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, DEFENDANTS. SUMMONS PLAIN-TIFF DESIGNATES OUEENS COUN-TY AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL. VENUE IS BASED UPON THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MORTGAGED PREMISES IS SIT-UATED. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DE-FENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-MONED 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 ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF WITHIN TWEN-TY (20) DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DAY OF SERVICE; OR WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE IF THIS SLIMMONS IS NOT PERSONALLY

OF NEW YORK; OR WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS IF IT IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR ANSWER, JUDGMENT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU BY DE-FAULT FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT, NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOLIGHT THE OBJECT OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED ACTION IS TO FORECLOSE A MORT-GAGE TO SECURE \$304,385.00 AND INTEREST, RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS ON MAY 23, 2014 IN CRFN 2014000179703 COVERING PREM-ISES KNOWN AS 147-11 116TH AVE-NUE, JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11436. THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE WITHIN AC-TION IS A FINAL JUDGMENT DIRECT-ING THE SALE OF THE PREMISES DE-SCRIBED ABOVE TO SATISFY THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DE-SCRIBED ABOVE, NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUM-MONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE AT-TORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COM-PANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FIL-ING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE EN-TERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER IN-FORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE AC-TION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERV-ING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DAT-ED: BAY SHORE, NEW YORK MARCH 15, 2024 FRENKEL, LAMBERT, WEISS, WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP BY: DEA-NA CHELI ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF 53 GIBSON STREET BAY SHORE, NEW YORK 11706 (631) 969-3100 OUR FILE NO.: 01-098833-F01

DELIVERED TO YOU WITHIN THE STATE

#216712

2ND DEPARTMENT / NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS

BG HEMPSTEAD REALTY LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BG HEMP-STEAD REALTY LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 03/13/24. OFFICE LOCA-TION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DES-IGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO THE LLC, 33-02 SKILLMAN AVE., STH FL., C/O BOGOPA SERVICE CORP., LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. PUR-POSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

227 BEACH 122 STREET LLC

227 BEACH 122 STREET LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 2/6/2024. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 249 BEACH 119TH ST, ROCKAWAY PARK, NY 11694. GENERAL PURPOSE

41-52 70TH STREET, LLC

41-52 70TH STREET, LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 10/3/2023. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 53-05 64TH ST, MASPETH, NY 11378. GENERAL PURPOSE

#2161

MATTHEW J 115-47 SUTPHIN BLVD LLC

MATTHEW J 115-47 SUTPHIN BLVD LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 03/29/2024. OFFICE COC: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 1258 BROADWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11221. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#216390

KESS REALTY LLC

KESS REALTY LLC, ARTS OF ORG.
FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY
(SSNY) 3/25/2024. CTY: QUEENS.
SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM
PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED
& SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO AZAD
SAKUR, 107-11 LIVERPOOL ST, JAMAICA, NY 11435. GENERAL PURPOSE
#216394

LG HOLDING NY LLC

LG HOLDING NY LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 03/29/2024. OFFICE LOC: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: LEV GRZHONKO C/O ROYTBERG TRAUM LAW AND MEDIATION P.C., 118-35 QUEENS BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PUR-

#216395 **DOCK OF THE BAY**

PROPERTIES, LLC

DOCK OF THE BAY PROPERTIES, LLC ART. OF ORG. FILED SEC. OF STATE OF NY 2/26/2024. OFF. LOC.: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNYTO MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO, C/O LEA KIXMILLER, 10 WEST 14TH ROAD, BROAD CHANNEL, NY 11693, USA. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY.

179 FROST STREET, LLC

179 FROST STREET, LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 04/05/24. OFFICE: KINGS 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, 6555 79TH STREET, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

PG SUNNYSIDE LLC

PG SUNNYSIDE LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 03/25/2024. 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, 36-01 30TH AVENUE, ASTORIA, NY 11103. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216832

L & M 88 REALTY LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF L & M 88 REALTY LLC CERT. OF LLC FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON FEB. 20, 2024. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO 150-43 6TH AVENUE; WHITESTONE, NY 11357. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFULL ACTIVITY

LEROY REALTY HOLDINGS LLC

#216690

LEROY REALTY HOLDINGS LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 4/19/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIG. AGENT OF LLC WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO C/O MICHAEL KESSLER, 42-09 235TH ST., DOUGLASTON, NY 11363, WHICH IS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

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ZAPA HOLDINGS LLC
ZAPA HOLDINGS LLC ARTS. OF ORG.
FILED WITH SSNY ON 3/18/2024. OFF.
LOC.: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIG. AS
AGT. UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY
BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 112-12 111TH AVE,
SOUTH OZONE PARK, NY 11420. GENERAL PURPOSES.

C3EW LLC

C3EW LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY ON 4/25/2024. 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.

WOODSIDE A PLUS REALTY LLC

WOODSIDE A PLUS REALTY LLC, ARTS OF ORG FILED WITH SSNY ON 04/08/24. OFF. LOC.: QUEENS COUNTY, SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 39-07 61TH ST, WOODSIDE NY 11377. PURPOSE: TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT.

#217309 **11370**

WAWAH'S, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-ED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: WAWAH'S, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGA-NIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/1/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OF-FICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PRO-CESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS NICOLAS HARTAN-TO 3138 74TH ST., EAST ELMHURST, NY, 11370. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF

LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#2168

1412 TOP RANKING

VENTURES LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-ED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: TOP RANKING VENTURES LLC. ARTI-CLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 5/15/2023. NY OFFICE LO-CATION: OUEENS 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 LIPON HIM/ HER IS OLUDA NADINE CURTIS-IOHN-SON 114-12 204TH STREET, SAINT AL-RANS NY 11412 PURPOSE/CHARAC-TER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

1417 HAVEN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-ED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: HAVEN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/26/2024, NY OF-FICE LOCATION: OUEENS COUN-TY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNAT-ED 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 THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 13507 CROSSBAY BLVD., OZONE PARK, NY, 11417. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE

#216405

1418 CAPSIDE, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-ED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: CAPSIDE, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGA-NIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/3/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OF FICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PRO-CESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS OKSANA O LIPIN-CHUK 116-16 AUDLEY STREET, APT 1A RICHMOND HILLS, NY, 11418. PUR-

#21663

95833 YKW MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC

POSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAW-

FUL PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-ED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: YKW MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC. AR-TICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/21/2023. NY OF FICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUN-TY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNAT-ED 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 LIPON HIM/HER IS ROCK-FT CORPORATE SERVICES INC 2804 GATEWAY OAKS DR STE 100, SACRA-MENTO, CA. 95833. PURPOSE/CHAR-ACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PUR-POSE.

#217137

Spring Has Sprung All Over In Brooklyn Heights, Downtown

Bursts of color thanks to Parks Department, volunteers and Mother Nature

> By Mary Frost Brooklyn Eagle

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS/DOWN-TOWN — Spring burst out all over in Brooklyn Heights and environs in recent weeks with cascades of tulips, trees suddenly in bloom, vegetables piled high in the farmers market and sweaters coming off seemingly overnight.

off seemingly overnight.

A stunning Japanese Flowering Cherry next to the monumental sculpture by Charles Keck at the Brooklyn War Memorial is full of double-clustered pink



This monumental sculpture by Charles Keck at the Brooklyn War Memorial in Cadman Plaza Park has seen 73 springs come and go since she was dedicated in 1951. Blooming next to her is a magnificent Japanese Flowering Cherry.

Eagle photos by Mary Frost



Tulipa Double Early 'Columbus' tulips have burst into bloom in front of Brooklyn Borough Hall, brightening the plaza for passersby and skateboarders.

flowers. Tulipa Double Early 'Columbus' tulips are blooming in planters in front of Brooklyn Borough Hall, brightening the plaza for passersby and skateboarders.

And colorful tulips are running riot in Codmon Plaza Bod's Investment Crouse

And colorful tulips are running riot in Cadman Plaza Park's Juneteenth Grove and in front of the Supreme Court building, all thanks to the Parks Department and volunteers with the Cadman Park Conservancy.

Brooklyn Horticulture Supervisor Anil Chandrakumar picked out the colorful bulbs for Juneteenth Grove, and Parks Department Gardener Jessica Kulig planted them, Conservancy President Doreen Gallo told the Brooklyn Ea-

Conservancy volunteers mulched the flower beds in the grove along with the 19 flowering trees (Cercis canadensis–Eastern rosebud) planted to honor the 19th, along with tree beds surrounding the athletic field. (Eastern rosebud flowers grow directly from their trunks and branches — check them out!)

Mulchfest volunteers included students from Packer Collegiate High School, St. Francis College, The Service Collective and members of YAI, the latter of which provides services for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



This statue of Christopher Columbus in front of the Supreme Court building in Downtown Brooklyn looks out over a sea of tulips.



Tulips galore brighten up Cadman Plaza Park's Juneteenth Grove.



The farmers market in Brooklyn Borough Hall Plaza is full of spring vegetables and herbs.

The Bronx Zoo, a community institution founded by eugenicists, turns 125

By Jonathan Custodio

One hundred and twenty-five years after it first opened its doors in 1899 (and more than 250 million visitors later), the Bronx Zoo is kicking off a season of anniversary events.

"We have been a leader in animal care, exhibit design, education and conservation ever since," Zoo Director Jim Breheny said at a celebration earlier this month attended by Bronx politicians including Borough President Vanessa Gibson, her predecessor Ruben Diaz Jr., Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado and Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr., along with student council representatives from nearby P.S. 205 and dozens of others gathered at the Schiff Family Great Hall.

The zoo's founding and earlier years were stained by the racism and white supremacy that were part and parcel of many of New York City's historic institutions. In one notorious early 20th century incident, an African man was made an exhibit in the zoo's Monkey House.

But the zoo has grown into one of the city's premier tourism spots over the decades, while also struggling to modernize its ethics and practices, including most recently over the zoo's two remaining captive elephants, Happy and Patty.

"The Bronx Zoo played a major role in preserving the American Bison," Bronx Borough Historian Angel Hernandez told THE CITY in an interview earlier this month. The species had nearly gone extinct as Europeans systematically killed and depleted a vital nutritional and economic resource for Indigenous peoples during the 1870s. As part of that effort, he continued, "there were strips of Pelham Parkway where the bison were grazing" in the early 1900s before they were "re-released back into the American West."

The 125th anniversary celebration featured dance performances from the Thunderbird American Indian dancers and the Harambee drummers and dancers, who welcomed Gibson to join the party and break out her one-two step.

"If we are talking about pathways to college and careers, it starts at the Bronx Zoo," Gibson said at the event. "If we are talking about keeping our young people safe from a plague of gun violence, it starts at the Bronx Zoo. If we are talking about believing in the possibilities of our young people, it starts at the Bronx Zoo."

Atziri Amaro, a 10-year-old student at P.S. 205, told THE CITY she enjoyed hearing elected officials and zoo administrators discuss opportunities to expose young people to wildlife.

"I like how they're planning for the youth," said Amaro, who counts the lion as her favorite animal at the zoo. "It never gives up."

More than half a million children visit the zoo each year, according to Breheny, who said his favorite animal is the dog because "we've evolved with them for thousands of years."

'Not the Proudest Moment'

While New Yorkers today have all kinds of indoor entertainment options, when the zoo opened they relied on outdoor attractions when they needed to keep cool in hot summers.



The Bronx Zoo holds a kickoff celebration for their 125th anniversary, April 18, 2024.

Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY

"Clason Point Amusement Park had a huge pool that fit close to 2,000 people and they called it the inkwell because it was unfiltered water. That's how dirty it was," said Hernandez, who's also director of government operations for the New York Botanical Garden. "But people will still jump in there on hot summer days. It was outdoor fun. And then that's why the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Gardens – they were such a hot thing."

In 1853, while seeking to slow down the loss of wildlife and green space amid urbanization in what is now Manhattan, the New York State Legislature enacted a law that carved out 775 acres of land to create Central Park, marking the first time the city used eminent domain to create a major landscaped park while displacing an estimated 1,600 residents in the process.

The move provided a blueprint to do the same a few miles north in 1889, leading to the creation of Bronx Park at a time when the neighborhoods near the Bronx Zoo, now called West Farms and Crotona, were mostly farmland.

The city acquired 640 acres to create Bronx Park at the same time it seized land for Van Cortlandt Park, Pelham Bay Park, Crotona Park, Claremont Park and St. Mary's Park. The city then allotted 250 acres to the New York Zoological Society, now the Wildlife Conservation Society, to create the Bronx Zoo.

The zoo's founders were avowed white supremacists Madison Grant and Henry Fairfield Osborn, two of the founders of the American Eugenicists Society. In 1916, when he was still serving as chair of the New York Zoological Society, Grant published a book, The Passing of the Great Race, arguing that white people from Northern and Western Europe were superior to all other races.

In the book's preface, Osborn wrote that 'the

greatest danger which threatens the American republic to-day [is] the gradual dying out among our people of those hereditary traits through which the principles of our religious, political and social foundations were laid down and their insidious replacement by traits of less noble character."

For one week in 1906, the zoo forced Ota Benga, an African man from the Democratic Republic of Congo to be an attraction in the Monkey House exhibit. He was given a bow and arrow to defend himself from the orangutans with whom he now lived, noted Hernandez. Black ministers and lawyers, led by Rev. James H. Gordon, successfully advocated for Benga's release.

Benga, who had already been exhibited at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri and at the American Museum of Natural History prior to his enslavement at the Bronx Zoo, shot and killed himself in 1916 while living in Virginia.

"It was something that we have acknowledged is not the proudest moment in our history," Breheny told THE CITY after the April 18 celebration. "But you have to remember in the time that occurred, there was the World's Fair in St. Louis, which is why all those types of exhibits occurred. And it's just something that happened in the context of the time, and we walked away from it as soon as we could, even then."

Following protests over Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin's murder of George Floyd in June of 2020, the zoo put out a statement apologizing for displaying Benga, writing that "We deeply regret that many people and generations have been hurt by these actions or by our failure previously to publicly condemn and denounce them."

Elephants in the Room

Just before The Bronx Zoological Park, as it was initially named, officially opened in 1899,

the New York Sun newspaper noted it would be a place where New Yorkers could see deer and elk along with "many foxes, bears, some zoo rabbits, reindeer, wolves, snakes, guinea pigs, prairie dogs, eagles, owls, ducks and geese."

Elephants first arrived in 1904, and the zoo stopped accepting new ones in 2006, in response to public pressure about criticizing elephant captivity though the institution has resisted calls for the elephants to be transferred to a more spacious environment, with the state's high court rejecting a 2018 suit by the Nonhuman Rights Project.

Happy, 54, and Patty, 53, are the zoo's two remaining elephants. Happy has been there since 1977. A spokesperson for the Bronx Zoo did not answer a question asking when Patty arrived.

Last year, Brooklyn Councilmember Shahana Hanif introduced a bill that would have effectively forced the zoo to release custody of the two elephants, but it lacked support from her Bronx colleagues.

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr., whose district includes a portion of the zoo, took aim at those efforts on Thursday.

"We do have some elected officials that are trying to get rid of the elephants in the zoo," said Salamanca Jr., who declined to join the Harambee dancers. "And so I can tell you that one of my legislative priorities is to ensure that Happy and Patty stay right here at the Bronx Zoo."

'Our Free Day'

John Calvelli, executive vice president of public affairs at the Bronx Zoo, highlighted how the institution now positions itself as an easily accessible public resource.

"Every year at the Bronx Zoo, we have 370,000 people that come to the Bronx Zoo, free or reduced," Calvelli said. "We work with shelters, where we work with community organizations, organizations that couldn't come on our free day," which is Wednesday. "We want to try to make sure that people that can't come on Wednesday can come to the Bronx Zoo."

On other days, it charges a general admission fee of \$37.75 for adults, \$33.25 for seniors and \$28.75 for children between 3 and 12 years old.

The New York Botanical Garden has provided free access to its grounds to Bronx residents from Tuesday through Sunday and on holiday Mondays since the summer of 2020, as the pandemic pushed people outdoors.

But while the zoo is only yards away, some locals have never made it in.

"I've been living here since August 2021 and still haven't went in there," Anthony Fennell, 37, told THE CITY on Tuesday, who lives across the street from the zoo near its Asia Gate entrance on Bronx Park South.

Fennell, who can't visit the zoo on Wednesdays because he has health-related obligations then, said the cost is prohibitive.

"The money that they're asking for, I'm not doing it," he said.

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



A man holds a pair of chimpanzees at The Bronx Zoo in an undated archival photo.

Credit: Via New York Public Library Digital Archives



Herbert J. Knobloch weighs baby panda "Pandora" at The Bronx Zoo in 1938.

Credit: Via New York Public Library Digital Archives



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Court New York Deserves urges heavier scrutiny of judicial nominees

Continued from page 1

bench. Del Giudice, who currently serves as an acting Supreme Court justice in Brooklyn, has been on the bench for over 20 years and though his term technically expired in December 2022, he continues to serve as a judge.

Del Giudice will hit his mandatory retirement age at the end of the year, at which point he can apply with the court system for certification, which, if granted, will allow him to serve an additional two years.

But the group says that Hochul and lawmakers should take a closer look at Del Giudice and ensure his time on the bench comes to a close.

According to a recent analysis conducted by advocacy group Scrutinize, the Appellate Division, Second Department has found on 19 different occasions that Del Giudice issued an excessive sentence.

In all, the appeals court has reduced over 500 years of sentencing handed down by the Brooklyn judge.

In one of those cases, Del Giudice accepted a 25 years to life sentence plea from a 20-year-old defendant. After giving the plea, the defendant failed two plea conditions – he missed a rescheduled court date without prior notice and admitted guilt but claimed the victims had threatened him. As a result of the violations, Del Giudice doubled the defendant's sentence.

A panel of judges on the Appellate Division, Second Department later overturned Del Giudice's decision, reducing the sentence to its original term.

"We demand that Governor Hochul not reward Justice Del Giudice with any more time on the bench and instead immediately nominate a new judge to replace him," The Court New York Deserves said on its website.

"Accountability for the harshest, most unfit judges in New York is only a first step toward a court system that delivers equal justice for all New Yorkers," they added. "Far more will remain to be done. But this first step forward is critical."

Avi Small, a spokesperson for Hochul, said, "As she has done since taking office, Governor Hochul will select judicial nominees based on their experience, qualifications and judicial temperament."

The last time the Court New York Deserves fought a judicial nomination, it won.

The group was the leading voice against Hochul's nomination of Hector LaSalle for chief judge, a nomination she made in the final days of 2022, several months after former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore had stepped down from the state's top judicial post.

The group said that it was alarmed by a number of past judicial decisions LaSalle made from the bench, including decisions they



The group that led the campaign against the chief judge nomination of Hector LaSalle has now turned its attention to the state's lower courts, calling for an end to the pro forma process for re-nominating judges.

AP file photo by Hans Pennink

claimed took anti-abortion and anti-labor positions. Additionally, they said they were concerned that LaSalle would continue in the conservative tradition started by DiFiore.

A number of State Senators soon joined their cause.

Around a week after Hochul made the nomination, a dozen senators had come out and announced that they would vote against confirming LaSalle if his nomination made it to the floor of the Senate, many of them citing the cases identified by the Court New York

After a prolonged battle over the nomination – which nearly led to a constitutional crisis – LaSalle was rejected 39-20 by the full Senate in February 2023.

Following the rejection, Hochul nominated then-Court of Appeals Judge Rowan Wilson, who was considered by many to be one of the most progressive jurists on the state's top court. Wilson, whose nomination was supported by the advocacy group, was approved by the Senate shortly after his nomination.

LaSalle's nomination was considered to be one of the most closely watched judicial nominations in the state's history. Additionally, it's believed to have generated the most lobbying spending of any judicial nomination in the history of New York.

Martin said the group's advocacy work played a big role in bringing attention to the nomination and that they learned a number of lessons – "some of them about the state of the judiciary, some of them about the benefits of public engagement and the challenges to the advocacy we were trying to do" – about the advocacy work.

"We came out of that very interested in engaging with the selection processes for courts

besides the Court of Appeals," Martin said of the new campaign. "We became well aware...of how difficult it is for members of the public to learn about who is currently sitting on the bench when judges' terms are up, who the authorities are, who will potentially reappoint or re-nominate judges for new terms."

"We were very interested in shedding light on any of those areas," he added.

Though the Center for Community Alternatives was accused in the past of politicizing the judicial nomination process, Martin said the nomination process is inherently political.

"It's one political process or another," he said. "What we are doing that's new is not politicizing judicial selection, we are bringing the public into judicial selection in a way that has not been done before."

"We're proud of that and we think our courts will benefit from more of that," Martin added.

Civil Court mourns Officer Christopher Vrettos

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

Queens Civil Court on Sutphin Boulevard is mourning the loss of Court Officer Christopher Vrettos, who died after a short and sudden illness earlier this month.

Vrettos, who served as a court officer for 13 years, is being remembered by his colleagues and fellow court officers as an "officer's officer."

Vrettos was assigned to Bronx Housing Court after graduating from the Court Officers' Academy in August 2010, and ultimately wound up on Sutphin Boulevard in Queens Civil Court.

Likely one of the first faces many saw when entering 89-17 Sutphin Blvd., Vrettos was assigned to the lobby.

"He definitely represented the Civil Court in an exceptional way as he set the tone for how our court users expect to be treated," said Major Tawya Young. "He brought positivity and encouraged that in others through his infectious smile, witty sense of humor and genuine compassion for the welfare of others."

"I observed him interacting with the public at the magnetometers, many of them coming in with a scowl and apparent frustration but clearing the screening with a smile or a laugh," Young added. "Many of the attorneys who practice regularly in Queens Civil admired and respected Chris. There were members of the public who came to pay their respects at the funeral because they appreciated his kind, caring demeanor on the job."

Queens Court Lieutenant Lana Jernigan worked with Vrettos in both the Bronx, and in Queens.

"He was eager to learn different aspects of the job," said Jernigan. "Some assignments are better than others, as with most jobs, but wherever you put him, he just did his job, he did it with a smile"

Jernigan said he was a good officer who was

always there when needed, and always had your back.

"He was a giving person," she said. "He was an excellent officer. He was just really a good person, he had a good heart."

Jernigan said the mood in the lobby at Queens Civil Court is different now without Vrettos, and that he will be dearly missed by his fellow officers.

In an online memorial, Vrettos is remembered as a diehard San Francisco 49ers fan, and a beloved son, brother, friend and godfather.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - NY Chapter, 1 Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 3N06, Melville, New York 11747 US, www.cff.org.

Vrettos was 44-years-old.

Right, Queens Civil Court is mourning the loss of 44-year-old Court Officer Christopher Vrettos, who passed away earlier this month.

Photo via the Vrettos family

