

QUEENS TODAY

MAY 6, 2024

QUEENS LEGISLATORS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS met at the Bayside Long Island Rail Road Station to celebrate the addition of a new 10 percent discount on monthly LIRR tickets and Metro-North Railroad for trips within New York City. The pilot program is funded through the Outer Borough Transportation Account, which was created by the state legislature in 2018. The creation of the account was led by Senator Leroy Comrie and Assemblymember Ed Braunstein for public transit improvements outside Manhattan. The MTA estimates the cost of the 10 percent discount to monthly tickets will be \$4 million per year. "Improving the affordability, frequency and reliability of our public transportation is the best way to get more New Yorkers out of their cars and into the trains and buses, to reduce traffic and pollution," said State Senator John Liu. The LIRR is essential for travel into Manhattan, especially for Queens residents whose options are extremely limited. The state legislature fought long and hard to secure these investments, and I'm proud to have worked alongside my colleagues making improvements to outer borough transportation a priority in the state budget."

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ said on Friday that New Jersey man Darnell King was arraigned on charges of criminal possession of a weapon, making terroristic threats and other related crimes after he sent a video to his estranged wife in which a gun is visible and threatened a mass shooting at John F. Kennedy International Airport, where she had just landed. "I'm going to wait for the plane to leave, and that is when I am going to start shooting the airport up," King allegedly told his wife. On April 30, the woman received a text message and video from King, in which he said that he was on route in his car to meet her at the airport and that the recording is his "last will and testament." Police found two firearms in King's car. he faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. Criminal Court Judge Edwin I. Novillo ordered the defendant to return to court May 28.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO pump a crowd up? To fire off the t-shirt cannon? To be the best mascot in all of baseball? If you answered, 'yes,' to any of those questions, you should be aware that the Mets are looking for two people to serve as their new Mr. and Mrs. Met, PIX 11 reports. The Mets are looking for a "high-energy, enthusiastic individual" to put on the jersey and baseball head and cheer on the Queens club. The job description also includes posting to social media, managing the mascot's budget and maintaining the costume. The Mets say a dance or performing arts background would be a plus. The job's salary ranges from \$67,000 to nearly \$90,000. Auditions will be held on May 15.



'Horrific'

NYPD footage shows speedy escalation of Ozone Park police shooting that left teen dead

Graphic footage was released of the police shooting that left Ozone Park teen Win Rozario dead after he called 911 amidst a mental health episode in March.

Screenshot via State Attorneys General's Office

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

Less than three minutes after arriving at an Ozone Park home around a month ago, two police officers shot and killed a teen having an apparent mental health crisis as his brother and mother watched, newly released body-worn camera footage shows.

On Friday afternoon, Attorney General Letitia James released the harrowing footage of the March 27 shooting, which left 19-year-old Win Rozario dead.

The graphic and troubling videos from the cameras of the two responding officers show how quickly the incident escalated to a violent shooting that resulted in the death of a teen who

had himself called 911 in a bid for help.

Rozario's family, advocates and local elected officials reacted with horror at the details of the videos and called for the immediate firing of the two officers involved, Matthew J. Cianfrocco and Salvatore J. Alongi. Even Mayor Eric Adams was reluctant to defend the actions of the officers on Friday – though he also refrained from condemning them.

The videos, one from each officer, span three minutes and five seconds and show the events from the officers' arrival to the fatal shots.

Around 1:30 p.m. on March 27, Cianfrocco and Alongi, who worked out of the 102nd Precinct, arrived at the two-family home around

103rd Street and 101st Avenue in Ozone Park.

The officers were originally called to the scene after Rozario had called emergency responders himself.

The video footage shows the officers approach the house, where Rozario's younger brother, 17-year-old Utsho, greeted them at the front door.

"What's up man, you called?" Alongi said.

"My brother did," Utsho responded.

Alongi then asked what was going on with his brother, to which Utsho said, "He's having an episode."

Alongi further questioned the brother asking, "Is he a bi-polar, schizo, like?"

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Couple pleads guilty to stealing five Queens homes

A Queens couple pleaded guilty last week to stealing five homes from their rightful owners through a deed theft scheme.

Eagle file photo by Walter Karling

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

A South Ozone Park man and his wife pleaded guilty to a deed fraud scheme that resulted in the theft of five properties in the World's Borough last week.

Justin Joseph pleaded guilty to the fraudulent scheme last week, while his wife, Latoya Hewitt, pleaded guilty to participating in one of the thefts.

Joseph now faces between one and three years in prison and his wife is expected to be sentenced to a year of conditional discharge. Both will be forced to pay back the hundreds of thousands of dollars they reaped from selling the stolen homes to unsuspecting buyers, according to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

Prosecutors say that in March 2019, Joseph and Hewitt together filed a fake document with the New York City Department of Finance, claiming to have the needed paperwork to transfer the deed of a home on Pinegrove Street in Jamaica from a 78-year-old woman who rightfully owned the property, to Hewitt.

See story on page 16

One of Queens' longest serving community board members enters 40th year on board

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

Entering his 40th year of service, Gene Kelty is one of the longest serving members in all of Queens' community boards.

Serving as the longtime chair of Community Board 7, which covers the neighborhoods of Bay Terrace, College Point, Beechhurst, Flushing, Malba, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone and Willets Point, Kelty recently spoke with the Eagle about his decades of service to the board, as well as his lengthy career with the FDNY, which ended with his retirement as a battalion chief.

Kelty said he's always seen his work with the board as a chance to make a difference in the neighborhood he lived in. That's how he first got involved with the board.

Kelty said he wanted to get a street repaved in his neighborhood, and sent a notice to his local community board. Not long after, he began to work to have a number of potholes filled by the city throughout the neighborhood.

After his successes improving the streets, the recently-minted fire fighter headed over to the board and was asked to join by some of its members.

"The next thing I know, in 1984, I get a letter saying I had been appointed to the community board," Kelty said. "I've been on the board ever since."

After about a decade on the board, Kelty



Gene Kelty, the chair of Queens Community Board 7, is one of the longest serving CB members in Queens.

Eagle file photo by Jacob Kaye

was voted by his colleagues to serve as its chair, a position he's held nearly every year ever since.

Throughout his time on the board, Kelty continued to rise the ranks within the FDNY.

He was working out of the firehouse across the street for the World Trade Center on 9/11. Though he was technically off that day, he rushed into Manhattan from Queens shortly after the first plane crashed and he was in the firehouse when the first tower fell.

Kelty helped evacuate the area and rescue

people that day, and continued to help work through the rubble at Ground Zero in the weeks that followed. As a result of his work during 9/11, he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in 2014.

Nonetheless, he continued serving on the community board.

While Kelty has seen a number of issues come and go before the board, there also have been issues that have stuck around for years.

Earlier this year, the city approved plans for the second phase of development at Willets Point. While the current plan, which involves building the city's first-ever stadium dedicated to soccer and over 2,000 units of affordable housing, is new, the city's efforts to develop the area were not.

Kelty and CB7 had been hearing plan after plan to develop Willets Point for decades. Some of them they supported, some of them they did not.

But after decades of review and negotiation, Kelty said he came away with one of the proudest moments of his time on the board – a promise from the city to look into building a new precinct in the area as a result of the increased population from the Willets Point development.

Even prior to the Willets Point project, residents and members of the board had been asking for a new precinct to take pressure off the overburdened 109th Precinct.

"That's going to be a marker for me," Kelty

said. "A milestone."

Though dealing with a city's bureaucratic process that often makes one feel as though a solution to an issue may never come, Kelty said there's still good that comes out of serving on the all-volunteer board for so many years.

He said he was always proud to see his signature on the blueprint of an approved project next to the signature of the mayor.

But sometimes frustration has gotten the best of Kelty. The board chair admits that, at times, he's had to raise his voice during meetings in an effort to get members back onto a meeting's topic, or to control a conversation that may have become contentious.

Though Charles Apelian, the board's vice chair who has served alongside Kelty for over 35 years, said it was all part of Kelty's appeal.

"Gene Kelty's personality and temperament is legendary and can be humorously described as 'an acquired taste,'" Apelian told the Eagle. "You have to earn Gene's trust and that doesn't come easily. But once Gene believes in you, he returns his trust and lifetime friendship beyond compare and would do anything in his power to help you."

"Working with Gene on Community Board 7 Queens for more than 35 years, I witnessed that his sole focus was to provide and protect our community," he added. "But isn't that what you would expect from a FDNY battalion chief?"

Queens couple pleads guilty to deed theft scheme

Continued from page 1

The notary public whose signature graced the fugazi document, later told the court that he didn't in fact sign the paper.

Hewitt went on to sell the home and forged a death certificate to facilitate the transaction, prosecutors said. In all, she received \$48,751 in profit in the sale, and her husband and his mother each received \$40,000 each.

Joseph also filed a fake deed, transferring a property in Springfield Gardens to himself in September 2019.

In November 2019, he sold the home for

\$355,000, receiving a check for \$255,256.

A few years later, the rightful owner of the house drove past the property only to discover that the home had been knocked down, and a new one built in its place.

Shortly after stealing the Springfield Gardens home, Joseph allegedly transferred a property on 155th Street in Jamaica to himself, submitting a fake deed to the city.

Prosecutors say that Joseph went through with a similar scheme in March 2020, when he submitted a fake deed to a home in Queens Village, and again in April 2020, when he sub-

mitted a fake deed transfer for a house in South Ozone Park.

As part of the plea deal Joseph took in court last week, he agreed to void all five fake deeds to the Queens homes and make a restitution payment of over \$335,250.

Hewitt also agreed to void the deed to the home she came into possession of and to make a restitution payment of \$48,751.

"No one should think they will get away with stealing the most valuable asset most people ever work to attain," Katz said in a statement. "My Housing and Worker Protec-

tion Bureau focuses on safeguarding homeowners from predatory real estate scams. Thank you to our partners at the New York City Sheriff's Office for their work on this case."

According to the DA, the couple was arrested in April following a long-term investigation into deed fraud in the borough.

The DA's office plans to file a motion to apply a state statute that would restore the deeds for the five properties to the rightful owners. By doing so, the owners won't have to fight to get their homes back in court.

This week's cases of interest in Queens Criminal Court

CASES OF INTEREST - MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

Andrew & Angelo Hatzia gelis – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Crim. Poss. of a Dangerous Weapon 1° (ADA Bello) Conference. Brothers charged with having ghost gun and homemade bombs. Luis Hernandez – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Filingeri) Conference. Charged with murder of LIC man in 2020. Henry Gutierrez – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA Amodeo) Conference. Indicted for fatal stabbing of his brother. Dennis Cho – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA Charles) Conference. Charged in stabbing death of mother. Dennis Vassilenko – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Weinstein) Conference. Charged with shooting 17-year-old teen to death in Corona.

CASES OF INTEREST - TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Guy Rivera – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 1° (ADA Zawistowski) Supreme Court Arraignment. Indicted on charges of murdering NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller. Christopher King – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Niccolosi) Jhavaugn Pinnock – Conference. Charged with fatal shooting outside night club. Travis Blake – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Aloise) Conference. Indicted in the murder of girlfriend and her family. Haiyan Deng – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Selkove) Conference. Charged with shooting man as he slept in her bed. Keith Harvey – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2° (ADA Brovner) Conference. Charged with possessing arsenal of assault rifles in residence. Adrian Grullon – AP6/ Justice Kirschner/

Commercial Bride Receiving 1° (ADA Murphy) Conference. Charged with taking bribes.

CASES OF INTEREST - WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

Kevi Ogara – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Manslaughter 1° (ADA McCabe) Conference. Indicted for fatal stairwell shove of neighbor. Dexter Joseph, et al – K12/ Justice Miret/ Criminal Poss. of a Controlled Substance 3° (ADA Speck) Conference. Charged with running a network of drug dealers. Anthony Sanford – K18/ Justice Zaro/ Criminal Sale of Firearm 1° (ADA Anderson) Conference. Indicted on gun trafficking charges following long-term investigation. Alfredo Morocho – K10/ Justice Vallone/ Sex Trafficking of a Child (ADA Cheema) Conference. Indicted for sex trafficking of a child. Dariel Herrera – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Attempted Murder 2° (ADA Sanchez) Conference. Indicted for gunfire exchange in broad daylight. Errick Persaud – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Manslaughter 2° (ADA Campoverde) Conference. Charged with crash that killed city worker. Matthew Lloyd – K15/ Justice Yavinsky/ Attempted Murder 2° (ADA Novak) Conference. Charged with attempted murder in baseball bat attack. Waheed Foster – K22/ Justice Margulis/ Assault 1° (ADA Georgopoulos) Conference. Indicted in brutal attack on woman at subway station. Durran Morgan Quaneisha Wilkins – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA Charles) Conference. Charged in shooting death of nephew.

Yavinsky/ Murder 2° (ADA Lasak) Conference. Indicted in knife-attack crime spree that killed man and left three others seriously injured.

CASES OF INTEREST - FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

Natalie Plaza – AP6/ Justice Novillo/ Assault 3° (ADA Brovner) Conference. Charged with anti-Asian attack in Corona. Nathaniel Johnson – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Zawistowski) Conference. Man extradited and charged with murder for fatal stabbing. Charles Row – K15/ Justice Yavinsky/ Predatory Sexual Assault (ADA Kanellopoulos) Conference. Charged with sexual assault at a storage facility.

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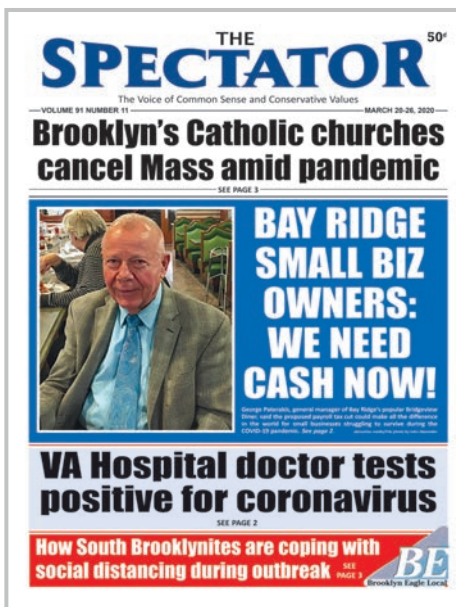
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Jen Hopewell,
Assistant to the Publisher
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Hope Hicks, ex-Trump adviser, recounts fear in 2016 campaign over impact of 'Access Hollywood' tape

By Michael R. Sisak,
Jake Offenhartz, Philip Marceloo and
Alanna Durkin Richer
Associated Press

Donald Trump's 2016 campaign was seized with worry about the potential political damage from a tape that showed Trump bragging about grabbing women sexually without their permission, longtime Trump adviser Hope Hicks testified Friday at his hush money trial.

Hicks, a former White House official, was compelled to testify by Manhattan prosecutors, who are hoping her remarks bolster their argument that the uproar over the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape hastened Trump's then-lawyer to pay off porn actor Stormy Daniels to bury a negative story that could imperil his 2016 presidential bid.

Once one of Trump's closest confidants, Hicks provided a window into the chaotic fallout over the tape's release just days before a crucial debate with Democrat Hillary Clinton. It was recorded in 2005 but was not seen by the public until Oct. 7, 2016, about a month before Election Day. Hicks described being stunned and huddling with other Trump advisers after learning about the tape's existence from the Washington Post reporter who broke the story. Hicks forwarded the reporter's request to campaign leadership with the recommendation to "deny, deny, deny," she said.

"I had a good sense to believe this was going to be a massive story and that it was going to dominate the news cycle for the next several days," Hicks testified. "This was a damaging development."

She added: "This was just pulling us backwards in a way that was going to be hard to overcome."

Prosecutors called her to the witness stand to strengthen their case alleging Trump worked to prevent damaging stories about his personal life from becoming public as part of a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 presidential election. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has sought to establish that link not just to secure a conviction but also to persuade the public of the significance of the case, which may be the only one of four Trump prosecutions to reach trial this year.

Hicks told jurors that Trump claimed he did not know anything about his then-attorney Michael Cohen paying \$130,000 to Daniels to prevent her from going public with claims of a sexual encounter with Trump. But, Hicks said, Trump eventually came to believe that burying Daniels' story was prudent, saying he thought "it would have been bad to have that story come out before the election."

At other points, Hicks' testimony appeared to help the defense's contention that the former president was trying to protect his reputation and family — not his campaign — by shielding them from embarrassing stories about his personal life. Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case, which he has slammed as an effort to derail his campaign to reclaim the White House in November.

Under questioning by Trump's attorney, Hicks told jurors that he was worried about the effect of the "Access Hollywood" tape on his family. And when the Wall Street Journal published a story revealing ex-Playboy Model Karen McDougal's affair allegations right before the election, Hicks said Trump was concerned about his wife seeing the story and asked Hicks to make sure newspapers weren't delivered to their residence that morning.

But when asked if Trump was also worried about the story's impact on the campaign, Hicks responded that everything they spoke about during that time was viewed through the lens of the campaign. Trump would often ask her, "How is it playing?" as a way of gauging how his appearances, speeches and policies were landing with voters, she said.

Hicks' proximity to Trump over the years has made her a figure of interest to congressional and criminal investigators alike, who have sought her testimony on multiple occasions on topics ranging from Russian election interference to Trump's election loss and the subse-



Hope Hicks, former White House Communications Director, arrives to meet with the House Intelligence Committee, at the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 27, 2018. Prosecutors say Hicks spoke with former President Donald Trump by phone during a frenzied effort to keep allegations of his marital infidelity out of the press after the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape leaked weeks before the 2016 election. In the tape, from 2005, Trump boasted about grabbing women without permission.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File



Former President Donald Trump appears at Manhattan criminal court before his trial in New York, Friday, May 3, 2024.

Jeenah Moon/Pool Photo via AP

quent Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

She appeared reluctant to be in the courtroom, taking a deep breath as she stepped up to the microphone and acknowledging she was "really nervous." She later started crying on the witness stand, forcing the court to take a brief break, when Trump lawyer Emil Bove started to ask her to reflect on her time at the Trump Organization before he brought her onto his 2016 campaign.

Referring to her former boss as "Mr.

Trump" and later "President Trump" when speaking about their time in the White House, she told the court she last communicated with him in the summer or fall of 2022. While no longer in Trump's inner circle, Hicks spoke about the former president in glowing terms as the prosecutor began questioning her about her background.

She recounted how the political firestorm that ensued after the release of the tape was so intense that it knocked an actual storm out of

the headlines. Before the tape became public, the news was dominated by a Category 4 hurricane that was charging toward the East Coast.

"I don't think anybody remembers" where that hurricane hit, Hicks told jurors.

Hurricane Matthew, which hit Haiti and Cuba as a Category 4 storm, made landfall in South Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane on Oct. 8, 2016, the day after the "Access Hollywood" tape was made public.

Prosecutors have spent the week using detailed testimony about meetings, email exchanges, business transactions and bank accounts to build on the foundation of their case charging Trump with 34 counts of falsifying internal Trump Organization business records. They are setting the stage for pivotal testimony from Cohen, who paid Daniels for her silence before he went to prison for the hush money scheme.

Testimony will resume Monday. The trial could last another month or more, with important witnesses who have yet to be called, including Cohen and Daniels.

One of the most pivotal pieces of evidence disclosed to jurors this week was a recording of a meeting between Trump and Cohen before the 2016 election in which they discussed a plan to purchase the rights to McDougal's story from the National Enquirer so that it would never come out. The tabloid had previously bought McDougal's story to bury it on Trump's behalf.

At one point, Trump can be heard saying: "What do we got to pay for this? One-fifty?"

In a victory for Trump just as court was ending for the week, Judge Juan M. Merchan denied a request by prosecutors to ask Trump, should he choose to testify, about being held in contempt of court for gag order violations in the case. Merchan said allowing it would be "so prejudicial it would be very, very difficult for the jury to look past that."

Trump this week paid his \$9,000 fine for violating the gag order that bars him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to the case.

His attorney, Todd Blanche, told the judge Friday they are appealing the finding that Trump violated the gag order. Blanche said that they took particular issue with penalties for what are known as reposts — instances where Trump shared someone else's post with his followers.

Cybersecurity Researchers Highlight New Ransomware Threat

Be Careful Where You Upload Your Files

By **Selcuk Uluagac**
The Conversation

You probably know better than to click on links that download unknown files onto your computer. It turns out that uploading files can get you into trouble, too.

Today's web browsers are much more powerful than earlier generations of browsers. They're able to manipulate data within both the browser and the computer's local file system. Users can send and receive email, listen to music or watch a movie within a browser with the click of a button.

Unfortunately, these capabilities also mean that hackers can find clever ways to abuse the browsers to trick you into letting ransomware lock up your files when you think that you're simply doing your usual tasks online.

I'm a computer scientist who studies cybersecurity. My colleagues and I have shown how hackers can gain access to your computer's files via the File System Access Application Programming Interface (API), which enables web applications in modern browsers to interact with the users' local file systems.

The threat applies to Google's Chrome and Microsoft's Edge browsers but not Apple's Safari or Mozilla's Firefox. Chrome accounts for 65% of browsers used, and Edge accounts for 5%. To the best of my knowledge, there have been no reports of hackers using this method so far.

My colleagues, who include a Google security researcher, and I have communicated with the developers responsible for the File System Access API, and they have expressed support for our work and interest in our approaches to defending against this kind of attack. We also filed a security report to Microsoft but have not heard from them.

Double-edged sword

Today's browsers are almost operating systems unto themselves. They can run software programs and encrypt files. These capabilities, combined with the browser's access to the host computer's files — including ones in the cloud, shared folders and external drives — via the File System Access API creates a new opportunity for ransomware.

Imagine you want to edit photos on a benign-looking free online photo editing tool. When you upload the photos for editing, any hackers who control the malicious editing tool can access the files on your computer via your browser. The hackers would gain access to the folder you are uploading from and all subfolders. Then the hackers could encrypt the files in your file system and demand a ransom payment to decrypt them.

Ransomware is a growing problem. Attacks have hit individuals, as well as organizations including Fortune 500 companies, banks, cloud service providers, cruise operators, threat-monitoring services, chip manufacturers, governments, medical centers and hospitals, insurance compa-

nies, schools, universities and even police departments. In 2023, organizations paid more than \$1.1 billion in ransomware payments to attackers, and 19 ransomware attacks targeted organizations every second.

It is no wonder ransomware is the No. 1 arms race today between hackers and security specialists. Traditional ransomware runs on your computer after hackers have tricked you into downloading it.

New defenses for a new threat

A team of researchers I lead at the Cyber-Physical Systems Security Lab at Florida International University, including postdoctoral researcher Abbas Acar and Ph.D. candidate Harun Oz, in collaboration with Google Senior Research Scientist Güliz Seray Tuncay, have been investigating this new type of potential ransomware for the past two years. Specifically, we have been exploring how powerful modern web browsers have become and how they can be weaponized by hackers to create novel forms of ransomware.

In our paper, "RøB: Ransomware over Modern Web Browsers," which was presented at the USENIX Security Symposium in August 2023, we showed how this emerging ransomware strain is easy to design and how damaging it can be. In particular, we designed and implemented the first browser-based ransomware called RøB and analyzed its use with browsers running on three different major operating systems — Windows, Linux and MacOS — five cloud providers and five antivirus products.

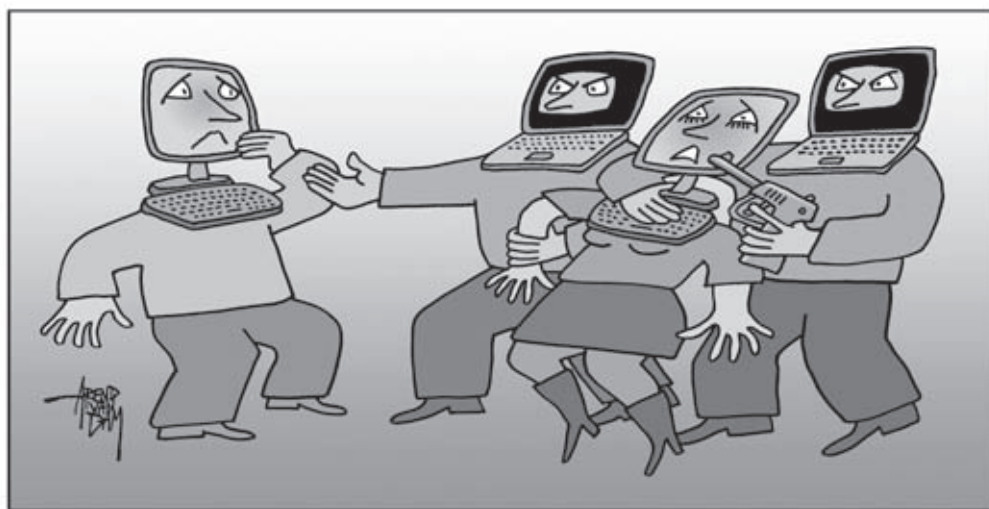
Our evaluations showed that RøB is capable of encrypting numerous types of files. Because RøB runs within the browser, there are no malicious payloads for a traditional antivirus program to catch. This means existing ransomware detection systems face several issues against this powerful browser-based ransomware.

We proposed three different defense approaches to mitigate this new ransomware type. These approaches operate at different levels — browser, file system and user — and complement one another.

The first approach temporarily halts a web application — a program that runs in the browser — in order to detect encrypted user files. The second approach monitors the activity of the web application on the user's computer to identify ransomware-like patterns. The third approach introduces a new permission dialog box to inform users about the risks and implications associated with allowing web applications to access their computer's file system.

When it comes to protecting your computer, be careful about where you upload as well as download files. Your uploads could be giving hackers an "in" to your computer.

Selcuk Uluagac is a professor of computing and information science at Florida State University.





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Striking deals to end campus protests, some colleges invite discussion of their investments

By Kathleen Foody, Mike Catalini, Karen Matthews and Michael Hill
Associated Press

Anti-war demonstrations ceased this week at a small number of U.S. universities after school leaders struck deals with pro-Palestinian protesters, fending off possible disruptions of final exams and graduation ceremonies.

The agreements at schools including Brown, Northwestern and Rutgers stand out amidst the chaotic scenes and 2,400-plus arrests on 46 campuses across the nation since April 17. Tent encampments and building takeovers have disrupted classes at some schools, including Columbia and UCLA.

Deals included commitments by universities to review their investments in Israel or hear calls to stop doing business with the longtime U.S. ally. Many protester demands have zeroed in on links to the Israeli military as the war grinds on in Gaza.

The agreements to even discuss divestment mark a major step on an issue that has been controversial for years, with opponents of a long-running campaign to boycott Israel saying it veers into antisemitism. But while the colleges have made concessions around amnesty for protesters and funding for Middle Eastern studies, they have made no promises about changing their investments.

"I think for some universities, it might be just a delaying tactic to diffuse the protests," said Ralph Young, a history professor who studies American dissent at Temple University in Philadelphia. "The end of the semester is happening now. And maybe by the time the next semester begins, there is a ceasefire in Gaza."

Some university boards may never even vote on divesting from Israel, which can be a complicated process, Young said. And some state schools have said they lack the authority to do so.

But Young said dialogue is a better tactic than arrests, which can inflame protesters.

Talking "at least gives the protesters the feeling that they're getting somewhere," he said. "Whether they are getting somewhere or not is another question."

Israel has branded the protests antisemitic, while Israel's critics say it uses those allegations to silence opposition. Although some protesters were caught on camera making antisemitic remarks or violent threats, protest organizers — some of whom are Jewish — have called it a peaceful movement to defend Palestinian rights and protest the war.

The University of Minnesota reopened Thursday after administrators said they reached an agreement to end an encampment in the heart of the Minneapolis campus.

Interim President Jeff Ettinger said demonstrators agreed not to disrupt final exams or commencements. In return, student organizations can address the university's board at a meeting next week, where protesters are expected to demand divestment from Israel.

"While there is more work to do, and conversations are still planned with other student groups affected by the painful situation in Palestine, I am heartened by today's progress," Et-



Officers stage near the site of a pro-Palestinian encampment, cleared by police overnight, on the UCLA campus Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Los Angeles. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

tinger said in a statement.

Demonstrators at Rutgers University — where finals were paused due to the protests on its New Brunswick campus — similarly packed up their tents Thursday afternoon. The state university agreed to establish an Arab Cultural Center and to not retaliate against any students involved in the protest camp.

In a statement, Chancellor Francine Conway noted protesters' request for divestment from companies doing business with Israel and for Rutgers to cut ties with Tel Aviv University. She said the request is under review, but "such decisions fall outside of our administrative scope."

Protesters at Brown University in Rhode Island agreed to dismantle their pro-Palestinian encampment Tuesday. School officials said students could present arguments to divest Brown's endowment from companies contributing to and profiting from the war in Gaza.

In addition, Brown President Christina Paxson will ask an advisory committee to make a recommendation on divestment by Sept. 30, which will be put before the school's governing

corporation for a vote in October.

Northwestern's Deering Meadow in suburban Chicago also fell silent after an agreement Monday. The deal curbed protest activity in return for the reestablishment of an advisory committee on university investments and other commitments.

The arrangement drew dissent from both sides. Some pro-Palestinian protesters condemned it as a failure to stick to their original demands, while some supporters of Israel said it represented "cowardly" capitulation.

Seven of 18 members subsequently resigned from a university committee that advises the administration on addressing antisemitism, Islamophobia and expressions of hatred on campus, saying they couldn't continue to serve "with antisemitism so present at Northwestern in public view for the past week."

Michael Simon, the executive director of an organization for Jewish students, Northwestern Hillel, said he resigned after concluding the committee could not achieve its goals.

Faculty at Pomona College in California voted in favor of the school divesting from

companies they said are funding Israel's war in Gaza, a group of faculty and students said Friday.

The vote Thursday is not binding on the liberal arts school of nearly 1,800 students east of Los Angeles. But supporters said they hope it would encourage the board to stop investing in these companies and start disclosing where it makes its investments.

"This nonbinding faculty statement does not represent any official position of Pomona College," the school said in a statement Friday. "We will continue to encourage further dialogue within in our community, including consideration of counterarguments."

Meanwhile, arrests of demonstrators continued elsewhere.

About a dozen protesters who refused police orders to leave a tent encampment at New York University were arrested early Friday, and about 30 more left voluntarily, according to NYU spokesperson John Beckman. The school asked the New York Police Department to intervene, Beckman said.

NYPD officers also cleared an encampment at The New School in Greenwich Village on the request of school administrators. No arrests were announced.

Authorities said a further 132 protesters were arrested when police broke up a pro-Palestinian encampment at the State University of New York at New Paltz starting late Thursday. And nine protesters were arrested at the University of Tennessee, including seven students who Chancellor Donde Plowman said would also be sanctioned under the school's code of conduct.

The student protest movement began April 17 at Columbia University, where student protesters built an encampment to call for an end to the Israel-Hamas war. More than 34,000 Palestinians have been killed in the conflict in the Gaza Strip, according to the Health Ministry there. Israel launched its offensive in Gaza after Oct. 7, when Hamas militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took roughly 250 hostages in an attack on southern Israel.

More than 100 people were arrested late Tuesday when police broke up the Columbia encampment. One officer accidentally discharged his gun inside Hamilton Hall during that operation, but no one was injured, NYPD said late Thursday.



Police enter an encampment set up by pro-Palestinian demonstrators on the UCLA campus Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Los Angeles. AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

A group of pro-Palestinian protesters try to block a van carrying people detained by Portland police on Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Portland, Ore. Portland police cleared out a library on campus that protesters had occupied since Monday. Officers said they made 22 arrests Thursday. AP Photo/Jenny Kane



Our World In Pictures

FRANKFURT — Newborn purebred bonding with mother: An Icelandic foal stands next to its mother just a couple of minutes after it was born at a stud farm in Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, May 3, 2024. The farm's first foal of the season was born in the early morning hours after a night with thunderstorms and heavy rain.

Photo: Michael Probst/AP



JERUSALEM — Hardcore faith, reliving the passion: Orthodox Christians walk in the Good Friday procession in the Old City of Jerusalem, Friday, May 3, 2024.

Photo: Mahmoud Illean/AP



NEW ORLEANS — Ahh, longevity! Does it come from the 'rolling' or the 'stoning'? Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, of the Rolling Stones, perform during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Photo: Matthew Hinton/AP



PORTLAND — 'How dare you criticize my eyeshadow?': Several pro-Palestinian protesters who were occupying Portland State University's Millar Library were arrested at the school Thursday morning, May 2, 2024, in Portland, Ore., the third day the building had been occupied.

Photo: Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP



Our World In Pictures

SAO PAULO — ‘Ten-hut’ Macaw squad dismissed back to the wild: Spix’s Macaws perch inside a cage at the Sao Paulo Zoo in Brazil, Friday, May 3, 2024. After being absent from the wild for almost two decades, about 20 of the endangered birds were reintroduced in northern Bahia state in 2022.

Photo: Andre Penner/AP



LOUISVILLE — Prepping for the Derby with a hose-down and a drink: Kentucky Derby entrant Grand Mo The First gets a bath after a workout at Churchill Downs on Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Louisville, KY. The 150th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday, May 4.

Photo: Charlie Riedel/AP



PHILADELPHIA — ‘Think I’ll just hang here for a moment...’: Philadelphia 76ers’ Kelly Oubre Jr. hangs from the rim after dunking against the New York Knicks during the second half of Game 6 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Photo: Matt Slocum/AP



TEXAS — Nature’s revenge — firefighters trained to go above and beyond: Conroe firefighter Cody Leroy carries a resident evacuated in a boat by the CFD Rapid Intervention Team from her flooded home in the aftermath of a severe storm, Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Conroe, Texas.

Photo: Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle via AP

Old Croton Aqueduct becomes The Bronx's first-ever scenic landmark

By Jonathan Custodio
THE CITY

The Old Croton Aqueduct may not carry water anymore, but it still has flow.

Dozens of residents and community organizers in The Bronx gathered at the aqueduct's Roscoe Brown Plaza Thursday afternoon to celebrate its new status as the borough's first scenic landmark. The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously voted last month to bestow the honor onto the aqueduct.

"They're rare and incredibly special," landmarks commission director of community and governmental affairs Steven Thomson told supporters about scenic landmarks, noting that the Bronx would continue to see more landmarked sites. "And we're not done."

New York City has just 12 scenic landmarks, a designation the landmarks commission bestows on places at least 30 years old that have "a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation."

Morningside Park in Harlem and the Coney Island Boardwalk in Brooklyn are the only two other sites named as scenic landmarks so far in this century.

The Old Croton Aqueduct's new status arrives a half century after Central Park became the city's first scenic landmark in 1974.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission has strived to diversify the city's landmarks, as part of an "equity framework" launched in 2021. Since December 2022, the commission has approved seven Bronx landmarks that include the Bronx Opera House, Engine Company 88/Ladder Company 38 Firehouse, and Fire Alarm Telegraph Bureau, along with the Tremont library branch, Samuel Gompers Industrial High School and Joseph Drake Park and Enslaved African Burial Ground.

Where water once flowed belowground, peo-



Bronxite Renea Bush has been walking the Old Croton Aqueduct for the last six decades, May 2, 2024.
Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY

ple still promenade, run and play above it. The Old Croton Aqueduct walk is a 1.7 mile pathway stretching along 4.9 acres from Kingsbridge Road to Burnside Avenue. It features several benches, basketball courts and fitness equipment, as well as a playground and bathrooms.

Renea Bush, a member of community group Friends of Aqueduct Walk and the nearby University Heights Presbyterian Church, has been walking the aqueduct for the last six decades.

"I had walked through it since junior high

school, and it was always a nice relaxing walk. There were places to sit. At one point there was a handball court on the Fordham Road part, shuffleboard courts," Bush told THE CITY in a phone interview on Tuesday before the celebration.

The aqueduct, as it's known locally, is often used as a scenic shortcut to get to strips of the West Bronx, and it's popular with students from nearby schools. A strip sits right in front of Bronx Community College and also can be used to walk to the Kingsbridge Armory. Residents walk their dogs, sit on the benches and railings on a path that spears through columns of apartment buildings on each side.

But the aqueduct hasn't always been a pleasant stroll. At times, it's been a hotbed of illegal drug activity, said Bush, especially during the pandemic.

"During that time it got heavily drug-infested. I mean, that's been an issue over the decades," said Bush.

At Thursday's celebration, dozens of visitors filtered through Roscoe Brown Plaza, named after a former Tuskegee airman and the first Black president of Bronx Community College, with the chance to check out booths run by more than a dozen community organizations and city agencies, including the Morris Heights Health Center, Bronx Community Board 5, Union Health Community Center, Francis Martin Public Library and Bronx Community College.

Participants could also try their hand at giant Connect Four and a wooden air hockey table.

Transforming the City

Completed in 1842 after five years of construction by more than 3,000 Irish immigrants, the Old Croton Aqueduct, bringing water from a reservoir in Croton that was the first source providing reliably clean water to New York City as it was rapidly developing.

"By the early 1800s New York City desperately needed fresh water. The colonists had depleted nearly all natural resources. The water source from wells was dirty, disease was rampant, fires burned without the ability to extinguish them and the surrounding rivers offered no solution," said Sarah Eccles, researcher for the Landmarks Preservation Commission, at last month's meeting approving the scenic landmark designation. "The city began looking to construct an aqueduct."

Eccles noted it took 22 hours for the water to reach Manhattan from the reservoir. Using a system relying on just gravity, the 41-mile-long aqueduct carried 45 million gallons a day.

As the aqueduct provided "fresh drinking water, clean streets, the ability to extinguish fires, and plumbing for creature comforts previously unimaginable," Eccles said, it fuelled New York City's rapid expansion in the second half of the 19th century.

It was so successful, in fact, that the city's desire for fresh water quickly exceeded all expectations and outpaced the aqueduct's capabilities, necessitating the construction of a second aqueduct, known as the New Croton Aqueduct, which opened in 1890 and carried enough water to keep up with New York City's expanding population.

Despite its success, developers tried to recycle how the aqueduct was used. But local residents successfully thwarted attempts to build a trolley in 1903 and to sell the land for development in 1929.

The city constructed a bridge underneath the embankment of the aqueduct over West Burnside Avenue in 1896 to accommodate a growing trolley service, Eccles told THE CITY on Thursday at the celebration. That bridge was taken down in 1930 to widen roads as the number of cars and trucks shot up.

That was also the year that the city acquired stewardship of the land, and commissioned landscape architect Gilmore D. Clarke to design the linear park there that opened in 1940, with new walls, railings, lawns, trees and play areas, even before the aqueduct itself was taken out of service in 1955.

'One Place of Nature'

The celebration caught the attention of teens and students at Bronx Community College, some of whom stopped to score some points at a wooden air hockey game.

Other members of the community shared their experiences with the aqueduct as part of the college's oral history project.

The local Francis Martin public library is also trying to take advantage of the space.

"It's one place of nature that we can bring the kids to encourage them to read," Lila Kwederis, a librarian at the branch, told THE CITY.

Bronx borough parks commissioner Jessenia Aponte got to enjoy some of those play areas established nearly a century ago. She told supporters that she grew up right along on the aqueduct, which Edgar Allen Poe was also known to meander, on 183rd Street and University Avenue, hooping at the basketball courts and riding her bicycle.

"Before Manhattan had the High Line, the BX had the aqueduct walk," she said.

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



Supporters celebrated the Old Croton Aqueduct's new status as the Bronx's first scenic landmark, May 2, 2024.
Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY

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NYC schools chancellor to student activists: Don't allow 'discontent to morph into hatred'

By Michael Elsen-Rooney
Chalkbeat

New York City schools Chancellor David Banks sought to strike a balance between affirming students' rights to protest and disavowing hate speech as he responded to college campus unrest and previewed his upcoming testimony before Congress.

Citing his own history of involvement in student activism and social justice — including in the movement to divest from apartheid-era South Africa when he was a college student — Banks told reporters on Thursday that he supports student activism “at the highest level.”

But he urged activists not to “allow that discontent to morph into hatred for anyone.”

Banks was on the scene Tuesday night at Columbia University as police raided a building that demonstrators had occupied. He later made his way to City College of New York, where police cleared a tent encampment and made hundreds of arrests.

He said he was troubled by an experience at City College in which roughly a dozen protesters “surrounded” him when he tried to enter the quad and barred him from entering, telling him, “We own the quad.” He said he was disappointed by graffiti he saw on the campus the next morning that said “Death to America,” and “Death to Israel.”

The protests and police backlash have garnered international attention, and have been closely watched by many city high school students, some of whom are considering attending the colleges at the center of the tumult.

Banks' comments Thursday previewed the message he intends to deliver next week before the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce — the same committee that has grilled college presidents from Columbia, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, and MIT in recent months.

Banks is expected to appear alongside district leaders from Maryland's Montgomery County and Berkeley, California, to share their responses to antisemitism in K-12 schools.



David Banks, the chancellor of the New York City public schools, at a high school in Manhattan in October 2022. Banks responded Thursday to unrest on college campuses over pro-Palestine protests and previewed his testimony before Congress May 8.

Yana Paskova for The Washington Post via Getty Images

New York City's school system, the nation's largest, has seen multiple flare-ups over the Israel-Hamas war, including a raucous student demonstration at Hillcrest High School over a teacher posting a photo with an “I Stand With Israel” sign, a citywide student walkout calling for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and allegations of unchecked student antisemitism at a Brooklyn High School — allegations officials have denied.

Banks emphasized that his approach has leaned on convening community members, including assembling an interfaith council, while developing curricula on Jewish and Muslim history and reviewing the disciplinary code with city principals.

His own background “as a Black man who is keenly aware of trauma and pain and oppression that my own people have suffered in America” has given him “an affinity for both the Jewish and the Palestinian people,” he added.

Banks expressed concern that the questioning from the Republican-led committee, which includes New York representative Elise Stefanik, would be more focused on “viral moments and empty soundbites and cheap political talk” than substantive solutions.


“Putting a spotlight on any particular individual and sometimes trying to create gotcha moments is not how you ultimately solve problems that you really, deeply care about,” he said. “I would ask

for Congress to figure out a way to bring people together from across the nation to help to solve for this insidious level of hate.”

Banks acknowledged that the city's response to tensions over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict hasn't been “perfect,” but said he's proud of the efforts so far.

He also expressed confidence in his own ability to go toe to toe with his congressional questioners, noting that he's “from New York,” and that squaring off with Brooklyn Councilmember Lincoln Restler, a progressive Democrat, during council hearings was good preparation.

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



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2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF QUEENS. SAIF NUTMEG, LLC, PLTF V. DREAM VILLA LLC, ET AL., DEFTS. INDEX NO. 718839/2019. PURSUANT TO THE JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DATED AUGUST 30, 2022 AND ENTERED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 AND THE ORDER DATED AND ENTERED ON JUNE 15, 2023, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE COURTHOUSE STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11435, ON MAY 17, 2024 AT 12:15 P.M., PREM. K/A 214-43 39TH AVENUE, BAYSIDE, NY 11361 (BLOCK 6240, LOT 39). APPROX. AMT OF JUDGMENT IS \$5,287,792.67 TOGETHER WITH INTEREST FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2021, PLUS COSTS, ATTORNEYS' FEES AND INTEREST. SOLD

SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT AND THE COVID-19 AUCTION POLICIES AND TERMS OF SALE. GREGORY M. LASPINA, ESQ., REFEREE. JACOBOWITZ NEWMAN TVERSKY LLP, ATTYS. FOR PLAINTIFF, 377 PEARSALL AVE., STE C, CEDARHURST, NY. #216464

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR MFRA TRUST 2015-1, PLAINTIFF, VS. LYNETTE V. JAGDEO; SUSAN QUASHIE A/K/A SUZAN QUASHIE A/K/A SUZANNE QUASHIE A/K/A SUZANNE GUIGNARD; JULIET JOHNSON A/K/A JULIET M. JOHNSON; NORRIS WILLIAMS; EARL QUASHIE; GEORGE QUASHIE; WAYNE QUASHIE;

NORRIS WILLIAMS; UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE OF VERA QUASHIE A/K/A VERA A. QUASHIE, DECEASED, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON MARCH 11, 2024, I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON THE OUTSIDE STEPS OF THE QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON MAY 17, 2024 AT 10:45 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 130-16 233RD STREET, JAMAICA A/K/A ROSEDALE, NY 11422. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 12911 AND LOT 57.

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$1,161,858.03 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX #718286/2021. THE REFEREE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S COVID-19 POLICIES CONCERNING PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPERTIES. THESE POLICIES, ALONG WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY FORECLOSURE'S AUCTION RULES, CAN BE FOUND ON THE QUEENS SUPREME COURT - CIVIL TERM WEBSITE. GERARD A. GEISWELLER, ESQ., REFEREE FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP, 85 BROAD STREET, SUITE 501, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF. FIRM FILE NO. 171258-1 #216351

Wall Street rallies after hiring shows welcome signs of cooling

By Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise
Associated Press

Wall Street capped a choppy week of trading Friday with the best day for the stock market in over two months, as traders welcomed cooler-than-expected U.S. employment data as a sign that inflationary pressures on the economy are easing.

The S&P 500 rose 1.3%, its best day since late February. The benchmark index also erased its losses for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.2%. The Nasdaq composite ended 2% higher, reflecting strong gains by technology sector stocks, which accounted for much of the rally.

The nation's employers added 175,000 jobs last month, down sharply from the blockbuster increase of 315,000 in March, according to the Labor Department. The latest hiring tally came in well below the 233,000 gain that economists had predicted. Meanwhile, average hourly earnings, a key driver of inflation, rose less than expected.

The modest increase in hiring last month suggests the Federal Reserve's aggressive streak of rate hikes may be finally starting to take a bigger toll on the world's largest economy. That may help reassure the Fed that inflation will ease further, which could move the central bank closer to lowering interest rates.

"The demand for labor is slowing, which will eventually ease inflation pressures, giving the Fed some leeway to cut rates later this year," said Jeffrey Roach, chief economist for LPL Financial. "Slower payroll growth and fewer hours worked imply the economy is slowing at a measured pace. This jobs report is consistent with the soft landing narrative."

Treasury yields in the bond market mostly fell following the jobs report. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which lenders use as a guide for pricing home loans, eased to 4.5% from 4.59% late Thursday. The two-year yield, which moves more closely with expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.81% from 4.88%.

The U.S. economy is in a tight spot, where the hope is that it remains strong enough to stay out of a recession but not so strong that it worsens the already stalled progress on inflation. That is essentially the "soft landing" the Fed is hoping to achieve as it tries to cool the rate of inflation to its target of 2%. Inflation at the consumer level stood at 3.5% in March, far below the peak of 9.1% nearly two years ago.

Stubbornly high readings on inflation this year pushed Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell to say on Wednesday that it will likely take "longer than previously expected" to get enough confidence about inflation cooling enough to warrant cutting interest rates.

"Some of this data coming out of the employment report dampens that narrative a little bit," said Charlie Ripley, senior investment strategist for Allianz Investment Management. "They want to cut interest rates, but they need more confidence in the inflation data and today's wage data is a little bit more confidence for them."

The Fed's main interest rate has been sitting at its highest level since 2001, and cuts would release some pressure on the economy and financial markets.

The benchmark S&P 500 fell 4.2% in April, its first monthly loss since October, as signals of stubbornly high inflation forced traders to ratchet back expectations for when the Fed could begin easing interest rates.

After coming into the year forecasting six or more cuts to rates in 2024, traders are now largely betting on just one or two, if any, according to data from CME Group.

Friday's market rally was widespread, though technology stocks powered much of the gains. Apple jumped 6% after announcing a mammoth \$110 billion stock buyback. The tech giant reported late Thursday its steepest quarterly decline in iPhone sales since the outset of the pandemic.

Microsoft rose 2.2% and Nvidia added 3.5%.

Several companies notched gains after reporting strong quarterly results.

Amgen climbed 11.8% after the biotechnology company gave investors an encouraging update on a potential obesity drug. Live Nation Entertainment added 7.2% after the ticket seller and concert promoter beat analysts' first-quarter revenue forecasts.

Motorola Solutions closed 5.2% higher after the communications equipment maker raised its profit forecast for the year.

Booking Holdings rose 3% after reporting better-than-expected first-quarter bookings and revenue. Another online travel company, Expedia Group, didn't fare as well, despite its latest quarterly results beating Wall Street targets. Its shares slumped 15.3% for the biggest decline among S&P 500 stocks after it lowered its full-year bookings guidance because its Vrbo rental unit has been slow to recover from its migration to Expedia's platform.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 63.59 points to 5,127.79, while the Dow gained 450.02 points to 38,675.68. The Nasdaq gained 315.37 points to close at 16,156.33.

In Europe, Germany's DAX gained 0.6%, while the CAC 40 in Paris rose 0.5% and London's FTSE 100 added 0.5%.

Markets in Tokyo and mainland China were closed for holidays. The Japanese yen strengthened slightly against the dollar.

2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

3237 85 ST LLC

3237 85 ST LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 3/15/2024. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 32-37 85TH ST, EAST ELMHURST, NY 11370. GENERAL PURPOSE #216311

GAGPANGR, LLC

GAGPANGR, LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 3/11/2024. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 101-05 LEFFERTS BLVD, STE 201, RICHMOND HILL, NY 11419. GENERAL PURPOSE #216312

VIRTUOSO MANAGEMENT, LLC

VIRTUOSO MANAGEMENT, LLC. ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 03/26/24. OFFICE: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC, 6559 79TH STREET, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216313

FINEM LLC

FINEM LLC ART. OF ORG. FILED SEC. OF STATE OF NY 11/22/2023. OFF. LOC.: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY TO MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO, 2141 79TH ST., EAST ELMHURST, NY 11370, USA. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. #216315

39-05 48 AVE. LLC

39-05 48 AVE. LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 09/20/23. OFFICE: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC, 11 HAMILTON SQUARE, GLEN HEAD, NY 11545. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216539

21029 28TH AVENUE GROUP, LLC

21029 28TH AVENUE GROUP, LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 4/17/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIG. AGENT OF LLC WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 40-18 BELL BLVD., BAYSIDE, NY 11361, C/O TBO SITESCAPES INC., WHICH IS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #217077

M&E HIGH RIDGE LLC

M&E HIGH RIDGE LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 4/18/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIG. AGENT OF LLC WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 105-30 101ST AVE., OZONE PARK, NY 11416, WHICH IS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #217236

CITRUS HAVEN LLC

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF CITRUS HAVEN LLC. AUTHORITY FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/12/24. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. LLC FORMED IN FLORIDA (FL) ON 02/15/24. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 31 MONTEREY STREET, APT. A, PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082, ALSO THE ADDRESS REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED IN FL ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH THE FL SECY. OF STATE, R.A. GRAY BUILDING, 500 S BROUHOUGH ST., TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. #217247

186 UNION CENTER LLC

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF 186 UNION CENTER LLC. AUTHORITY FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/11/24. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. LLC FORMED IN DELAWARE (DE) ON 10/12/23. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: C/O AB CAPSTONE LLC, 251-73 JERICHO TURNPIKE, SUITE 404, BELLROSE, NY 11426, ATTN: MEIR BABAIEV. ADDRESS TO BE MAINTAINED IN DE: CORPORATE CREATIONS NETWORK INC., 1521 CONCORD PIKE, SUITE 201, WILMINGTON, DE 19803. ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH THE DE SECY. OF STATE, 401 FEDERAL ST., DOVER, DE 19901. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. #217248

ING PROPERTIES LLC

ING PROPERTIES LLC FILED ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 12/21/2021. OFFICE: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC TO 146-04 21 AVE 1ST FLOOR WHITESTONE, NY, 11357. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #217251

STN FUNDING LLC

STN FUNDING LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED NY DOS 4/23/24, QUEE. CO. S/S C/O THE LLC 26-32 SKILLMAN AVE., L.I.C., NY 11101. TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. MANAGED BY 1 OR MORE MANAGERS. PERPETUAL EXISTENCE. FULL INDEMNIFICATION. #217389

JMAC HOLDINGS NY LLC

JMAC HOLDINGS NY LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED NY DOS 4/22/24, QUEE. CO. S/S C/O THE LLC 208-23 32ND AVE., BAYSIDE, NY 11361. TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. MANAGED BY 1 OR MORE MANAGERS. PERPETUAL EXISTENCE. FULL INDEMNIFICATION. #217390

73RD REALTY HOLDINGS LLC

73RD REALTY HOLDINGS LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED NY DOS 4/24/24, QUEE. CO. S/S C/O THE LLC 711 EDISON AVE., BRONX, NY 10465. TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. MANAGED BY 1 OR MORE MANAGERS. PERPETUAL EXISTENCE. FULL INDEMNIFICATION. #217391

STONE'S THROW PRODUCTIONS, LLC

STONE'S THROW PRODUCTIONS, LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED NY DOS 3/26/24, QUEE. CO. S/S C/O THE LLC 161 W 61ST ST, STE 20H, NY, NY 10023. TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. PERPETUAL EXISTENCE. FULL INDEMNIFICATION. #217392

11104 LODMANKICHLER LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: LODMANKICHLER LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/25/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS MARTIN C, LODMAN III 4142 47TH STREET, UNIT 1 SUNNYSIDE, NY, 11104. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216746

11106 P'TITE MAISON LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: P'TITE MAISON LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/24/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 3443 CRESCENT ST APT 2N, ASTORIA, NY, 11106. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #217303

11365 HUNGRYBROWNGUY LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: HUNGRYBROWNGUY LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/25/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS HAARIS HAMID 6419E 194TH LN, FRESH MEADOWS, NY, 11365. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216257

11379 BKHOOPZ LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: BKHOOPZ LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/15/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS PATRICK IANNOTTO 6148 82 PLACE, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY, 11379. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #217075

11412 AMITA LUNA PERINATAL LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: AMITA LUNA PERINATAL LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/26/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ADIA WATTS 120-19 192ND ST, ST ALBANS, NY, 11412. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216956

11436 CHEME ENTERPRISES LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: CHEME ENTERPRISES LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 5/17/2023. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS CHEME ENTERPRISES LLC, 142-17 129TH AVENUE JAMAICA, NY, 11436. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216611

11694 HEMPSTEAD GOLF LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: HEMPSTEAD GOLF LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/29/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS KELLEY BROOKE, 253 BEACH 134TH STREET BELLE HARBOR, NY, 11694. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #216961

2ND DEPARTMENT / NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS

LM 14-50 30TH AVE., LLC

LM 14-50 30TH AVE., LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 3/27/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO THE LLC 2457 CRESCENT ST ASTORIA NY 11102. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217083

BURKHOLDER ACCOUNTING AND CONSULTING, LLC

BURKHOLDER ACCOUNTING AND CONSULTING, LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 2/21/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO JULIE BURKHOLDER 1410 VALENCIA RD NISKAYUNA NY 12309. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217084

SHE SO CHIC, LLC

SHE SO CHIC, LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 4/22/24. OFFICE IN KINGS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AGENT OF LLC WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO LAW OFFICE JONATHAN R. SUAREZ, PLLC, 267 5TH AVE., LOWER LEVEL II, STE. 106, NY, NY 10016. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOC: 238 JUNIUS ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11212.

#217232

1 CITY POINT APT 43H LLC

1 CITY POINT APT 43H LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 4/24/2024. CTY: KINGS. SSNY DESIGN. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO ATTN: PAUL BUETI, 1 CITY POINT, APT. 43H, BROOKLYN, NY 11201. GENERAL PURPOSE

#217234

NEWKIRK STATION WINES & LIQUORS LLC

NEWKIRK STATION WINES & LIQUORS LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 01/08/24. 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, 11 NEWKIRK PLAZA, BROOKLYN, NY 11226. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217240

39 WOODHULL LLC

39 WOODHULL LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY ON 4/24/2024. OFF. LOC.: KINGS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AS AGT. UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 79 LUQUER ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11231. GENERAL PURPOSES.

#217243

MKDK BROOKLYN, LLC

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF MKDK BROOKLYN, LLC. AUTHORITY FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/15/24. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. LLC FORMED IN PENNSYLVANIA (PA) ON 04/02/24. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 4250 OLD WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY, SUITE 2, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146, ALSO THE ADDRESS REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED IN PA. ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH THE PA SECRETARY OF STATE, P.O. BOX 8722, HARRISBURG, PA 17105. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITIES.

#217245

GERTIE PHILADELPHIA LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GERTIE PHILADELPHIA LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY ON 04/24/2024. OFFICE LOCATION KINGS SSNY DESG. AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED SSNY MAIL PROCESS TO 801 BERGEN ST, APT 307, BROOKLYN, NY, 11238. ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217249

255A LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 255A LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/17/24. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO C/O TARTER KRINSKY & DROGIN LLP, ATTN: GINA PIAZZA, ESQ., 1350 BROADWAY, 11TH FL., NY, NY 10018. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217252

964 EAST 9TH STREET RESIDENCE LLC

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF 964 EAST 9TH STREET RESIDENCE LLC APPL. FOR AUTH. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 04/19/24. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. LLC FORMED IN DELAWARE (DE) ON 04/10/24. PRINC. OFFICE OF LLC: 921 AVE. K, BROOKLYN, NY 11230. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO C/O CORPORATION SERVICE CO. (CSC), 80 STATE ST., ALBANY, NY 12207-2543. DE ADDR. OF LLC: CSC, 251 LITTLE FALLS DR., WILMINGTON, DE 19808. CERT. OF FORM. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE, 401 FEDERAL ST., STE. #4, DOVER, DE 19901. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#217254

AK & GD REALTY LLC

AK & GD REALTY LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 04/29/24. 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, 3386 ATLANTIC AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217388

DANIEL COCHRAN PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

DANIEL COCHRAN PHOTOGRAPHY LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 3/20/2024. CTY: KINGS. SSNY DESIGN. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO REGISTERED AGENT SOLUTIONS, INC, 99 WASHINGTON AVE, STE 700, ALBANY, NY 12260. GENERAL PURPOSE

#217402

KAI & YANG TANG'S REALTY LLC

KAI & YANG TANG'S REALTY LLC, ARTS OF ORG FILED WITH SSNY ON 03/20/24. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS 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, 511 SENATOR ST, BROOKLYN NY 11220. PURPOSE: TO ENGAGE IN ANY LAWFUL ACT.

#217412

10271

GALLOGLY COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: GALLOGLY COMMUNICATIONS, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/5/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS TANE, WATERMAN & WURTZEL, P.C., 120 BROADWAY, SUITE 948 NEW YORK, NY, 10271. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217205

11377

WINNY'S HAPPY APPLE PLACE LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: WINNY'S HAPPY APPLE PLACE LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/28/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS CINDY XIAO HONG ZHANG 63-14 QUEENS BLVD, APT 7D WOODSIDE, NY, 11377. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#216003

12205

RAJA ALT LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: RAJA ALT LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/14/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS BUSINESS FILINGS INCORPORATED 187 WOLF ROAD, SUITE 101 ALBANY, NY, 12205. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217221

12207

BKCK ENTERPRISES LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: BKCK ENTERPRISES LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 4/16/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#217044

12210

WELD DNA LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: WELD DNA LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 9/6/2022. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS INCORP SERVICES, INC., ONE COMMERCE PLAZA, 99 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 805-A ALBANY, NY, 12210. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#209837

MY ELITE JANITORIAL SERVICES, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: MY ELITE JANITORIAL SERVICES, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 3/13/2024. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS INCORP SERVICES CORP, INC., ONE COMMERCE PLAZA, 99 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 805-A ALBANY, NY, 12210. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#216747

Hochul, Retail Workers Celebrate New Laws To Fight Shoplifting

By Brooklyn Eagle Staff

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently joined a coalition of retail workers and small-business owners to celebrate new protections against organized retail theft that were signed into law with the FY25 state budget.

This comprehensive approach puts more power in the hands of law enforcement, prosecutors and business owners — targeting every area of vulnerability. The new protections include increased criminal penalties for anyone who assaults a retail worker, elevating it from a misdemeanor to a felony. It also includes a \$5 million tax credit to help small-business owners invest in added security measures.

“I promised the retail workers and our small business owners that I would protect them — and we are doing just that,” Governor Hochul said. “Here in New York, we are standing up to organized retail theft, backing our businesses and their workers with the full force of the law, and restoring that sense of security and peace of mind so they can focus on what they do best.”

The FY25 state budget includes Gov. Hochul’s five-point plan to fight organized retail theft:

Increases criminal penalties for anyone who assaults a retail worker by elevating it from a misdemeanor to a felony. Any person who causes physical injury to a retail worker performing their job will be subject to this new felony.

Allowing prosecutors to combine the value of stolen goods when they file larceny charges. The budget allows retail goods from different stores to be aggregated for the purposes of reaching a higher larceny threshold when stolen under the same criminal scheme.

Making it illegal to foster the sale of stolen goods to go after third-party sellers. A person will be found guilty if they use any website or physical location to sell stolen goods.

\$40.2 million for dedicated retail theft teams within State Police, District Attorneys’ offices and local law enforcement, including 100 New York State Police personnel dedicated to fighting organized retail theft.

\$5 million tax credit to help small businesses invest in added security measures such as cameras. To help alleviate the burden on small businesses for additional security measures, the budget creates a \$3,000 tax credit for any small businesses who spends the threshold amount of money on retail theft prevention measures.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, “Working to stop retail theft and better protect retail employees has been an important priority for my office and law enforcement agencies throughout the city. I am grateful that the Legislature added tools that will help with this mission in this year’s state budget and gratified that Gov. Hochul signed them into law. This new funding will allow us to build on successful anti-theft programs, including our trespass affidavit program to stop repeat offenders, and invest in other solutions.”

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NYC to restore a controversial admissions boost for Manhattan students, Banks says

By Michael Elsen-Rooney
Chalkbeat

Schools Chancellor David Banks intends to bring back a controversial admissions bump for Manhattan eighth-graders at some of New York City's most sought-after high schools, he told parents this week.

The rule, which was scrapped by former Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2020, gave students from Manhattan's District 2 first crack at a half dozen selective schools in the district, including Eleanor Roosevelt, NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies, and Millennium High School. The district spans much of lower and midtown Manhattan along with the Upper East Side and is one of the city's most affluent.

School integration advocates lauded de Blasio's move. They argue that, in conjunction with other reforms, removing the district priority has significantly increased the share of Black, Latino, and low-income students at several of those schools.

But other parents have been forcefully pushing to restore the priority, saying that without it, district students have less of a chance of getting into coveted local schools and that some frustrated families are pulling out of the public school system altogether.

Banks, who has final say over school and district admissions policies, said at a raucous District 2 town hall Thursday night that he met with a group of those parents, including members of the local Community Education Council and the pro-screening group Parent Leaders for Accelerated Curriculum and Education, known as PLACE, on Wednesday.

"They shared the effects of removing the priority to District 2 families," he said. "And we are committed to granting D2 some kind of priority. I'm looking at various models as we speak," he said. Details will be finalized before the start of the next admissions cycle this fall, he said. Applications are typically due in early December.

The announcement drew immediate plaudits from supportive council members at Thursday's raucous town hall meeting, as well as boos from some members of the audience.

"I think that's a huge win," said Craig Slutzkin, a parent on District 2's Community Education Council and PLACE member who met with Banks earlier this week. "It shows he understands the needs of District 2 families."

The announcement set off alarm bells for school integration advocates, who worry reinstating the admissions priority could roll back significant progress diversifying some competitive high schools.

"It's extremely frustrating and concerning and sad to hear that he meets with this really small group of constituents and then decides to reverse a policy that was extremely effective at opening access and opportunity for some of our most marginalized student groups in the city," said Nyah Berg, the executive director of Ap-pleseed NY, a group that advocates for school integration.

"For me, it's fundamentally just not sound policy."

Banks rolls back pandemic admissions reforms

The reinstatement of District 2 priority would represent another reversal of a de Blasio pandemic-era admissions reform meant to chip away at racial and economic segregation in the city's stratified public middle and high schools.

Banks halted a de Blasio plan to phase out separate elementary school gifted and talented classes, and he allowed local superintendents to bring back selective screens at middle schools, which were banned during the pandemic.

Banks's announcement about District 2 priority came the same day that New York's appellate division ruled a lawsuit filed by student integration advocates could proceed. The suit claims that the city's segregated school system denies Black and Latino students their constitutional right to a sound, basic education.

The District 2 admissions priority, which school officials introduced in the 1990s as an effort to keep middle class families from fleeing public schools, has long attracted intense criticism from integration advocates.



Eleanor Roosevelt High School on the Upper East Side was one of several high schools that previously gave admissions priority to students who live in the district. Chancellor David Banks told parents he plans to bring back that policy. Reema Amin / Chalkbeat

In general, the city's system of high school choice aims to give students from across the city equal access to high schools. There are some schools that grant borough preferences and others that prioritize students from the surrounding neighborhoods, but the District 2 priority was unique in giving a district-wide bump at some of the city's most-sought after schools.

In practice, the rule virtually guaranteed that students outside of the district would not have a shot at getting into a handful of coveted high schools, no matter how stellar their academic records.

Eleanor Roosevelt offered 100% of its seats to District 2 students in 2017, while Baruch College Campus High School was 98% District 2 students, Chalkbeat reported in 2018.

In the months leading up to de Blasio's 2020 decision to scrap the District 2 priority, several principals of schools included in the policy spoke out against the practice.

"The lack of diversity among students, faculty and staff is a disservice to our community as a whole," Eleanor Roosevelt principal Dimitri Salianni wrote in a 2020 email to parents, according to the New York Times.

Removing District 2 priority, in conjunction with broader changes to the admissions system for selective high schools and initiatives from individual schools to set aside more seats for underrepresented students, has made a significant impact at several schools.

In the span of a single year, Eleanor Roosevelt went from sending 1% of its offers to students outside District 2, to 62% after the district priority was removed. The share of offers going to low-income students jumped from 16% to 50%.

Over time, the changes have profoundly shifted the demographics of schools like Roosevelt, which is now 27% Black and Latino and 37% low-income students. The school was 12% Black and Latino and 19% low-income students in 2019.

The NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies jumped from 14% Black and Latino and 28% low-income students in 2019 to 20% Black and Latino and 43% low-income students in 2022. A similar change happened at Baruch College Campus High School.

At Millennium High School in lower Manhattan and School of the Future in Gramercy, the numbers of Black and Latino and low-in-



DOE Chancellor David Banks halted a de Blasio plan to phase out separate elementary school gifted and talented classes. Now, he plans to reverse another de Blasio policy and restore a controversial admissions boost for Manhattan students. Christina Veiga / Chalkbeat

come students have stayed relatively flat. And at the NYC Museum School in Chelsea, the share of Black and Latino and low-income students decreased.

DISTRICT FAMILIES HAVE MIXED REACTIONS

Slutzkin cited intense demand from district parents to bring back the rule, saying he heard from roughly 1,000 people in support of a petition to reinstate it.

He also pointed to the fact that only 55% of District 2 students got an admissions offer at one of their top three high school choices last year, the lowest rate of any district in the city, according to Education Department data.

"No families should be forced to have excessive commutes to go to schools that meet their needs," he said.

But Gavin Healy, another parent on the local education council, said the relatively low rate of top choice matches for District 2 students likely has to do with families disproportionately selecting a small number of highly-competitive schools on their application.

"Manhattan has room, it's just not at the schools that some of the families in the district

want," he said.

Slutzkin argued that schools with open seats in Manhattan may have low graduation rates and would not meet the needs of high-achieving students, saying it's "incumbent upon the Education Department to work on those schools and get them to be schools that are desired."

Proponents of the D2 admissions priority have also argued that some district families are pulling out of the public school system and enrolling in private school because they're not getting into their top choice public schools.

One Manhattan principal of a school that formerly offered District 2 priority wasn't surprised that officials plan to reinstate the policy.

"I get the sense that the battle to keep students in the public schools for financial reasons is a big one," said the principal, who spoke anonymously because they weren't authorized to talk to the press. "They need to put up dams, and this is one way."

Healy said he was "not worried about the threat of people leaving," adding that the district is also seeing an influx of new students, including asylum seekers.

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

NYPD officer fired gun inside Columbia's Hamilton Hall, Manhattan DA's office confirms

By Gwynne Hogan, Harry Siegel and Claudia Irizarry Aponte
THE CITY

An officer inside Columbia University's Hamilton Hall Tuesday evening to break up a pro-Palestinian student demonstration fired his gun, in an incident that is now under review by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office, a spokesperson confirmed Thursday evening.

The gun fired did not appear to be aimed at anyone and no one was injured, said Doug Cohen, a spokesperson for Bragg's office confirmed in response to an inquiry from THE CITY, adding that the office's Police Accountability Unit is reviewing the shooting, which it does as a matter of policy.

Cohen said no students and only police officers were in the immediate vicinity when the shooting occurred.

Four hours after an inquiry from THE CITY, a spokesperson for the NYPD confirmed the officer was attempting to navigate through an area barricaded by students while using a firearm "equipped with a flashlight" to illuminate his way when he shot his gun "accidentally." The bullet struck a wall, and the spokesperson reiterated that the shooting occurred in the presence of police officers only.

Rumors of the shooting had quickly spread among students, but had not been confirmed until Thursday. A video posted to X by student Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine Tuesday night showed a police officer texting "thought we fucking shot someone."

The gun discharge is the latest revelation about the highly militarized NYPD action to break up a Pro-Palestinian student demonstration at the campus that been going on since April 17.

In multiple television and radio appearances, as well as a press conference Wednesday morning, Mayor Eric Adams praised the NYPD's "precision policing" and made no mention of the shooting.

During the raids at Columbia and City College, police blocked press access almost entirely, though they released a highly edited, flashy video of dozens of officers storming the Ivy League campus, breaking through barricaded doors and locks of the occupied hall, where demonstrators had barricaded themselves into early Tuesday morning.

In one shot, officers entered a room in Hamilton Hall with weapons drawn.

The video also shows officers using "flash-bangs," or stun grenades.

"It's pretty unusual to use flash-bangs for something like this absent some intel about a serious threat to officers," said a veteran law-enforcement official.

"I've never seen them used for search warrants involving guns, let alone some barricaded college kids."

Ben Chang, a spokesperson for Columbia University, declined to comment, deferring to the NYPD. A spokesperson for Mayor Eric Adams didn't return a request for comment immediately.



A protester faces off against an NYPD officer on the campus of Columbia University, April 30, 2024.

Credit: Gwynne Hogan/THE CITY

'A Military Operation'

Columbia University had first called police in to clear student demonstrators calling for the university to divest from Israel on April 18, with more than 100 arrests.

In the following days, as another even larger encampment of students grew in an adjacent lawn, sparking similar protests at universities nationwide, President Minouche Shafik expressed reluctance to involve police again.

That changed when a splinter group of demonstrators barricaded themselves inside Hamilton Hall early Tuesday morning, which she said gave the university "no choice" but to involve police again.

Even before the raids, Adams and other top NYPD officials had begun blaming "outside agitators" for fomenting protests on college campuses, with limited evidence to back that claim.

On Thursday evening, City Hall released a breakdown of those arrested in campus protests at Columbia and City College of New York it said were "unaffiliated" with those schools, saying those people, who the mayor has called "agitators," accounted for nearly 30% of the 112 demonstrators arrested at Columbia and 60% of those arrested by City College.

Shayoni Mitra, a senior lecturer at Barnard College who met students upon their releases late

Wednesday night into Thursday morning, relayed their accounts of being roughed up.

They said that included a student who was pushed down stairs not receiving medical attention for over an hour in the midst of what students described as something that "felt like a military operation," and an account of an officer who "threw flash grenades across [a] barrier without any sense of how many were behind it including undergraduates."

While the lesser charges most people were arrested on have to reach an arraignment within 24 hours under the city's protocol, Cohen, the spokesperson for Bragg's office, blamed the long delays on delays in arrest paperwork from the City College Police Department that the DA needed before initiating the arraignments.

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

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Queens calls for justice following the release of violent footage of teen's death

Continued from page 1

Utsho said, "No," and then told the officers that his brother didn't "even know what he is doing, to be honest."

At around the one minute mark on the video, the officers enter the home, and continue asking Utsho questions, including if Rozario had taken anything, or was high on drugs. Utsho said he wasn't high and hadn't taken any drugs.

"Is he diagnosed with anything?" Alongi asked.

"I'm not sure," Utsho responded.

The brother led the officers up the stairs to the second floor, Alongi in front and Cianfrocco behind him.

When they arrived on the second floor, they entered a living room area. Rozario's mother, Notan Ava Costa, was at the threshold to the kitchen, with Rozario behind her.

"What's up, pal," Alongi asked.

Neither Rozario nor his mother responded to the officers' question. Instead, Rozario led his mother into the kitchen and then reached into a drawer and pulled out a pair of scissors.

As Ava Costa attempted to grab the scissors, Rozario moved around her and toward the officers, who then backed up into the living room.

Alongi almost immediately pulled out his Taser, while Cianfrocco pulled out his gun.

Alongi then fired his Taser, striking Rozario. Despite the discharge of the Taser, Ava Costa continued to hold onto her son.

"Let go of him, and back up," the police shout. "Let go of him, miss"

Utsho, who was standing to the left of police, said, "Please don't shoot my mother," a phrase he continued to beg from the officers throughout the remainder of the incident.

Rozario then fell to the ground and Ava Costa grabbed the scissors. After a few seconds, Rozario stood back up.

Ava Costa walked back to Rozario, holding the scissors and apparently speaking to Rozario, as Utsho continued to ask the officers not to shoot his mother.

"We're not, just tell [her] to get the f--k out of the way," Alongi responded.

At the two minute and five second mark in the footage, Ava Costa is seen holding the scissors while Rozario held her from behind.

After the officers asked again for Ava Costa to move, she placed the scissors on the adjacent dining room chair and moved away.

"Don't shoot," she says.

That's when Alongi fired his Taser a second time, hitting Rozario, who at that point was completely unarmed and standing against the kitchen counter.

Rozario fell back slightly before pulling off the Taser nodes, grabbing the scissors from the chair and moving toward the officers.

Cianfrocco then fired his Taser, hitting Rozario again, who continued to move forward toward the officers, who move back into the living room.



NYPD Officers Matthew J. Cianfrocco and Salvatore J. Alongi fired a combined five shots during the incident, which transpired in less than three minutes.

Screenshot via State Attorneys General's Office

At around the two minute and 21 second mark, both officers swap their Tasers for their guns.

Rozario moved forward at the cops, with Ava Costa behind him.

One of the officers is heard saying, "get down." Cianfrocco then shot at Rozario once, though it is unclear if the bullet struck him.

The words "shoot him" are audible in the video as the scene continued to escalate.

Utsho shouted for Ava Costa and ran toward her and Rozario. Utsho held onto her mother, attempting to drag her into the living room, while, in turn, his mother held onto Rozario, attempting to calm him down.

"Get out of the way," an officer shouted.

"Please do not shoot my mom," Utsho said again, apologizing for the situation.

At that point, Alongi was back at the end of the room, fiddling with his firearm. Amid the struggle, the scissors were dropped to the ground.

"No, no, no," Cianfrocco is heard saying.

Cianfrocco then yelled, "put it down" before firing a single shot into Rozario's upper torso as the teen took a step in the officer's direction.

The officers again told Rozario to put down the scissors before firing three more shots into Rozario's body.

At the two minute and 59 second mark, Cianfrocco fired what was the fifth shot in the entire incident and Rozario fell to the ground.

"Please don't shoot!" Rozario's mother can be heard saying as the footage ends.

'AN EXECUTION'

Immediately following the release of the footage, advocates addressed the violent nature

of the footage, and the two officers' alleged failure to de-escalate the situation.

"The footage is horrifying – this was an execution," said Loyda Colon, the executive director of the Justice Committee. "From the start, the insulting language made clear these cops shouldn't be interacting with anyone who might have or be perceived to have mental health complexities."

"The video shows that the way these cops came in created a crisis situation that they unilaterally escalated multiple times," Colon added. "The cops made no attempt to de-escalate the crisis they created or engage with Win and his family other than to bark orders, tase and shoot."

The advocates, as well as the family, who had already seen the footage, called on the firing and prosecution of Alongi and Cianfrocco on Friday.

"It's been over a month since we lost Win and our hearts are broken," the family said in a statement. "We feel his absence every day. Reliving this is traumatic and painful. We wish it wasn't necessary for the video to be public."

"The video that was released makes it clear

that Win should be alive but the police came and murdered him in our kitchen without any care for him or us," they added. "The police created a crisis and killed him in cold blood. The officers should be fired and prosecuted for murder as soon as possible."

City Councilmember Lynn Schulman, who leads the Council's Health Committee and has passed a number of laws related to mental health, had not seen the footage when the Eagle spoke to her Friday afternoon, but said what happened in the video wouldn't change her opinion – the city should rethink its response to mental health-related incidents.

"My answer is the same, this is about our mental health system and we need a better mental health response so these types of situations don't happen again," she said. "Regardless of the video, this shouldn't have happened. We have to find a better way to deal with these mental health issues."

In response to the footage's release, the NYPD said it is fully cooperating with the investigation, and Alongi and Cianfrocco remain on modified assignment, working without their shields or guns.

In a separate statement, Mayor Eric Adams didn't defend the officers' actions, but didn't condemn them either.

"My heart is broken, and I share the profound pain felt by New Yorkers after watching the tragic video of the incident resulting in the death of Winn [sic] Rozario," he said. "The thought of a parent burying their child, let alone witnessing their child's final moments, is unimaginable. Our deepest condolences go out to Winn [sic] friends, family, and loved ones during this unfathomably difficult time."

"As your mayor, I am committed to continuing this lifelong mission and ensuring that Winn's [sic] death is not in vain," he added. "While the Attorney General's investigation is still ongoing, I want to be clear that her office has New York City's full cooperation. Out of respect for the process, I will avoid commenting any further, except to underscore the critical importance of learning from this profound loss and using it as a catalyst for positive change, particularly in how we police and care for those living with severe mental illness."



Win Rozario, 19-year-old from Ozone Park, and his family.

Photo via Justice Committee



Following Win Rozario's death in March, community members protested calling for justice for the 19-year-old and his family

Eagle file photo by Ryan Schwach