

QUEENS TODAY

JANUARY 16, 2024

QUEENS AND LONG ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL candidate Tom Suozzi spoke at what became a one-person forum in Long Island on Thursday after Republican opponent Mazi Pilip did not attend. The forum was initially scheduled to be for both opponents, meant as a meet and greet at the Lakeville Estates Civic Association. Suozzi criticized Pilip for missing the event, and spoke of other issues in the district. "We have many challenging issues that we face in this country and here in Nassau and Queens," Suozzi said at the event. "The only way we will solve the problems is if both Republicans and Democrats work together, find common ground, and start fixing things."

LAST WEEK'S STORM RESULTED IN THE partial collapse of two storefronts in Far Rockaway, The Wave reported. The damage was to two buildings on Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway, which are home to a salon and barbershop. The damage was discovered by the owners, leading to a temporary closure. "My office will work in tandem with our city partners to find a path forward for these business owners and their employees to ensure they don't go without as they work to rebuild," said local Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers after seeing the damage.

COUNCILMEMBER JAMES GENNARO IS hosting a cat adoption event with Assemblymember Sam Berger and the Queens-based cat rescue organization, MeowSquad NYC later this month. The adoption event will take place on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, located at 183-02 Union Tpke. in Fresh Meadows. MeowSquad NYC will also be collecting cat food and litter donations at the event for residents interested in donating to the nonprofit. "As someone who loves cats, I am thrilled to collaborate with Assemblymember Berger and MeowSquad NYC to bring this wonderful event to our community," said Gennaro. "Adopting a cat is not just a joyous addition to the family, but it also contributes to the well-being of these animals."

SEVEN PEOPLE WERE INDICTED FOR kidnapping and sexual assault in Queens in federal court last week, PIX 11 reports. Abu Chowdhury and his wife Iffat Lubna, along with Syed Rubel Ahmed, Shahed Alom, Anzu Khan, and Sultana Razia are accused of kidnapping members of their community and violently assaulting them in two separate incidents in 2023. The first came in March of last year, when five of the assailants and a co-conspirator abducted and assaulted a victim on a Queens street. Officials urged any other potential victims to come forward. A seventh individual wanted in connection with the attacks is still at large, prosecutors say.

Opening of new Southeast Queens precinct delayed



A rendering of the 116th Precinct in Rosedale, which was originally scheduled to be completed early this year but is now scheduled to be completed in the spring.
Rendering via New York City Department of Design and Construction

By Ryan Schwach and Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

It's been nearly half a century since a group of residents in Southeast Queens first began to fight for a new police precinct in their neighborhood.

It was a necessity, they said — the neighborhoods of Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, Brookville and Laurelton, where they lived, were subject to some of the slowest response times in the city from officers stationed anywhere from five to six miles away in Queens Village.

After decades of organizing, several false starts and countless delays, officials put shovels in the ground to build the new 116th Precinct in Rosedale in 2021. The groundbreaking ceremony that year was met with great fanfare, as was a "topping off ceremony" held by Mayor Eric Adams in the summer of 2022 to mark the completion of the new building's foundation.

But despite the project and around 50 years of anticipation, residents of the Southeast Queens neighborhoods will now have to wait a little bit

longer for their precinct to open its doors.

The opening of the 116th Precinct is running behind schedule, the Eagle has learned. Though construction was initially scheduled to be completed in January of this year, the city's Department of Design and Construction won't complete work on the building until the spring. The delay will also mean officers in the future 116th won't begin policing the Southeast Queens neighborhoods until at least the fall of 2024, according to the NYPD.

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Mayor Eric Adams blasted the City Council and others who attempt to create policies in the city's jails on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024.
Photo by Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Mayor blasts Council for Rikers reforms

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

While giving remarks at a graduation ceremony for Department of Correction officers on Friday, New York City Mayor Eric Adams bristled at recent attempts from the City Council and others to make reforms to the troubled jail complex on Rikers Island.

Speaking to the new class of correctional officers from the DOC's training facility in Queens, Adams appeared to lambast an effort by the City Council to ban solitary confinement in the city's jails, as well as an effort by federal prosecutors to strip the city of its control over Rikers Island — both of which could very likely prove to be successful.

Even as the mayor's new DOC commissioner, Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, called the graduating class "leaders in criminal justice reform," the mayor scoffed at any attempt from those not working inside Rikers Island to create its policies.

"While you try to protect the people that are inside our jails, people are trying to take away your power and authority to do the job right," Adams said. "That's what we're fighting against."

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Adams grumbles about Rikers reforms at correction officer graduation

Continued from page 1

The mayor’s comments come about a month after the City Council overwhelmingly passed a bill that would virtually ban solitary confinement in the city’s jails. While the mayor has claimed the city no longer uses solitary confinement, he has also argued that the bill would prevent correctional officers from being able to maintain safe conditions on Rikers Island, where over two dozen people have died since Adams took office.

While it’s unclear if the mayor will veto the bill, should he do so, the Council will have the votes to overturn the mayoral rejection.

But the potential battle with the Council didn’t seem to bother the mayor on Friday.

“I’m not going to be able to do everything I would desire to do in my time as the mayor of the City of New York, but I’m going to damn sure try,” Adams said during his speech.

“You need to understand something – you have a goddamn mayor that believes in what you’re doing and I will fight like all hell to be with you throughout this entire journey,” he added.

The mayor’s comments were met with applause and were echoed later in the ceremony by Benny Boscio, the president of the Correction Officers’ Benevolent Association.

Boscio, who has gotten into verbal arguments in public with progressive lawmakers including Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, the prime sponsor of the bill to ban solitary confinement, told the families of the recent grads that elected officials in the City Council were putting their loved ones in danger.

“I want you to imagine that somebody cuts another individual on a subway, our brothers and sisters in the NYPD arrest that individual and that individual goes to jail for four hours and then is released back to the public to commit the same heinous crimes – that is basically what they are doing to us,” Boscio said.

“I implore you, family and friends, to keep in mind who your city councilmembers are and who

your legislators are that are voting for and be mindful the next time you go to the polls,” he added.

Boscio, like Adams, frequently argues that the DOC no longer uses solitary confinement, which is recognized by the United Nations as a form of torture, and instead uses punitive segregation. Advocates and others say the difference in the two practices is only semantic.

The DOC has been sued multiple times in the past year – a period of time they said they didn’t use solitary confinement – for allegedly using solitary confinement.

A December report from the Columbia University Center for Justice found that “New York City jails continue to inflict various forms of solitary confinement by various different names,” including punitive segregation.

The bill to ban solitary would prevent incarcerated individuals from being held in an isolated cell for more than two hours per day within a 24-hour period and for more than eight hours at night directly after an alleged offense occurred – the confinement would be referred to as a “de-escalation” period. Should corrections officials determine that further confinement is required to de-escalate a situation, an incarcerated person could be held for up to four hours total in a 24-hour period.

The bill would also require that staff meet with the incarcerated person at least once an hour to attempt to de-escalate the situation. Originally, the bill required that medical staff conduct checks on the incarcerated person in confinement every 15 minutes.

Like the bill to ban solitary, both Adams and Boscio have opposed efforts by federal prosecutors and the Legal Aid Society to get a federal judge to install a federal receivership over Rikers Island. The extreme judicial order could see the right to manage the jail complex taken away from the city and handed over to a court-appointed authority.

On Friday, Boscio called the receivership attempt “absolutely absurd.”

Last summer, federal Judge Laura Swain al-



Mayor Eric Adams continued his public bashing of the City Council’s recently-passed bill to ban solitary confinement in the city’s jails on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. AP file photo by Seth Wenig

lowed receivership proceedings to begin. In the fall, the Legal Aid Society formally called on the judge to hold the DOC in contempt of court for allegedly failing to adhere to the 2015 consent judgment issued in the ongoing civil rights case known as Nunez v. the City of New York.

“The levels of violence and brutality in the city jails that exist today were unimaginable when the consent judgment was entered in 2015, and the city has demonstrated through eight years of recalcitrance and defiance of court orders that it cannot and will not reform its unconstitutional practices,” Mary Lynne Werlwas, the director of the Prisoners’ Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, said in a statement at the time.

“A receiver with the authority and mandate to make the difficult decisions the city will not is needed to secure the progress that two administrations and multiple Correction commissioners have all failed to achieve, and protect the constitutional rights of all people incarcerated

in New York City jails,” she added. The city is required to submit its response to receivership motion in March.

Adams appeared, at least in part, to appoint Maginley-Liddie to the commissioner’s position in December in an effort to stave off receivership. Former DOC Commissioner Louis Molina had been accused on several occasions of bucking the authority of the court-appointed federal monitor, Steve J. Martin, angering Swain. Additionally, in the eight years since she had started with the DOC, Maginley-Liddie had worked in various capacities helping the DOC implement the consent judgment.

The new commissioner on Friday took a different tone than the mayor and union president during her remarks.

“Integrity, compassion, transparency and innovation are the watchwords of this department,” Maginley-Liddie said. “These are the principles that will guide our new officers.”

“Let’s do this,” she added.

Long Island man sentenced for threatening wife with gun at Queens hospital



A man from Long Island was sentenced last week to seven years in prison for threatening his wife with a gun at a Glen Oaks hospital. Queens District Attorney

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

A Long Island man was sentenced Friday to seven years in prison for pulling a gun in Cohen’s Children Medical Center and threatening to kill his wife as she held their 2-year-old child.

Thomas Saxton, a 36-year-old man from Baisley Avenue in East Rockaway, was sentenced for the February 2022 incident by a Queens Supreme Court judge last week, District Attorney Melinda Katz says.

According to the charges, on Feb. 17, 2022, just after noon, Saxton arrived at the Glen Oaks hospital and confronted his 37-year-old wife, who was holding their recently-operated-on 2-year-old child. Saxton was coming to pick them up.

The DA said that Saxton threatened to shoot his wife, and when she yelled for help, he hid the gun and left. A few minutes later, he called her cell

phone and threatened to kill her while she slept.

The police were called and responding officers found Saxton sitting in his car in the hospital parking lot with two loaded ghost guns — a 10 mm pistol and a 9 mm pistol — along with ammunition, a loaded magazine and a bag of cocaine. He was arrested at the scene.

At his home, they found more weapons, which has prompted another prosecution from the Nassau County DA.

Saxton pleaded guilty in October to the charges of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree, and was sentenced to seven years in prison plus four years post-release supervision by Queens Supreme Court Justice David Kirschner.

“Armed and angry, the defendant turned a place of healing and hope into one of fear and despair,” said Katz. “Families need to trust that a children’s hospital is a safe haven. We will not

relent in our efforts to get illegal guns and those who use them off our streets.”

This week’s cases of interest in Queens Criminal Court

CASES OF INTEREST – TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

Taijuan Corse – W50/ Justice Iannece/ Assault 2° (ADA Devendran) Compliance Update. Pleaded guilty to assault on LIRR worker. Michael Brown – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA J. Esposito) Conference. Indicted in drive-by shooting death of St. Albans man. Shaquuan Butler – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Aloise) Conference. Indicted in murder of son inside Queens hotel. Yomar Gonzalez – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Aloise) Conference. Indicted for beating elderly neighbor to death with metal bar. Melissa Rockensies – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Endangering the Welfare of a Child (ADA Kanellopoulos) Conference. Charged with rape of 14-year-old student. Ralph Toro – K22/ Justice Margulis / Attempted Robbery 1° (ADA Lopera) Conference. Indicted for attempted robbery, sexual abuse and other crimes in separate elevator attacks in Forest Hills.

CASES OF INTEREST - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Christopher Lall – K21/ Justice Gopee/ Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2° (ADA Bello) Conference. Charged with possessing arsenal of illegal weapons. Melissa Rodriguez – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA A. Mendoza) Conference. Charged with murder in high-speed crash that killed passenger in Uber. Sean Brown – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Frankenstein) Conference. Indicted in shooting death of

14-year-old Aamir Griffin. William Hernandez – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Attempted Murder 1° (ADA Salmon) Conference. Charged for shooting building superintendent.

CASES OF INTEREST - THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

Waheed Foster – K22/ Justice Margulis/ Attempted Murder 2° (ADA Georgopoulos) Supreme Court Arraignment/ Indicted in brutal attack on woman at subway station. Khalik Berry – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA J. Esposito) Conference. Charged in shooting death of man in car near Queensbridge Houses. Sheila Mack TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Manslaughter 2° (ADA Licciardello) Conference. Charged with manslaughter in deadly crash that killed 2. Saber Abuhamra and Jorge Hernandez – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Strangulation 1° (ADA McCann) Conference. Charged with strangulation of customer. Jovan Fournillier – K21/ Justice Gopee/ Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2° (ADA Modica) Conference. Charged in International ghost gun trafficking operation.

CASES OF INTEREST - FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

Kattie Mino – TAP B/ Justice Pandit- Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Lasak) Conference. Indicted in stabbing death of former boyfriend. James Villaruel – K11/ Justice Johnson/ Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance (ADA Cheema) Conference. Charged with approaching girls walking home from school for explicit photos, sex acts.

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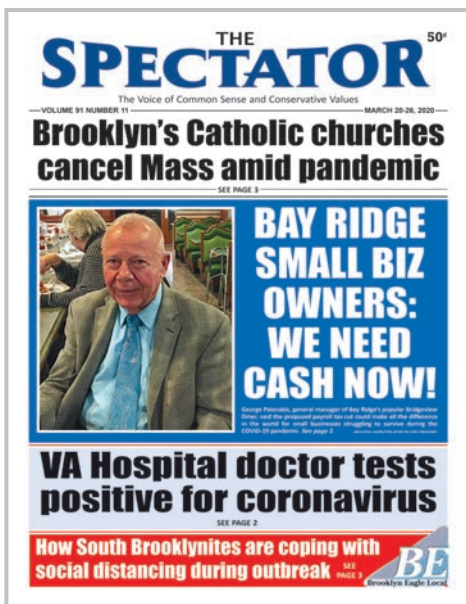
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We hope you will support our efforts in local journalism.

Jen Hopewell,
Assistant to the Publisher
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Brooklyn H.S. baffled by media frenzy over migrant families' one-night stay

By Gwynne Hogan
and Michael Elsen-Rooney
THE CITY and Chalkbeat

Students at James Madison High School Madison returned to classes Thursday without fanfare, after the school received hate calls and even a bomb threat for serving as an emergency shelter Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning for migrants with children.

The families living in tents in an airfield arrived at the school after 5 p.m. on Tuesday to wait out a heavy rain and wind storm, and left the school before 5 a.m. Wednesday morning. Even before their departure, the migrants' presence and the principal's decision to shift to remote classes on Wednesday immediately became a talking point for right-wing pundits nationwide.

But some parents, staffers and students who spoke with THE CITY expressed shock that the school had made it into the national spotlight, for what they saw, in the scheme of things, as a relatively minor disruption.

"I understand the frustration. No one wants their kids to be displaced out of their school, but it was just one day," said Marsha Thompson-Miles, a mother of an 11th grader at the school and the head of its Parent-Teacher Association.

"In America we have so much and we have to deal with so little. Wars are raging around the world and we don't really feel the effects of it," she said, adding she felt pride that the school had provided a space for families in need.

"For one night people didn't have to deal with rain and wind and the elements. They felt safe and warm," she added.

While pundits raged about a supposed "take-over," students had one day of remote lessons on Wednesday, with after-school activities canceled and a dance scheduled for that evening postponed.

School officials said the NYPD had thoroughly inspected the building and custodians gave it a deep clean before students and staff returned on Thursday.

A staffer who asked not to be named said Wednesdays tend to be a shorter day for students, and that the lingering impact of the storm would have made it difficult for some students to get to school in any event.

"It has been pretty quiet here," the staffer said. "We went remote for one day, that's it."

Hate Calls and a Bomb Threat

As 70-mile-an-hour gusts of wind bore down on New York City Tuesday, officials hastily evacuated 1,900 parents and children from a tent shelter located at the remote Floyd Bennett Field, busing them to the high school to shelter in the school gym, auditorium and cafeteria in chairs and on the ground for the night.

While their stay lasted for less than 12 hours, prominent conservatives treated the migrants' presence at the school as nothing less than an invasion, with talk radio dedicating hours to the top-



James Madison High School senior Zola Zephirin said she wasn't disrupted by migrants staying in the school's gym during a storm, Jan. 11, 2024.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

ic while Elon Musk tweeted that migrants "will come for your homes" next. Angry commenters followed suit, flooding the school's Facebook page after officials announced the day of remote learning.

"They are putting these people over our students," one commenter said. Another added: "That school needs to be disinfected."

The vitriol wasn't just online. A woman identifying herself as an "agitated mother" heckled the migrants as they entered the school in the rain Tuesday evening. And during a Zoom call hosted by Principal Jodie Cohen and Office of Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol, the two were shouted down by several outraged parents, several attendees said.

By Wednesday, city officials said the school had received "a torrent of hate calls and even a bomb threat," Iscol said at a press briefing that morning. He added, "we don't foresee us using James Madison High School again."

Later on Wednesday, Assemblymember Michael Novakhov (R-Brooklyn) held a rally outside the school Wednesday where he invoked the white nationalist "great replacement" conspiracy theory, saying that "they wanna bring more and more people who rely on the government and vote for them."

Republican Councilmember Inna Vernikov, who represents parts of southern Brooklyn, made the rounds on national television to complain that "our kids are really being punished."



On Thursday, Curtis Sliwa, who ran against Students leave James Madison High School in Brooklyn after migrants were temporarily housed in the gym during a heavy rainstorm, Jan. 11, 2023.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Mayor Eric Adams in the 2021 mayoral election and has been rallying against migrant shelters over the last year, blocked traffic outside of the Kings Plaza Shopping Center while calling for the Floyd Bennett shelter to close.

"Now the parents and the children who go to Madison High School have to be penalized," he said. "Nobody's happy about the situation."

But some students disputed the idea that they had been punished by the day of remote learning.

"We did remote learning for one and a half years, I don't see why people are making such a big deal of one day," said Spencer Katz, a 16-year-old junior. "It wasn't sunshine and rainbows for them [migrant families] either. It wasn't a hand-out, it was like basic human needs. No one should be left out and abandoned in a storm."

Akib Chowdhury, a 16-year-old junior who immigrated to the U.S. from Bangladesh at age 7, said he felt taken aback by the uproar about his school.

"It was kind of sad to see," he said, when the migrants "just want a better place, a better place to live."

'Kind of Crazy'

The neighborhoods of Marine Park, Madison and Midwood surrounding the high school have trended Republican, voting heavily for Trump in 2016.

But members of the school community pointed out James Madison's diverse student body; out of 3,700 students, 500 are English language learners; 19% are Asian, 16% are Latino and 10% are Black, according to Department of Education sta-

Others pointed out the school's history as the alma mater of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Chuck Schumer and Bernie Sanders and a place that's long been a haven for immigrants of all kinds, from Holocaust survivors to Russians fleeing communism.

"Madison High School has always been a melting pot," said Steve Kastenbaum, a veteran radio reporter and alumni of the school.

"People within the alumni community were quite frankly appalled that some people in Brooklyn exhibited the vitriolic rhetoric that was aimed at these people who were seeking shelter in a storm."

A few students leaving the high school Thursday afternoon expressed their own trepidation about what had happened there.

"They put them over us students which is kind of crazy," said a 15-year-old.

Another student lamented the school no longer felt safe for her. "It doesn't feel like my safe space. It usually feels like my safe space."

But many others took the remote day in stride, and said they felt their voices had been missing from the national news about their school. Zola Zephirin, a senior, said many students were upset by how things appeared on television and online.

"The hostility towards the migrants was definitely uncalled for," she said. "These are people, they have families, they come here and attempt to make a better life, just like many of the students at Madison."

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



Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa spoke at Kings Plaza against housing migrants at Floyd Bennett Field, Jan. 11, 2024.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Gen Z and Millennials Have an Unlikely Love Affair with Their Local Libraries

By Kathi Inman Berens
and Rachel Noorda
The Conversation

A phone fixation may seem at odds with an attraction to books. But the latter may offer a much-needed reprieve from the former.

In our recent study of American Gen Z and millennials, we discovered that 92% of them check social media daily; 25% of them check multiple times per hour.

Yet in that same nationally representative study, we also found that Gen Z and millennials are still visiting libraries at a healthy clip, with 54% of Gen Zers and millennials trekking to their local library in 2022.

Our findings reinforce 2017 data from the Pew Research Center, which showed that 53% of millennials had gone to their local library over the previous 12 months. By comparison, that same study found that 45% of Gen Xers and 43% of baby boomers visited public libraries.

So why might Gen Z and millennials — sometimes characterized as attention-addled homebodies — still see value in trips to the public library?

A preference for print

We found that Gen Zers and millennials prefer books in print over e-books and audiobooks, even though their other favorite reading formats are decidedly digital, such as video game chats and web novels. American Gen Zers and millennials read an average of two print books per month — nearly double the average for e-books or audiobooks, according to our data.

The preference for print also manifests itself in the types of books Gen Z and millennials are borrowing and buying: 59% said they prefer the same story in graphical or manga format than in text only.

And while some graphic novels, comics and manga can be read on a screen, print is where these intricately illustrated books truly shine.

Beyond reading

We were most surprised by our finding that 23% of Gen Zers and millennials who



The Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza.

AP photo by Ted Shaffrey

don't identify as readers nonetheless visited a physical library in the past 12 months.

It's a reminder that libraries don't just serve as a repository for books. Patrons can record podcasts, make music, craft with friends or play video games. There are also quiet spaces with free Wi-Fi, perfect for students or people who work remotely.

Younger generations tend to be more values driven than older ones, and libraries' ethos of sharing seems to resonate with Gen Zers and millennials — as does a space that's free from the insipid creep of commercialism. At the library, there are no ads and no fees — well, provided you return your books on time — and no cookies



More than 50 percent of Gen Z and millennials still visit their local public libraries to look for books.

Jefferee Woo/Tampa Bay Times via AP, file

tracking and selling your behavior.

U.S. census data also shows that younger generations are more racially diverse than older generations.

Our survey found that 64% of Black Gen Zers and millennials visited physical libraries in 2022, a rate that's 10 percentage points higher than the general population. Meanwhile, Asian and Latino Gen Zers and millennials were more likely than the general population to say that browsing library shelves was a preferred way to discover new books.

A crucial moment for libraries

Though libraries have been forced to reckon with book bans and the politicization of public spaces, Gen Zers and mil-

lennials still see libraries as a kind of oasis — a place where doomscrolling and information overload can be quieted, if temporarily.

Perhaps Gen Zers' and millennials' library visits, like their embrace of flip phones and board games, are another life hack for slowing down.

Printed books won't ping you or ghost you. And when young people eventually log back on to their devices, books make excellent props for #BookTok, the community on TikTok where readers review their favorite books.

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



The new Sunset Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, on the ground floor of this new residential building.

Photo courtesy of Fifth Avenue Committee



Our World In Pictures



NETHERLANDS — May the scales of justice begin to weigh: South Africa's Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola, center, and Palestinian Assistant Minister of Multilateral Affairs Ammar Hijazi, right, address the media outside the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. The United Nations' top court opens hearings Thursday into South Africa's allegation that Israel's war with Hamas amounts to genocide against Palestinians, a claim that Israel strongly denies.

Photo: Patrick Post/AP



NEW HAMPSHIRE — Once, now twice a dropout: Republican presidential candidate former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announces he is dropping out of the race during a town hall campaign event Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, in Windham, NH.

Photo: Robert F. Bukaty/AP



MELBOURNE — Pros hold the racket all ways: Coco Gauff of the United States practices on Rod Laver Arena ahead of the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

Photo: Mark Baker/AP



DES MOINES — Pointing fingers close enough for poking: Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, right, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, left, pointing at each other during the CNN Republican presidential debate at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.

Photo: Andrew Harnik/AP

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Scholastic Roundup

The Stars Are Out at Xaverian

By Andy Furman
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Six Xaverian High School football Clippers were named to the Brooklyn-Queens Catholic High School Football League All-Star team.

Players were selected from Christ the King High School, Holy Cross H.S. and St. Francis Prep as well as Xaverian.

Clippers named to the squad were:

- Owen Conti: Junior Wide Receiver/Tight End; 27 catches, 357 receiving yards; All-League
- Spiros Drossos: Senior Wide Receiver/Tight End; 24 catches, 320 receiving yards; three TDs; CHSFL All-League; played in the Senior Bowl
- Offensive Line:
 - Matt Ferris: Senior
- Linebackers:
 - Tommy McMorrow: Senior; 69 tackles, CHSFL All-League; played in the Senior Bowl; won Vincent O'Connor Award as CHSFL AII All Defensive Player of the Year
 - Timothy Hayes: Senior; 40 tackles, three interceptions; selected CHSFL All-League
 - Andrew Owens: Senior; 37 tackles

Ten girls from Xaverian were named to All-League teams, followed by St. Edmund Prep (5) and Fontbonne Hall Academy and Nazareth Regional High School with three each.

The winners were:

Soccer Tier 1:

- Xaverian: Chloe Brown, Ella Kushnick, Julianna Javier, Kyra Sienkiewicz

Soccer Tier 2:

- Fontbonne Hall Academy: Leeann Ryan, Lily Keane

Soccer Tier 3:

- St. Edmund Prep: Kiersten Sorrentino, Kenzie Palisi, Shae Frank, Brikena Kukaj
- St. Saviour High School: Maribel Dixon

Volleyball Tier 1:

- Xaverian: Julia Turchiano, Cassie McDade, Sophia Mandredi

Volleyball Tier 2:

- St. Edmund Prep: Grace Gillen

Volleyball Tier 3:

- Nazareth High School: Makylah Moore, Tierra Hendricks, Joanna Gomez
- Bishop Loughlin High School: Jessica Toussaint, Abria Ashton
- Cristo Rey High School: Kaelin Harriott
- St. Saviour High School: Rosemary McCollum

Cross-Country:

- Xaverian: Grace Lanier, Emily Artega, Marietta Ayala-Dominguez

The Brooklyn Tech basketball Engineers pushed their score all the way to 70 last week, but it wasn't enough to win, losing 84-70 against Transit Tech. Chadwyck Beckford had 30 points and nine rebounds for the Engineers — a new season high. Troy Hornbeck added 18 points.

Transit Tech pushed their record to 7-1 last week, and coach Warren Nga reports his 6-3 senior, Ashton Reynolds, is leading the club with a 28-points-per-game average. "He has offers to about 20- D-1 schools," Nga says, "including Temple, Iona, Fairfield and Rider."

Richard Collins, the self-proclaimed St. Francis College, Brooklyn sports historian has tracked the whereabouts of staff and athletes after the Terriers' demise of their athletic department on March 20.

- Irma Garcia, former athletic director at St. Francis is now in the same role at Manhattan College
- Glenn Braica, former basketball coach, is now an assistant at Fairfield (Conn.) University
- Linda Cimino, head women's basketball coach at Dartmouth College; was formerly head coach for the Terriers
- Tom Giovato, assistant soccer coach at Fordham, served at SFC
- Illja Duretic, now assistant men's water polo coach at Fordham. The Rams lost to Cal in the first-round of the 2023 NCAA tournament

Former Men's Basketball Players:

- Rob Higgins is averaging 10.6 points per game for Elon (NC) University
- Trey Quartebaum is averaging 12.4 ppg for Northwestern State (Okla.)
- Tedrick Wilcox is averaging 13.9 ppg for Hampton University, Va.
- Josiah Harris is at Radford University, Va.
- Zion Bethea is at the University of Delaware
- D'Andre Howell-South is averaging 4.1 ppg for Wagner College
- Roy Clarke is averaging 5.1 ppg for St. Peter's University (NJ)
- Syrus Grisby, 8.4 minutes per game for Prairie View A&M
- Elijah Hardison is 2.8 ppg for Oswego State (NY)
- Nuha Sangia is averaging 7.2 ppg for the College of St. Rose (NY)
- Larry Moreno and team manager Joe Macino returned to SFC to complete their degrees. Team manager Tom Malone transferred to Hofstra.

For the women:

- Jaila Lee is averaging 8.3 ppg at University of North Carolina (Asheville)
- Alyssa Fisher is averaging 13.6 ppg at Loyola, Chicago



Football players at Xaverian High School.

Facebook photo

- Angena Beloso is averaging 6.9 ppg at Florida International University
- Eszter Varga is on the LIU roster
- Tyra Myers is averaging 4.6 ppg at Stetson University (Fla.)
- Paige Martin is averaging 3.9 ppg at Stonehill, Mass.
- Sheridan Kavanagh is averaging 9.9 ppg at St. Mary's U of San Antonio
- Sarah Bandoma is averaging 3.8 ppg at Providence College
- Zharia Hutchinson and Anna Altmann returned to SFC to complete their degrees.

Earning their first win of 2024, the Brooklyn College women's basketball team rolled to a 65-27 conference win at home over Lehman last Friday.

Sarah James led the way with a game-high 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; sister Ericka added 11 points and had six rebounds.

Swimming in their first meet in over a month, Brooklyn College's men's Swimming and Diving pulled out a key conference win over Lehman, 84-83, last week. Brooklyn improves to 4-1 overall and 2-0 in CUNYAC.

Michael Kravets won the 200-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly; Nicholai Krylyuk won the 50 and 100 freestyle.

The women also won their first meet of the year, topping Lehman 112-64 in a conference test. Elizabeth Bailey and Christine Bailey took first and second respectively in the 200 freestyle, earning the Bulldogs 13 points; Anastasia Kutuzov won the 200 IM, 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke; Julie Huang won the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly.

Patrick O'Gorman and Cameron Windt combined for 30 points as the Pratt Institute men's basketball team opened the new year with an 87-61 road win over St. Joseph's University (L.I.) last Friday.

O'Gorman shared game-high honors with 18 points, also pulling down four rebounds and dishing out a pair of assists. Windy netted 12 points.

St. Joseph's placed four players in double figures, led by Xavier Allen's 18-point, 14-rebound double-double and Terrin Roy also scored 18 points.

Tai Strickland, with a clutch three-point and 23 points, led the LIU men's basketball team to their first win of the year, a 69-67 NEC defeat of Wagner College last week in Brooklyn

Eric Acker scored 14, and Tana Kopa added 13 for the Sharks.

The Lady Sharks opened their conference schedule with a 54-52-win Saturday

at the Steinberg Wellness Center. Ashley Austin had a team-high 18 points and seven assists.

The new year didn't prove kindly for the Cougars of Medgar-Evers College as they fell to Hunter in CUNYAC action, 82-68, last week. Medgar-Evers was led by Joshua Jean Pierre with a career-and game-high 27 points and his team-best 11 rebounds.

The Medgar-Evers women's basketball team dropped their first game of the calendar year, suffering a 76-40 defeat to CUNYAC foe Hunter last week. Sophomore standout Sheily Quezada registered her sixth double-double of the season, scoring a team-high 19 points and team-best 12 rebounds., Sophomore point guard Jennifer Metra scored nine and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Midfielder Joshua Saavedra produced an immediate impact with the LIU men's soccer team this past season en route to becoming the NEC Rookie of the Year and a first-team All-NEC selection.

Saavedra now is being recognized nationally for his first collegiate season, too. Top Drawer Soccer has named Saavedra to its Freshman Best XI first team. He tallied seven goals and five assists while appearing in 18 matches for the NEC champion Sharks this past season. The 19 points rank fourth nationally among Division I freshmen.

He became LIU's fourth NEC Rookie of the Year in the past six seasons, joining Emil Jaaskelainen (2020-21), Papa Ndoye (2019) and Sam Ilin (2018).

LIU's football tight-end Leak Bryant, wide receiver Kyren Petteway and defensive back Jai Roe will participate in the Tropical Bowl, Jan. 18-20 in Orlando, Fla.

The Tropical Bowl showcases the top college football seniors to NFL scouts and GMs who travel from around the country to the event. The weekend is focused on scouting, teaching and football.

Devin Matthews and John Dusza led the way for the LIU wrestling team at the David H. Lehman F&M Open, Friday.

Matthews won three matches at 141 pounds to reach the quarterfinals, and Dusza won a pair of matches at 197 pounds to also reach the quarters. Rhyse Royster enjoyed success for the Sharks at 157 pounds to reach the Round of 16.

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



Varsity swimmers at Xaverian High School

Facebook photo



Our World In Pictures

MUMBAI — Synchronized flying to get it down-pat for a later day: Indian Air Force Surya Kiran aerobatics team rehearses for an air show over Marine Drive in Mumbai, India, Friday, Jan. 12, 2024.

Photo: Rajanish Kakade/AP



THE HAGUE — Public opinion making waves outside the UN's top court: A person waves a Palestinian flag while passing a pro-Israel protest outside the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. The United Nations' top court opened hearings Thursday into South Africa's allegation that Israel's war with Hamas amounts to genocide against Palestinians, a claim that Israel strongly denies.

Photo: Patrick Post/AP



SWITZERLAND — Speeding down the slopes: France's Alexis Pinturault speeds down the course during an alpine ski, men's World Cup super-G race, in Wengen, Switzerland on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024.

Photo: Jean-Christophe Bott/Keystone via AP



ISRAEL — Caged but not quiet... metaphoric demonstrations of protest: Relatives and supporters of the Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas militant group attend a march calling for their release near Kibbutz Urim, southern Israel, Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. Seeking to bring attention to the abuse of female hostages remaining in the Strip, they bound themselves with red tape, chanting "Bring our sisters home!" and marched behind a woman who writhed inside a cage.

Photo: Ohad Zwigenberg/AP



Our World In Pictures



MALAYSIA — “Royal Ship” Festival ushers souls to final rest: Wangkang ship is set aflame during the night culminating ceremony so that the collected spirits can symbolically sail into another realm during the Wangkang or “royal ship” festival in Malacca, Malaysia, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. The Wangkang festival was brought to Malacca by Hokkien traders from China and first took place in 1854. Processions have been held in 1919, 1933, 2001, 2012 and 2021. Photo: Vincent Thian/AP



MOSCOW — Alleged terrorist offers “peace sign” from the cage: Sergei Udaltsov, a Russian left-wing political activist stands in a cage in a courtroom in Moscow, Russia on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. Sergei Udaltsov, a Russian pro-war activist and critic of President Vladimir Putin, was remanded into custody Thursday over alleged terrorism offenses, his lawyer told the Russian state news agency Tass.

Photo: Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP



NAIROBI — Peaceful protests to pave the way out of corruption: Human rights activists and members of the Law Society of Kenya held a peaceful protest in which hundreds took part in Nairobi, Kenya on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. In recent weeks, Kenyan President William Ruto has threatened to disobey court orders, alleging that some judges are working with opposition politicians to block his administration’s projects.

Photo: Brian Inganga/AP



TAIPEI — Taiwan speaks, cheers, rallies toward hopes of progress: Supporters of Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) presidential candidate William Lai cheer during a rally in Taipei, Taiwan on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, ahead of the presidential election on Saturday.

Photo: Louise Delmotte/AP

Skepticism and ‘blood money’ jeers on the East Side as casino reps present plan

By Gabriel Poblete
THE CITY

A recent town hall over a proposed casino on the east side of Midtown Manhattan proved testy, as community members spoke in opposition to the casino — and spoke over the developers.

State Sen. Kristen Gonzalez (D-Manhattan/Queens/Brooklyn) hosted the Thursday evening town hall at the NYU College of Dentistry in Kips Bay, with more than 800 people signed up to attend. The hearing mostly focused on a casino proposal, led by the developer Soloviev Group, near the United Nations.

Elected officials at the meeting weren’t shy about their misgivings about gaming. State Senator Liz Krueger, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, said she doesn’t like gambling, and Assemblymember Harvey Epstein said the legislators fought to mandate community input in the legislation that enabled the casinos to be licensed downstate.

New York State will be awarding up to three casino licenses in the downstate region, and as of now, nine casino proposals in the city have been revealed.

For each casino application, the state mandates the establishment of a six-member Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that would conduct open meetings with the public and eventually vote on the project — with a two-thirds majority needed for a proposal to make its way to the state’s Gaming Facility Location Board.

Each CAC will consist of representatives from the governor and mayor, as well as the local councilmember, the borough president and the respective state legislators. The state is likely to open the application period early this year.

Robert Gottheim, district director for Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY), expressed a fatalistic view as he spoke to those in attendance, presuming that one of the casinos would be in Manhattan because “this is where the money is.”

When someone from the crowd said it was “blood money,” Gottheim responded: “It may be blood money, but the money is coming.”

“The reality of the matter is, it’s been approved by the legislature. We are getting casinos in New York,” he said. “I wish we weren’t getting



A rendering of the proposed Freedom Plaza casino complex.

Credit: Soloviev Group

casinos in New York. Casinos, they prey on the most vulnerable people spending their paychecks. It’s not what we should be doing. But we have to deal with reality.”

Five casino proposals have been floated in Midtown Manhattan, with two others in Queens, and the others in The Bronx and Coney Island, Brooklyn.

Representatives from the Soloviev Group went over their proposed development for the east side,

an \$18 billion project called the Freedom Plaza that would also consist of 1,325 apartments — 513 of which would be permanently income-restricted so-called “affordable” units complying with the city’s mandatory inclusionary housing system.

The proposal also includes a community fund that would invest in local initiatives such as quality of life improvements, with 2% of annual net profits and a minimum of \$5 million. The project also includes retail, a food market, a hotel, a

museum, and the gaming facility, which would be below grade and accessible from the FDR Drive.

Audience members raised questions about the idea that for affordable housing to be built on the land, it must be tied to the gaming facility, especially since the group had previously planned to build housing on the land in previous years. But the representatives stressed that the gaming facility would be the economic engine necessary to build the under-market-rate rentals.

“Without the casino, we would not be developing the affordable housing,” one of the Soloviev Group representatives said, adding that there is no mandate to do so on the project site and that there’s no tax abatement program right now for that kind of development.

The development group tried to assuage audience concerns about a host of issues that could emerge from the casino project — including clashing with the United Nations’ activities, especially during UN week where traffic comes to a standstill — and the impact the casino could have on public welfare and safety.

Audience members also raised questions about the city’s efforts to forgo the zoning gauntlet known as the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, or ULURP, which the city has argued is redundant with the CAC process. As THE CITY previously reported, those concerns have led to multiple community boards voting down efforts to do away with ULURP.

After the question-and-answer session, members gave their takes on the prospect of a casino in their neighborhood, with most expressing a degree of opposition. One person similarly voiced a sense of futility as Gottheim, calling the casino a foregone conclusion. But State Sen. Gonzalez refuted that notion.

“This is very much not a done deal, and that’s why we’re here today,” she said. “Because when we hear from all of you and organize, we are going to be informed if we get to the point that we have a Community Advisory Council.”

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Sign bearing Trump's name removed from Bronx golf course as new management takes over

By Jake Offenhartz
Associated Press

On the final day of a civil fraud trial that could strip Donald Trump of his ability to do business in the state he called home for most of his life, New York City officials were taking their own steps to sever ties with the former president by erasing his name from a Bronx golf course.

The hulking hillside "Trump Links" sign, visible for nearly a decade to motorists passing over the Whitestone Bridge, was removed this week ahead of a ribbon-cutting Thursday to unveil the new name of the Ferry Point golf course, Bally Links.

The rebranding came months after the Trump Organization offloaded the operations of the 18-hole public course to Bally's Corporation, a gaming and entertainment company hoping to build a casino in New York.

Speaking at the unveiling, Mayor Eric Adams described the lease takeover as a major upgrade for the Bronx. "This day is about so much more than the changing of a sign," he said.

Following the Jan. 6th insurrection, then-Mayor Bill de Blasio moved to scrap the contract with the Trump Organization, which had been managing the course since 2015, arguing that Trump's incitement of rioters had given the city legal authority to do so. A state judge rejected that argument.

In September, the Trump Organization



In this photo provided by the Office of the Mayor of New York, Mayor Eric Adams, third left, participates in the ribbon cutting ceremony and sign unveiling of Bally Links, formerly Trump Links, at Ferry Point in the Bronx borough of New York, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office via AP

sold the operating rights to Bally's for \$60 million. The terms of the lease were first disclosed in November during the civil fraud trial delving into the ex-president's finances and the family business' dealings.

Under questioning, the former president's son Donald Trump Jr. said the family company had incurred "a lot of costs" managing the course. He said he wasn't sure if they turned a profit.

That trial came to a close on Thursday,

with a decision expected by the end of the month.

The former president changed his legal residence from New York City to Palm Beach, Florida, in 2019.

Donald Trump defies judge, gives courtroom speech on tense final day of New York civil fraud trial

By Michael R. Sisak and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

Barred from giving a formal closing argument, Donald Trump wrested an opportunity to speak in court at the conclusion of his New York civil fraud trial Thursday, unleashing a barrage of attacks in a six-minute diatribe before being cut off by the judge.

In an extraordinary move for any defendant, Trump not only sought to make his own summation but then brushed past a question from the judge about whether he would follow rules requiring him to keep his remarks focused on matters related to the trial.

"I am an innocent man," Trump protested. "I'm being persecuted by someone running for office, and I think you have to go outside the bounds."

Judge Arthur Engoron let him continue almost uninterrupted for what amounted to a brief personal summation, then cut him off for a scheduled lunch break.

Trump's in-court remarks, which were not televised, ensured a tumultuous final day for a trial over allegations that he habitually exaggerated his wealth on financial statements, deceiving a bank and insurance companies into giving him plum deals.

Engoron said he hoped to have a verdict by Jan. 31. He is deciding the case because state law doesn't allow for juries in this type of lawsuit.

New York Attorney General Letitia James sued Trump in 2022 under a state law that gives her broad power to investigate allegations of persistent fraud in business dealings. She wants the judge to impose \$370 million in penalties and forbid Trump from doing business in New York.

Adding to the day's tension, the exchanges took place hours after authorities responded to

a bomb threat at the judge's house in New York City's suburbs. The scare didn't delay the start of court proceedings, and Engoron didn't mention it in court.

Trump, the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, has disparaged Engoron throughout the trial, accusing him in a social media post Wednesday night of working closely with James. Both she and Engoron are Democrats.

The court action came days before the presidential primary season kicks off with the Monday's Iowa caucuses.

Engoron had rejected an unusual plan by Trump to deliver his own closing remarks in the courtroom, in addition to summations from his legal team. The sticking point was that Trump's lawyers would not agree to the judge's demand that he stick to "relevant" matters and not try to introduce new evidence, make a campaign speech or lob personal attacks at the judge, James or the court system.

After three Trump lawyers delivered traditional closing arguments Thursday, one of them, Christopher Kise, asked the judge again whether Trump could speak. Engoron asked Trump whether he would abide by the guidelines.

Trump didn't agree to do so, instead launching into his remarks.

"What's happened here, sir, is a fraud on me," Trump said, claiming he was being targeted by officials who "want to make sure I don't win again." He later accused the judge of not listening to him: "I know this is boring to you."

"Control your client," Engoron warned Kise.

Engoron then told Trump he had a minute left, let him speak a little more, and then adjourned.

James later said she wasn't bothered by Trump's personal attacks.

"This case has never been about politics or

personal vendetta or about name-calling," she said outside court. "This case is about the facts and the law. And Mr. Donald Trump violated the law."

A lawyer for her office, Kevin Wallace, had argued in court that "fraud was central to the operation" of Trump's business. Wallace asserted that inflating Trump's fortune led to interest rate savings that "kept the company afloat" for a time when it was spending big on various projects, though Kise objected that there was no testimony to that effect.

The state insisted that the falsehoods were intentional and that Trump should be held accountable for them.

"Ask yourself: Would any of this persistent fraud have happened, over the course of 11 years, if it wasn't directed from the top by Mr. Trump?" state lawyer Andrew Amer posited during summations.

Trump skipped the state's closing arguments to hold a news conference that served as counter-programming. He reiterated his insistence that "they have no case."

His lawyers had argued as much in their summations. Kise said Trump "should get a medal" for his business acumen instead of a potential punishment he deemed the "corporate death penalty."

While he acknowledged that Trump's financial statements may have made "immaterial" overstatements about some of his holdings, the lawyer maintained that many assets "were undervalued by substantial sums."

The day began with police on Long Island checking out what they called a "swatting incident" at Engoron's home. Nassau County police said they found nothing amiss.

The false report came days after a fake emergency call reporting a shooting at the home of the judge in Trump's Washington, D.C., criminal case.

The incidents are among a recent spate of similar false reports at the homes of public officials.

Engoron ruled before the trial that Trump had committed years of fraud by lying about his riches on financial statements with tricks like claiming his Trump Tower penthouse was nearly three times its actual size.

The trial involves six undecided claims of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records. Trump's company and two of his sons, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr., are also defendants. Eric Trump was also in court for closing arguments.

In a ruling last month, the judge suggested he's inclined to find Trump and his co-defendants liable on at least some claims. Assets can be valued in different ways, the judge wrote, "but a lie is still a lie."

However, Engoron asked the state lawyers Thursday what evidence they had that Trump's sons knew of the alleged fraud. "I just haven't seen it," the judge said.

Amer responded that the sons, as top executives, bore responsibility even if they claimed to be unaware of the purported wrongdoing.

Since the trial began Oct. 2, the former president has gone to court nine times to observe, testify and complain to TV cameras about the case.

He clashed with Engoron and state lawyers during 3½ hours on the witness stand in November and remains under a limited gag order after making a disparaging and false social media post about the judge's law clerk.

On Tuesday, he was in court in Washington, D.C., to watch appeals court arguments over whether he is immune from prosecution on charges that he plotted to overturn the 2020 election — one of four criminal cases against him. Trump has pleaded not guilty.

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SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF LSF10 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, PLAINTIFF, VS. JOSE ROSARIO, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO AN ORDER CONFIRMING REFEREE REPORT AND JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2023, 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 FEBRUARY 9, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 34-26 72ND STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372. 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 1258 AND LOT 17. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$721,372.82 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX #721497/2020. 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. GREGORY J. NEWMAN, ESQ., REFEREE FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP, 85 BROAD STREET, SUITE 501, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF. FIRM FILE NO. 211515-1

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, PLAINTIFF, VS. ELDER AVE REALTY CORP., ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2023 AND ENTERED ON NOVEMBER 30, 2023, 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 ON FEBRUARY 16, 2024 AT 10:45 A.M., 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 5137 AND LOT 1129. SAID PREMISES MAY ALSO BE KNOWN AS 138-35 ELDER AVENUE, PARKING GARAGE UNIT NO. 129, FLUSHING, NY. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$134,821.82 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE. INDEX # 712071/2019. 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 AUCTION RULES, CAN BE FOUND ON THE QUEENS SUPREME COURT - CIVIL TERM WEBSITE. BRUCE S. POVMAN, ESQ., REFEREE THE LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS P. MALONE, PLLC, 60 EAST

42ND STREET, SUITE 553, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10165, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR TRUMAN 2016 SC6 TITLE TRUST, PLAINTIFF, VS. MOHAMMED ALI, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023, 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 23-64 93RD STREET, EAST ELMHURST, NY 11369. 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 1086 AND LOT 41. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$1,844,918.49 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX #707967/2021. 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. NEDA N. MELAMED, ESQ., REFEREE FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP, 85 BROAD STREET, SUITE 501, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF FIRM FILE NO: 210462-2

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCREDIT LOANS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-QA3, V. HOLLY CIVITELLA, ET AL. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO A FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE DATED AUGUST 21, 2023, AND ENTERED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, WHEREIN DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCREDIT LOANS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-QA3 IS THE PLAINTIFF AND HOLLY CIVITELLA, ET AL. ARE THE DEFENDANT(S). I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION RAIN OR SHINE ON THE COURTHOUSE STEPS OF THE QUEENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD., JAMAICA, NY 11435, ON FEBRUARY 2, 2024 AT 10:00AM, PREMISES KNOWN AS 11423 SUTTER AVENUE, SOUTH OZONE PARK, NY 11420: BLOCK 11707, LOT 9: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX # 707659/2019. KRISTEN JEAN DUBOWSKI, ESQ. - REFEREE. ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 900 MERCHANTS CONCOURSE, SUITE 310, WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11590, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF. ALL FORECLOSURE SALES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COVID-19 GUIDELINES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASK WEARING. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

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 COURT-

HOUSE, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11435, ON FEBRUARY 16, 2024 AT 11:45 A.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.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, PLAINTIFF, VS. CHRISTINA ZAMORA A/K/A CHRISTINE ZAMORA A/K/A CHRISTINE Z. BURSTEIN (CHRISTINE BURSTEIN), ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON OCTOBER 24, 2023, 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 JANUARY 26, 2024 AT 12:15 P.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 73-21 182ND STREET, FRESH MEADOWS, NY 11365. 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 7170 AND LOT 13. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$700,353.24 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX # 706838/2016. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. 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. JOSEPH MISK, ESQ., REFEREE KNUCKLES, KOMOSINSKI & MANFRO, LLP, 565 TAXTER ROAD, SUITE 590, ELMSFORD, NY 10523, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, NYCTL 2019-A TRUST, AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2019-A TRUST, PLAINTIFF, VS. DANIEL C.S. AHN, IF LIVING, AND IF HE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DATED OCTOBER 25, 2023 AND DULY ENTERED ON OCTOBER 31, 2023, 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 FEBRUARY 2, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 41-11 149TH PLACE, FLUSHING, NY 11355. 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 5056 AND LOT 14. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$21,310.42 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX #720625/2020. 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. DAVID STEVEN DENDER, ESQ., REFEREE BRONSTER, LLP, 156 WEST 56TH STREET, SUITE 703, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Some Americans will get their student loans canceled in February as Biden accelerates his new plan

By Collin Binkley
Associated Press

The Biden administration will start canceling student loans for some borrowers in February as part of a new repayment plan that's taking effect nearly six months ahead of schedule.

Loan forgiveness was originally set to begin in July under the new SAVE repayment plan, but it's being accelerated to provide faster relief to borrowers, President Joe Biden said Friday. It's part of an effort "to act as quickly as possible to give more borrowers breathing room" and move on from their student debt, the Democratic president said in a statement.

Borrowers will be eligible for cancellation if they are enrolled in the new SAVE plan, if they originally borrowed \$12,000 or less to attend college, and if they have made at least 10 years of payments. The Education Department said it didn't immediately know how many borrowers will be eligible for cancellation in February.

Biden announced the new repayment plan last year alongside a separate plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in loans for millions of Americans. The Supreme Court struck down his plan for widespread forgiveness, but the repayment plan has so far escaped that level of legal scrutiny. Republicans in Congress tried unsuccessfully to block the new repayment plan through legislation and a resolution last year.

The accelerated forgiveness drew fire from Republicans, who called it an attempt to win voters ahead of the 2024 presidential election. North Carolina Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx, chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said it will "dump even more kerosene on an already raging student debt fire."

The new repayment plan offers far more generous terms than several other income-driven repayment plans that it's meant to replace. Previous plans offered cancellation after 20 or 25 years of payments, while the new plan offers it in as little as 10. The new plan also lowers monthly payments for millions of borrowers.

Those who took out more than \$12,000 will be eligible for cancellation but on a longer timeline. For each \$1,000 borrowed beyond \$12,000, it adds an additional year of payments on top of 10 years.

The maximum repayment period is capped at 20 years for those with only undergraduate loans and 25 years for those with any graduate school loans.

The Biden administration says next month's relief will particularly help Americans who attended community colleges, which generally cost less than four-year universities. The plan aims to place community college students "on a faster track to debt forgiveness than ever before," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said.

Counterintuitively, those with smaller student loan balances tend to struggle more. It's driven by millions of Americans who take out student loans but don't finish degrees, leaving them with the downside of debt without the upside of a higher income.

Republicans have railed against the new repayment plan, saying it helps wealthier Americans with college degrees at the expense of taxpayers who didn't attend college. Some say it's a backdoor attempt to make community college free, an idea that Biden campaigned on but that failed to win support in Congress.

Starting next month, the Education Department says it will automatically wipe away balances for eligible borrowers enrolled in the SAVE plan. The department will email borrowers who might be eligible but have not enrolled.

Some of the plan's provisions took hold last summer — it prevents interest from snowballing as long as borrowers make monthly payments, and it makes more Americans eligible to get their monthly bill lowered to \$0.

Other parts are scheduled to take effect in July, including a change to limit borrowers' payments to 5% of their discretionary income, down from 10% in previous income-driven repayment plans.

The Biden administration is separately pursuing another plan for widespread cancellation. After the Supreme Court rejected Biden's first plan, he asked the Education Department to try again under a different legal authority. The department has been working on a new proposal that would provide relief to targeted groups of borrowers.

2ND DEPARTMENT/ PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

#213040

NOTICE OF SALE

#213190

NOTICE OF SALE

#213265

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF
QUEENS WILLIAMSON TRUST NA

#213446

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF
QUEENS LEVINGTON DANIEL TRUST

#213403

BY VIRTUE OF DEFAULT IN A SECURITY AGREEMENT EXECUTED ON JANU

#213464

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK INDEX NO. 2024/00001

#213719

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK INDEX NO. 703101/2020

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Bronx park gets multi-million dollar injection after three decades

By Jonathan Custodio
THE CITY

City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Bronx Council Member Amanda Fariás, newly announced at the body’s majority leader, announced \$11.4 million in new funding to renovate and expand Harding Park in the Southeast Bronx on Wednesday evening.

“All of our families here and especially our Bronx kids deserve more,” Fariás told a few dozen attendees at a meeting at the Harding Park Homeowners Association to announce the new money, including \$6.5 million from Council capital funds, and discuss what would be done with it.

“I grew up in this community, actually hanging out in Harding Park with my friends, maybe even making my way to ‘Makeout Point,’” she said, describing a hot spot in nearby Clason Point Park on the Westchester Creek waterfront. “Don’t tell my parents.”

Adams, who represents a district in south-east Queens, told the Bronx residents: “Under this Council, we have prioritized equitable investments for communities that have gone too far, for too long, with too little.”

Harding Park opened in 1993 after a campaign led by the Homeowners Association, which

had been created a decade earlier to govern the co-operatively owned low- and moderate- income community.

Harding Park, taking up part of a block of Bolton Avenue in Clason Point, has a basketball court, playground, picnic area, swings, fitness equipment, spray showers, as well as game tables beneath a pergola, all on what’s now a lot of 0.86 acres.

The funds will be used in part to nearly double the size of the park by expanding it into what’s now a vacant 0.7 acre parcel of land controlled by the Parks Department and presently filled with parked cars and tall grass.

Soundview Park, just northwest of Harding Park, is in the design phase of an ambitious project to restore the coastal wetland and nearby land, while constructing a park entry, pedestrian pathway and plaza area at Bolton Point intended “to restore valuable coastal habitat in an ecologically important location while creating public access to the waterfront,” according to the Department of Parks and Recreation website.

On Wednesday afternoon, a group of teens played basketball at Harding Park after school despite half of the full court being underwater after Tuesday’s storm.



Harding Park in The Bronx is receiving \$11.4 million for upgrades, Jan. 10, 2023.
Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY



A vacant lot was part of the Harding Park expansion in The Bronx, Jan. 11, 2024.
Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY



Harding Park in The Bronx is receiving \$11.4 million for upgrades, Jan. 10, 2023.
Credit: Jonathan Custodio/THE CITY

Whenever the ball bounced sharply off the rim following a missed shot, the players dashed to stop the rock from being soaked at the wet half of the court. They didn’t always make the save.

Carlos Nuñez, 17, told THE CITY in Spanish that the court floods whenever it rains.

“Looking at the park; that’s what they need to fix,” he said.

At Wednesday night’s meeting, residents suggested improvements the new funds could pay for, including better nighttime lighting, timely park closures, a dog run, separate entrances to areas for kids and adults, bike trails and racks, bot-

tle refill stations, a running track and even a pickleball court.

“There’s nowhere in this area to play, and Pickleball is a game that older people can play because it’s not as strenuous [as tennis],” said resident Wanda Lucena, 74, who has lived in the neighborhood with her husband for 40 years.

The new funding for Harding Park begins what Department of Parks and Recreation officials say will be an estimated three- to four-year process to complete the project.

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



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Speaker
SURYIA RAHMAN, ESQ.
Law Offices of Dohi & Associates
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
1:00PM - 2:00PM EST

Valid for All Attorneys
ACCREDITATION: QCBA has been certified by the NYS CLE Board as an Accredited CLE Provider in NYS, 10/2022 - 10/2025.

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New precinct in Southeast Queens delayed

Continued from page 1

The culprit? “Unforeseen circumstances in the construction process,” according to the police department.

A spokesperson for Mayor Eric Adams — who said in 2022 that the precinct will help his administration deliver “a safe city and responsible policing” — did not respond to repeated requests for comment on the precinct’s delay.

According to a DDC spokesperson, the agency’s timeline got pushed back by around four months while they were waiting for a permit from the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation to remove groundwater at the Rosedale site.

The DDC now plans on turning the project over to the NYPD in the spring. At that point, the police department will take “some time to fit it out and open it as a working facility,” the spokesperson said.

The delay of the precinct’s opening has not previously been reported.

In November 2023, NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban said in a social media post that the 116th was “almost complete.”

“Today I stopped by to see the progress and thank everyone who has been working so hard to complete this important project,” the commissioner said in the Nov. 27 post. “The residents of southeast Queens will...soon have New York’s Finest as neighbors!”

The delay came as no surprise — and of little concern — to Bess DeBetham, a resident and community board member who has been boosting the precinct for four decades.

“What is a couple more months?” she told the Eagle.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, who helped to secure the funds for the precinct, was equally unconcerned by the delay in the 116th’s opening.

“I thank the Department of Design and Construction for its diligence and especially the workers constructing the precinct for their dedication to such a critical project, and I look forward to cutting the ribbon in a few months,” Richards said in a statement to the Eagle.

A history of delays

Delays to the precinct aren’t new. Community advocates and elected officials have been calling for a new precinct for the easternmost areas of South Queens for over four decades.

Though at times the project has gained steam, it has been put on ice nearly as many times.

The idea for the project was initially floated 40 years ago when Abraham Beame was the mayor of New York. His successor, Ed Koch, promised a satellite precinct for the community, but nothing came of the promise.

“We continued to ask each administration, including Dinkins, no one omitting, because safety is a priority,” DeBetham said.

“I was determined to continue, that’s how I have a love for my community,” she added.

The project finally was approved by the city in 2017 but its funding was cut in 2020 as the city was in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the funding originally earmarked for the precinct went toward the building of a new Roy Wilkins Recreation Center in Jamaica — the funding shift also came as the city, under then-Mayor Bill de Blasio, grappled with racial justice protests and a renewed conversation about the city and country’s policing practices.

“We were going through a horrible situation because of COVID and the ability to invest in communities meant we had to make choices,” de Blasio said at the time “And we did take resources from the NYPD and put them into community needs, like youth centers, recreation



NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban tours the 116th Precinct in November 2023.

File photo via NYPD commissioner/Instagram

centers, etc.”

“This 116th Precinct building was something that could not happen in that environment because of those trade-offs,” he added.

Funding was restored for the project in April 2021.

A ‘community’ approach

Officials have touted the 116th as a “modern” precinct that will be built for “community policing.”

When completed, the approximately 48,000-square-foot precinct at 244-40 North Conduit Ave. will feature a community meeting room and a food pantry on the first floor.

Along with the precinct, a public plaza leading from the station house to the nearby Long Island Railroad stop is under construction and will feature benches, a water filling station, bike racks and greenspace.

The community policing approach comes after decades of residents of the soon-to-be precinct’s footprint feeling neglected by the police at best, and victimized at worst.

Those living in the area the 116th will eventually patrol currently live within the boundaries of the 105th Precinct.

The 105th, which, as the fifth largest precinct in the city, covers nearly 12.5 square miles and 345 miles of roadway, logs some of the slowest response times in the city. The current precinct covers the easternmost portion of mainland Queens, from Glen Oaks and Floral Park in the north, to Springfield Gardens and Rosedale in the south.

“The distance that [the 105th] is from our communities, and the police get blamed for not

coming out quick enough if something happens,” said DeBetham.

Next door to the 105th is the 103rd Precinct, which covers Hollis Park Gardens, Hollis, Lakewood and Jamaica.

In 2020, the nearby 103rd accounted for the highest number of stop and frisks in Queens. That year, officers in the 103rd made around 1,700 stops — or nearly five per day — despite the practice being ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge in 2013.

Of those stops, nearly 90 percent were performed on Queens residents of color, and Black Queens residents accounted for nearly 46 percent of those stopped despite making up only around 20 percent of the borough’s population.

The 116th was pitched to residents as a way to correct both issues of the past by increasing response times and fostering a better relationship between the police and the community.

“Public safety and public trust in our police department are not mutually exclusive,” Richards said. “The new 116th Precinct...is going to be proof that we can, in fact, have both here in Southeast Queens — where families have been pushing for faster response times and a closer cops-community relationship for decades.”

DeBetham went on a tour of the new precinct over the summer and said that she walked away proud of the work that had been completed. Even with the pushbacked timeline, DeBetham said that she felt the speed at which construction on the precinct has progressed was impressive, especially after all the years in which no progress toward its completion occurred.

“It was beautiful,” she said.



Mayor Eric Adams signs the final beam of the 116th Precinct’s foundation in August 2022.

File photo by Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

Ex-federal correction officer pleads guilty to bribery and smuggling in Brooklyn

By Robert Abruzzese

Queens Daily Eagle

A former federal correction officer pleaded guilty on Thursday to taking bribes for smuggling contraband into the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, U.S. Attorney Breon Peace announced.

Quandelle Joseph, a 33-year-old from Brooklyn and a former federal correction officer, admitted to the charges in front of U.S. District Court Judge Dora Irizarry and now faces up to 15 years in prison at sentencing.

Hired in May 2020, Joseph quickly began accepting substantial bribes from detainees in exchange for narcotics, cigarettes and cell phones, federal prosecutors alleged.

Among the instances laid out in the prosecutors’ case against the former officer, Joseph once bypassed securi-

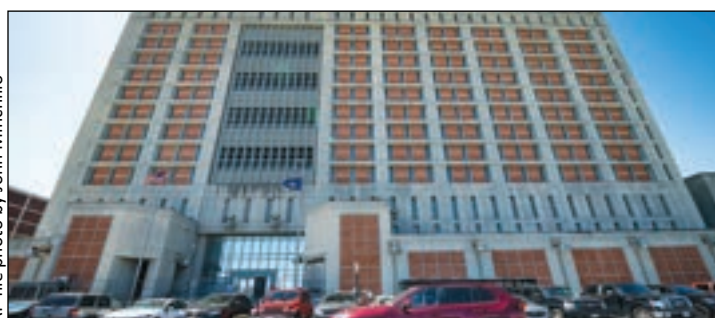
ty protocols during a lockdown to deliver contraband directly to an detainee’s cell, an action that was to earn him \$12,000.

The misconduct was uncovered when MDC staff detected marijuana odor and found a contraband cell phone in the possession of a detainee.

Joseph’s involvement extended to aiding people in federal custody in evading detection.

In January 2021, he warned one of the detainees, with whom he had a bribery arrangement, about imminent contraband searches, advising them to clear phone logs and texts.

Resigning from the Bureau of Prisons during the investigation, Joseph now awaits sentencing, facing a over a decade in prison as a penalty for his actions.



A former correctional officer at the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn pleaded guilty to bribery and smuggling charges in federal court on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.

AP file photo by John Minchillo