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25 CENTS

Local Sales Tax Collections Grew 12.7% to \$22.1 Billion in 2022

Inflation and Growth in NYC Were Key Drivers for the Increase

Local government sales tax collections in New York state totaled \$22.1 billion in calendar year 2022, up 12.7%, or \$2.5 billion, from 2021 due to strong sales statewide, especially in New York City, according to a report released by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

“The pandemic created significant sales tax volatility over the past few years, first with a major decline, then with a strong rebound,” DiNapoli said. “Sales tax growth has remained strong for a sustained stretch as consumers resumed spending relatively quickly after pandemic shutdowns ended. Additionally, the state implemented policies just prior to the pandemic that ensured more online sales were being fully taxed.”

Local sales tax growth in 2022’s fourth quarter (October to December) increased by 8.8% over the same quarter of 2021, which was similar to the year-over-year rates seen in the prior two quarters. This was after sales taxes in the first quarter grew by 21.1%, compared to fairly weak collections from the same quarter in 2021, when COVID infection rates were peaking, public vaccinations had not been fully rolled out and travel restrictions were still in place.

Inflation, even with the impact of the gas tax holiday, was one of the main drivers for sales tax growth in 2022, reaching

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Gov. Hochul’s Budget: Dollars to Schools, Health Care, Housing And Bail Reform



Governor Kathy Hochul presented a \$227 billion state budget plan that includes more money for schools and public transit and raises taxes on cigarettes. The Governor also put the spotlight on public safety, including another set of revisions to the state’s controversial bail reform laws. See story on page 2.

Legislators Push to Lower The Legal Blood Alcohol Limit in NYS From .08 to .05



NY State Senator John C. Liu and Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon joined with the NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, legislators, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Transportation Safety Board, and transportation advocates from around the nation to call for New York State to lower the legal Blood Alcohol

Concentration (BAC) from .08% to .05%.

Their legislation S776 (Liu) and A1627 (Simon) would make New York the second state in the nation to lower its DWI threshold to .05 BAC. In 2019, Utah lowered its threshold to .05 BAC and saw its drunk driving deaths reduced

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Council Member Julie Won Announces \$1,200,000 in Funding For PS 112, PS 199, & PS 150



Council Member Won with the principal, staff, and members of PS 199 student government to announce \$300,000 in funding for library upgrades. (Photo credit: Office of Council Member Julie Won). See story on page 6.

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Local Sales Tax Collections Grew 12.7% to \$22.1 Billion in 2022

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a higher rate than in any recent year after a decade of lower-than-average inflation growth. Even as consumer demand for goods cooled somewhat during the year, the price of those goods continued to rise, sustaining high year-over-year growth in collections. As the pace of inflation moderated in the third quarter (July to September) and fourth quarter, however, so did collections growth.

New York City's sales tax growth for 2022 was 20.6%, which exceeded that of the counties and cities throughout the rest of the state (6.5%), after lagging in 2021. The city's collections have shown strong year-over-year growth after rebounding to pre-pandemic

levels this past year. This growth has been boosted by increases in commuters returning to the office, and domestic and international tourism, which has helped strengthen service industry sectors, such as accommodation and food services, transportation, and arts, entertainment and recreation.

After strong quarterly year-over-year increases for most of 2021 and early 2022, sales tax growth outside of New York City slowed to 2.6% in the April to June period, well below the rate of inflation. While both third quarter (5.3%) and fourth quarter (4.5%) growth were a bit stronger, year-over-year collections may be returning to more typical pre-pandemic growth levels.

Every county saw some year-

over-year growth in sales tax collections in 2022 with 41 out of 57 counties (72%) recording increases ranging from 4% to 10%. Yates County had the strongest growth at 21.1%, followed by the counties of Lewis (14.9%), Montgomery (12.4%) and Schoharie (11.8%). Dutchess County grew the least at 1.6%, followed by the counties of Jefferson, Chenango and Orleans, each at 2.4%.

The 18 cities outside of New York City that impose their own sales tax also experienced year-over-year growth in 2022. Saratoga Springs saw the strongest growth at 14.6%, followed by the cities of Johnstown (12.2%), Glens Falls (11%) and Ithaca (10.7%). Olean had the lowest growth at 0.5%.

Gov. Hochul's Budget: Dollars to Schools, Health Care, Housing And Bail Reform

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Gov. Hochul's plan includes a 10% increase in school aid, finally fulfilling a nearly 20-year-old court order that said more money needs to be invested in the state's poorest schools. Health care spending would be increased by about 8%, with \$1 billion used for more psychiatric beds and residential mental health treatment facilities.

The governor is also proposing that public colleges and universities be allowed to raise tuition at a rate of up to 3% a year for colleges and 6% for universities.

The governor is able to add the money because of larger-than-expected tax collections and funds remaining from federal pandemic relief programs that have led to an over \$8 billion budget surplus.

"We've set the table for what should be one of the most prosperous times in our state's history. But if New Yorkers don't feel safe,

they can't afford to buy a home, they can't pay their rent, the cost of everything keeps rising, then nothing we've done will make a difference", said Hochul.

To that end, Hochul is proposing that 800,000 new housing units be built in the state over the next decade, financed mostly by private developers, but with 100,000 units of affordable housing paid for by the state.

Hochul wants to raise taxes on a pack of cigarettes by \$1 to \$5.35; and, no new broad-based taxes are proposed. She wants to extend a temporary corporate tax surcharge. She'd add a payroll tax surcharge for businesses in the regions served by the downstate Metropolitan Transit Authority to help stem pandemic-related losses for the transit agency.

Gov. Hochul also detailed a public safety plan that includes \$337 million to fight a surge in gun-related violence and provides

\$80 million to district attorneys to hire more prosecutors and to better follow recent statutes that require them to turn over evidence to defendants in a timely way.

The governor also wants to revise the state's controversial bail reform laws to allow judges more discretion to set bail when people are charged with serious crimes. She portrays the changes as an attempt to clear up confusion caused by previous changes to the 2019 laws that she said conflict with each other. A standard imposed during changes made last year requires judges to choose the "least restrictive means" to ensure that someone accused of a crime returns for court dates.

"We looked at this very thoughtfully, and realize what judges are telling us that they don't have the clarity that they need to have, when someone's before them, and meets the standards of being bail-eligible," said Hochul.

Legislators Push to Lower The Legal Blood Alcohol Limit in NYS From .08 to .05

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by nearly 20 percent while rates around the rest of the nation increased. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association recommends every state lower their BAC to .05 as each year nearly 10,000 people are killed in crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers, and nearly 173,000 are injured. Other states, including Washington and Hawaii are also preparing legislation to lower the legal BAC to .05.

Studies have shown that lowering legal BAC limits does not lead to an increase in arrests or a burden on the criminal justice system, nor does it cause undue damage to the hospitality industry. In fact, a new Utah study showed state revenues from taxes continue to rise, and tourism increase.

State Senator John Liu stated, "The science and data are clear as day: lowering the BAC to .05 saves lives. The best way to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities is to prevent people from drinking and driving. Lowering the legal blood alcohol limit will make our streets safer

and help keep our families whole. Over 100 countries around the world already have this law on the books and all of them have seen improvements, but only Utah has done it here in America. New York needs to lead this effort, and with the partnership from Mayor Adams and the NYC DOT, who have made this legislation part of their priority agenda for safer streets, and with our partners in law enforcement and advocates around the state who have had their lives unalterably affected by drinking and driving, we can do the right thing and make it happen here in New York."

State Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon stated, "More than a third of crashes in NY State involve alcohol, and the share of traffic fatalities related to DWIs has increased during the pandemic. However, there is a low-cost, straightforward policy change that will save lives - lowering the DWI threshold from .08 to .05%. This bill will lower the blood alcohol content threshold so we can combat reckless driving - and raise awareness - to stop these prevent-

able tragedies. New York was once a leader in combating drunk driving, but we have fallen behind and it's time to update our standards to align with countries across the world. I'm thankful to my partner, Senator John Liu, and to City DOT Commissioner Rodriguez and the families and advocates for sharing their stories."

NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez stated, "Since the pandemic, we have seen an alarming increase in high-speed car wrecks, especially on highways, very often fueled by the deadly combination of driving under the influence. DOT is working around the clock to reduce fatalities on our roads, and we know there is a simple policy solution to curb this reckless behavior: lowering the BAC threshold for Driving While Intoxicated in New York State from .08% to .05%. This change will both align us better with countries around the world and save lives. I want to thank Mayor Adams, State Senator John Liu, Assembly

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New Yorkers Call on Governor Hochul to Abandon Charter School Expansion

State legislators and advocates called on Governor Hochul to drop her plan to expand charter schools in New York City. If implemented, her plan would allow for over 100 new charter schools in NYC, further diverting resources away from traditional public schools.

The Governor proposes to keep the statewide cap on charters at 460 while removing the cap on charters in NYC. The NYC cap of 275, which the Governor proposes to abolish, had been reached a few years ago. Currently there are 357 charters operating statewide, so an additional 103 charters could be established throughout the state outside NYC. With the Governor's plan, those additional 103 charters would likely be established in NYC.

Charter schools are privately operated but receive substantial amounts of public money. Moreover, the NYC Department of Education is required to provide space for charter schools in DOE buildings, or pay the rent for charters operating in private buildings. Despite being funded by taxpayer dollars, charter schools do not operate with the same oversight or accountability to the public as traditional public schools, and have been known to exclude students with disabilities, English language learners, and others with learning challenges.

State Senator Shelley Mayer, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, stated, "I was very pleased to hear Governor Hochul's announcement that she intends to honor our collective promise to fully fund Foundation Aid for the third year in a row. The plan that was outlined in the State of the State address would be a step forward in meeting our shared responsibility to provide a 'sound basic education' to every child. However, I am disappointed by the Governor's proposal to remove the geographic restriction on the charter cap, allowing as many as 100 new charter schools to open in New York City. The New York City Department of Education is already overburdened by its financial obligations to charter schools, and this proposal will give a green light to more groups looking to open new charter schools, at even greater expense to the traditional public schools and students in New York City. I am also deeply concerned with the other districts throughout the state that are oversaturated with charter schools, threatening the continued stability of their local school districts. We owe a duty to every child, including the vast majority who attend traditional schools, and I will continue to fight for them to receive all they are owed. I am confident we can work with the Governor and my colleagues on our shared commitment to a quality public education for every child, and I strongly urge the Governor to reconsider this proposal."

State Senator John C. Liu, chairperson of the Senate Committee on NYC Education, stated, "The Governor laid down the welcome mat for NYC school kids in her proposed budget by fully funding Foundation Aid so our students

can finally receive the sound, basic education they are entitled to under the New York State constitution. However, lifting the charter cap would pull that rug right back out from underneath our kids' feet by diverting precious, long sought after resources away from the schools that need it most. This proposal is a non-starter, and we call on the Governor to make good on her commitment to funding our schools, and not to make that funding a zero-sum game."

State Senator Robert Jackson, stated, "It is unreasonable to increase the number of charter schools with New York City facing a decline of school-age children for various reasons, and until charters are held to the same standards as public schools, I cannot in good conscience support the Governor's proposals. Her decision will leave public schools with fewer resources and less attention, denying students the education New York State is statutorily obligated to provide."

State Senator Cordell Cleare stated, "The Governor's proposed changes to the Charter School Cap not only contravene the intent and scope of the original law and movement but they would cause considerable harm to our traditional public school students and the entire system. The current cap is in place for a reason and with co-locations continuing to proliferate while actual public school spaces are contracting, any change in the cap would be utterly disastrous and extremely ill-advised. Our children deserve far better!"

Senator John W. Mannion said, "As someone who has spent nearly 30 years in the classroom, I have experienced firsthand the tremendous positive impact that public schools have on student success and the negative impact that charter schools have on the public education system. New charter schools will drain resources from districts that serve communities with the highest needs, sending funds to corporate charter networks with different rules that lack transparency and accountability. The move to expand the number of charters or adjust regional allotment is a policy that I cannot support."

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal stated, "New York City needs to focus resources and attention on our traditional public schools, not increase their burden by allowing a flood of new charters into the city. We are finally meeting our promise to fully fund Foundation Aid, and it would be a shame to undercut our progress with this misguided proposal."

Michael Mulgrew, President of the United Federation of Teachers, stated, "Corporate charter chains drain space, money and resources from public schools and our students bear the cost."

Smitha Varghese, Campaign Coordinator of the Alliance for Quality Education, said, "By pushing a permanent and dramatic expansion of charter schools in New York City, Governor Hochul is undermining her own commitment to fully funding public schools with Foundation Aid, put-

ting New York on a path of privatization that will fundamentally harm the public school system. Publicly funded but privately run charter schools divert resources that otherwise would go to our local public schools that educate the vast majority of students in our city and across the state. The State Legislature needs to show its commitment to protecting public education, and soundly reject Governor Hochul's proposal to remove the regional cap on charters and reauthorize 'zombie charters.'"

Antonia Ferraro, CEC15 member, said, "More charters drops a fiscal bomb on both existing charters and traditional public schools! As the parent of a child in a school building collocated with a charter, I am opposed to any new or reissued charters. We must maintain the regional charter school caps. Enrollment is down at 58% of charter schools. Mayor Adams regularly threatens a looming fiscal cliff. Rents are on the rise and NYC can no longer pay for charters in free private space. The majority of children attend traditional public schools, but do not receive the benefit of transition aid that other charter saturated districts receive from the state. We have our fair share of charter schools, at over 80% of the charter schools in the state. I call on the NY State Legislature to protect school budgets, by maintaining the regional cap."

Erika Kendall, CEC17 President, said, "It's clear to me that the Governor isn't paying attention to the voices of parents in New York City—parents are pushing back on the expansion of charters, and speaking out and mobilizing their elected officials to protect them from charter franchises. Parents not only want the charter cap to remain in place, we also want accountability measures to close charter schools that are failing. It was always wrong to characterize our children's education as an 'experiment,' but now it is time for the 'experiment' to provide data. We want audits to prove claims about waitlists that we know to be false, we want audits of their enrollment that we know to be misleading, we want transparency and—most of all—accountability. To have a Governor who completely ignores us and makes decisions about us without including us is all too remnant of past governors. It's time for the experiment to end."

Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President, said, "NYC has no need for a lifting of the charter cap, nor do we need a reauthorization of zombie charters. The current law already provides methods for charter schools to expand. Most people don't know there's a difference between a charter and a charter school. NYC has its full share of both charters and charter schools. There are 85 unwanted and unused charters still available to the NYS region but NYS families don't want more charters or charter schools. With NYC over-saturated, the regional boundaries must not be removed. In fact, if the existing charters are

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Legislators Push to Lower The Legal Blood Alcohol Limit in NYS From .08 to .05

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Member Jo Anne Simon, and the brave advocates – many of whom have lived the tragic consequences of drunk driving -- for taking on this important fight."

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal stated, "More than 30% of New York's fatal vehicle crashes are alcohol-related. It's time New York follows the guidance of the National Transportation Safety Board and lowers the legal alcohol limit to 0.05 percent. In other jurisdictions where this change has been implemented, the number of fatal crashes has fallen precipitously. I applaud Senator Liu and Assembly Member Simon for championing this legislation that will help make our streets safer."

State Senator Luis R. Sepulveda stated, "I am thrilled to express my support for Senator Liu's bill S776. I believe it is a crucial step towards promoting road safety and reducing the number of alcohol-related crashes, which continue to pose a significant threat to lives and communities. By adopting a stricter standard for drunk driving, we can help prevent fatalities and injuries on our highways."

State Senator Toby Stavisky stated, "New York State Police report that more than 30% of deadly crashes across our state are alcohol related. These are tragic and preventable deaths. In many countries, stricter standards for impaired driving have led to a significant drop in highway fatalities. This is literally a matter of life and death and New York should be a leader in setting a higher standard for responsible driving."

State Senator Robert Jackson stated, "Lowering the allowable BAC to a more stringent level is a practical and necessary step in reducing alcohol-related crashes and setting an example for the rest of the nation. I'm proud to be part of a Senate majority that is leading the way in this important effort. With this bill, New York State has the opportunity to take a stand in the fight against alcohol-related crashes and save many lives; let's get this done!"

State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, stated, "I'm here to support the families, many who I know personally, who have gone through unspeakable pain. This legislation is a common sense solution that is proven, and now is the time to get it done. I thank my fellow legislators, Mayor Adams and NYC DOT Commissioner Rodriguez for making this a priority."

State Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz stated, "There is no question that when this bill becomes law, it will save lives. We've taken many steps already to make our roads safer, and this effort is key to keeping people alive. We'll never know who's lives this bill will save, but we know it'll save lives."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President Tess Rowland, stated, "MADD is grateful for the commitment Senator Liu and Assembly Member Simon have made to safer roads in New

York. Lowering New York's BAC to .05 is about saving lives and preventing injuries caused by alcohol-impaired driving, the leading killer on our roads. As we saw in Utah, a .05 BAC law encourages people to make other transportation plans when they are drinking - a much-needed behavior change at a time when drunk driving deaths are increasing and more families and communities are being impacted by this violent, preventable crime."

National Transportation Safety Board Member Tom Chapman stated, "In countless investigations and studies, the NTSB has seen the devastating toll drunk driving takes on families and communities across our country. Extensive evidence tells us lowering the legal BAC to .05—as proposed by S776—is one of the proven countermeasures that saves lives."

Thomas M. Louizou, Co-founder of .05 Saves Lives Coalition, stated, "A lower limit DWI law is an evidenced based proven countermeasure that will save lives in New York by deterring people from driving at all BAC levels. It's not about drinking. It's about separating drinking from driving."

William Aiken, President, Remove Intoxicated Drivers, stated, "In the last 20 years, DWI penalties have gotten more severe. Yet, DWI fatality rates remain stagnant in that period. .05 works where tougher penalties have failed. .05 gets people to consider their sobriety before they get behind the wheel."

Erica Linn, Sleepy Hollow resident and MADD member, stated, "We are in the midst of an epidemic of drunk driving crashes here in NY. Having lost both of my parents at the hands of a drunk driver I strongly support & advocate for the BAC to be reduced to .05. We know scientifically that drivers are impaired at .05. By reducing the BAC to .05 we have seen a reduction of deaths in states that have adopted this legislation by 19%. We need this legislation passed so others in NY may never know the devastation drunk driving crashes cause for families & communities alike."

Carole Sears, Larchmont resident and MADD member, stated "My children and I have lived with the pain and horror, for 20 years, of losing my husband and their father, Andy Sears, to a drunk driver. The pain does not diminish with time and our feeling of injustice grows. Changing the BAC law to .05 will help to ensure that fewer innocent families will suffer the same inexplicable loss that our family has endured."

Alisa and John McMorris, Wading River residents and MADD members, stated, "We are forever broken after the loss of our 12-year-old son Andrew McMorris. A drunken driver senselessly took our son's life, in front of his father, while he was hiking with his Boy Scout troop. Andrew was ripped from our family, his

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Congresswoman Meng Selected For Leadership Council as Liaison Between House And White House

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) has announced that House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries has appointed her to represent the New York region on a new and important panel to help promote and implement legislation signed into law by President Biden.

The Regional Leadership Council will consist of 12 Members of Congress, all responsible for different regions of the country. It will be chaired by Rep. Steny Hoyer, the former Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

As a member of the Regional Leadership Council, which Jeffries unveiled this week, Meng will help act as a liaison to the White House to ensure the successful implementation and increased public awareness of key legislation, focusing on the benefits and impact to the New York area.

These include critical measures that Meng helped pass in Congress

such as the federal infrastructure bill; the Inflation Reduction Act which lowers healthcare and energy costs, combats the climate crisis, and reduces the deficit; the CHIPS and Science Act that improves America's important manufacturing and research of semiconductors; the Safer Communities Act and other crucial measures.

"Over the past two years, House Democrats approved and the President signed into law many crucial and historic pieces of legislation to strengthen our country and help the American people," said Meng. "It is vital for the New York region to reap the benefits of these measures and as a member of this new group, I will fight to make sure that we receive our fair share. I will also work to ensure that those in our area know about these bills, and how they have made a difference in their lives and communities. I'm excited to get down to work."

"The Regional Leadership Council will guide our partnership with the Biden administration as we implement historic legislation signed into law during the previous Congress," said Jeffries. "During the next two years, it is critical that the promise of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Safer Communities Act, CHIPS and Science Act, Inflation Reduction Act and other initiatives are brought to life in every corner throughout America. The Regional Leadership Council will focus like a laser beam on executing President Biden's vision of investing in America. I thank Leader Hoyer and our twelve distinguished colleagues for undertaking the responsibility of helping to make sure that successful implementation occurs, public awareness of our legislative accomplishments increases and meaningful change is realized in all 212 congressional districts represented by House Democrats."

New York City Building And Construction Trades Council Endorses District Attorney Melinda Katz For Re-Election

Katz's coalition of union support continues to grow

Adding to her growing list of endorsements, the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents more than 100,000 tradesmen and tradeswomen across New York City announced its endorsement this morning of District Attorney Melinda Katz for re-election. The Council, which consists of local affiliates of 15 national and international unions, shares District Attorney Melinda Katz's commitment to keeping workers and Queens families safe.

"I am honored to be endorsed by the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council and their members who have built and continue to build New York City. Worker safety and ensuring fair wages are paid to workers have been top priorities of mine

as a District Attorney and they will continue to be every day I'm lucky enough to serve," said District Attorney Melinda Katz. "I look forward to joining members from across the Building and Construction Trades Council on the campaign trail as we work to earn another four years."

"District Attorney Melinda Katz has done a phenomenal job ensuring workers are treated fairly and safely in Queens while keeping them and their families safe. Our members' families rely on common sense leaders who aren't afraid to stand up for them and that's what Melinda Katz has always been," said Gary LaBarbera, President of the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council. "Melinda Katz has earned our trust, another four years, and we are proud to stand with her as she runs for reelection."

DA Katz launched Queens' first-ever Housing and Worker Protection Bureau to prosecute bad actors and protect workers and her office has an active Task Force that regularly communicates with the trades unions to update on the issues at hand.

Melinda Katz was elected District Attorney in 2019 and inaugurated in 2020. Despite taking office in the most turbulent of times, she's provided a steady hand as she's worked to keep Queens families safe and taken on crime head on. She's led the effort to take illegal and ghost guns off the streets and held human traffickers and domestic abusers accountable. DA Katz launched Queens' first-ever Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure justice for those wrongfully convicted. And she's taken a community-first approach to public safety.

DiNapoli: NYC Spending Priorities Shifted During Pandemic

As Federal Aid Runs Out, Questions Remain on Continued Funding for Pandemic-era Programs

Like many cities across the United States, New York City has adjusted its budget priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic to help address pressing needs, but some new critical programs and services may face fiscal cliffs, according to a new report from State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The report compared the city's pre-pandemic and current preliminary budgets for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) to examine how spending priorities shifted.

"The mayor's preliminary FY 2024 budget reflects the changes to city budget priorities that emerged during the pandemic," DiNapoli said. "Funding for education, public health and social services have risen to counter the effects of the pandemic, but the loss of federal relief aid will require the city to reassess its priorities once again the coming

year to ensure that the programs it deems essential to its recovery can continue beyond Fiscal Year 2024."

To meet the needs of students and teachers impacted by the pandemic, the city's current budget for FY 2024 increased funding for education when compared to the pre-pandemic budget plan. DiNapoli's report shows the city raised spending on education by more than \$1 billion, which was made possible by significant federal pandemic assistance. This funding will support preschool for 3-year-olds and COVID learning loss initiatives, as well as mental health services. However, funding sources for many of these programs remain unidentified in the out-years of the financial plan, representing fiscal cliffs that pose a risk to the city's budget.

The city's current budget also includes about \$3.24 billion of city funds to support new initiatives and cost mandates to address public safety, social services,

and quality of life issues when compared to the pre-pandemic budget plan. While many of these new programs and services will help address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they will be funded beyond FY 2024 is unclear.

For example, funding in the city's current budget rose about \$817 million for social service agencies when compared to the pre-pandemic budget plan. This increased funding is for street homeless programs and shelters (\$303 million), education enrichment programs (Summer Rising, \$101 million), more Fair Fares public transportation discounts for low-income New Yorkers (\$75 million) and expanded slots for the Summer Youth Employment Program (\$57 million).

Also, public safety funding rose by \$524 million when compared to the pre-pandemic budget plan. The added funding will support

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Statement From Speaker Adrienne Adams on Governor Kathy Hochul's Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget

"Governor Hochul's FY24 Executive Budget proposal lays out encouraging investments in housing, education, and healthcare that are critical to New York's recovery and success. The inclusion of significant funding for our city to provide services for people seeking asylum in our

country is desperately needed and appreciated. We look forward to further examining Governor Hochul's proposed budget and working with her Administration and the State Legislature on key shared priorities, including housing, mental health, and community safety."

New Yorkers Call on Governor Hochul to Abandon Charter School Expansion

(Continued from page 3)

not needed in NYS and have been sitting idle for some time, those charters should be removed from the law altogether, not transferred to NYC."

Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez, NYC Public school parent of two children, said, "Charter schools have become a mecca for corporations as they can receive public funds to open these schools with little to no oversight. As we are still supporting families through

a pandemic, and we have seen that only when our schools have the financial means to help their students thrive, lifting the charter cap is the antithesis of what we should be doing. I am deeply disappointed that Governor Hochul doesn't understand the nuances of school privatization. Charter schools have historically harmed our children. The goal should be to fully invest in our public schools and commit to providing the children of NY a quality education."

Statement From Speaker Adams And Council Health Committee Chair Schulman on The Administration's Lifting of Vaccine Mandate For Municipal Employees

"Our city's workforce carried us through the pandemic and led us forward to a better and safer environment, with over 96 percent receiving the full COVID vaccination. As the mayoral administration announced the end of the vaccine mandate for municipal employees, we must be clear that vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives. Since November 2021, the vaccine mandate has made it possible for us to protect ourselves and others from severe illness and helped curb the spread of COVID-19. While 80% of New York City residents received their

primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine, only 14% have received a bivalent dose, which shows us that we have more work to do as a city to increase awareness and access to updated vaccine shots. The path forward and the one that protected us was to listen to our public health professionals, and we encourage all New Yorkers to continue following that medical guidance: get fully vaccinated, receive a booster shot, wear a mask and get tested when appropriate, remain home if sick, and maintain good hand hygiene practices."

Statement From Speaker Adams on The CCRB's Report on NYPD Misconduct during 2020 Protests

"New Yorkers' rights to publicly protest are essential to a functioning democracy and must be protected. Today's CCRB report about widespread abuses and misconduct by NYPD officers during the 2020 protests demonstrates that the City's police department fell short of this responsibility. While administrative charges have been brought against dozens of officers and some have received command discipline, there are several outstanding proceedings in which officers should be held accountable. It is also critical that the department also be held responsible for its shortcomings in managing deployment and ensuring accountable and transparent policies to protect New Yorkers' rights and safety. Basic standards of conduct were absent for these

protests, including failures to appropriately use Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) and request adequate EMT support, as well as officers improperly concealing their badge numbers and names.

"The CCRB's report outlines misconduct and obstruction with investigatory efforts that must be addressed. Independent investigatory bodies need to have better access to body camera footage and compliance from the NYPD to investigate civilian complaints. The CCRB must play a vital role in police accountability that ensures public trust, and this will also require resolution of the agency's understaffing. The Council will continue reviewing the report and consider legislative policy changes to help prevent these same issues from occurring in the future."



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HOROSCOPE 
 For the Week of ... 2/9/23 - 2/15/23

For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)
 Try communicating with others. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Your lucky numbers are 9,3,1.

TAURUS
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)
 Romantic opportunities will be available. You need to clear up some important personal problems before the end of the year. Your lucky numbers are 3,8,9.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 Try putting some cash into a safe, long-term investment. Dealing with relatives will not be in your best interest. Don't overspend on items for your home. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,9.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 Don't expect anything for nothing and you won't be disappointed. Show what a dedicated person you can be. You may have difficulties with relatives or friends. Your lucky numbers are 2,4,7.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,3.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 Don't blow things out of proportion or people will misinterpret what you really meant. Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. Your lucky numbers are 7,1,3.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 Be cautious who you deal with financially. Avoid boredom by being creative in your endeavors. They may cost you dearly. Financial gains can be made. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,2.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 Since you have worked hard, the payback is now. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from speculative investments. Your lucky numbers are 5,4,2.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,7.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
 Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. You should avoid getting involved in the personal problems of colleagues. Your lucky numbers are 7,4,3.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 Your determination may make you a little overbearing when dealing with others. Rewards for past good deeds will highlight your day. Your lucky numbers are 3,6,9.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
 You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. Your lucky numbers are 5,7,6.

Did You Know?

- there are 22 stars in the Paramount studios logo
- in a deck of cards the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache
- black on yellow are the 2 colors with the strongest impact
- the safest car color is white
- the most commonly forgotten item for travelers is their toothbrush
- Coca Cola launched its 3rd product Sprite in 1961
- apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning than coffee
- room temperature is defined as between 20 to 25C (68 to 77F)
- an octopus pupil is rectangular
- the hyoid bone in your throat is the only bone in your body not attached to any other
- the Australian aircraft carrier QANTAS stands for Queensland And Northern Territories Aerial Service
- the movie Pulp Fiction cost \$8 million to make with \$5 million going towards actor's salaries
- there are only 4 words in the English language which end in 'dous' (they are: hazardous, horrendous, stupendous and tremendous)
- the oldest word in the English language is 'town'
- cats can't move their jaw sideways
- grapes explode when you put them in the microwave

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Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

"Sudoku"

9	6	7	3	1	8	4	5	2
8	3	5	7	4	2	6	9	1
4	1	2	9	6	5	7	8	3
2	7	8	4	3	1	5	6	9
5	9	1	6	2	7	8	3	4
6	4	3	5	8	9	1	2	7
1	2	6	8	7	3	9	4	5
3	5	4	1	9	6	2	7	8
7	8	9	2	5	4	3	1	6

"Crossword Puzzle"

L	A	C	E	S	T	A	G	S	P	E	A	T
A	P	A	R	T	A	F	R	O	R	A	G	A
V	E	R	S	A	C	L	I	P	E	G	I	S
A	S	P	E	R	S	I	O	N	S	C	E	N
E	C	T	A	D	S	E	R	G	E			
L	A	M	P	A	L	T	E	R	E	D		
A	M	I	A	B	L	E	R	E	R	S	E	
S	A	T	R	A	P	V	E	N	E	E	R	
S	H	E	L	L	E	D	C	O	N	C	E	R
I	L	L	E	G	A	L	E	L	B	E		
I	D	E	A	S	C	A	R	V	E			
D	R	A	M	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	I	N
E	A	V	E	L	I	D	O	T	I	B	I	A
A	M	E	N	E	V	E	R	E	D	I	T	S
L	A	S	T	D	E	N	T	R	E	S	E	T

"Try And Find"

A	C	Y	C	N	E	R	R	D	C	O	E	P	K	S
G	S	V	D	C	G	E	W	U	Y	L	X	R	J	D
G	E	S	H	M	A	E	Z	D	A	P	L	D	N	
H	G	C	E	O	S	G	E	N	Q	P	I	U	C	O
G	O	W	C	T	A	W	U	F	O	M	X	Q	A	B
U	N	E	B	S	B	I	L	U	T	S	X			
O	I	N	B	V	Q	E	R	W	K	U	S	D	H	S
D	J	A	I	I	G	A	O	Y	X	G	E	T	Y	E
C	V	C	H	E	B	S	R	N	E	C	N	B	C	
W	V	Z	P	E	N	J	I	T	A	S	R	T	N	
E	E	D	M	I	A	A	D	R	E	U	E	P	H	A
T	G	A	I	E	A	L	N	I	H	A	N	P	C	N
O	O	U	M	N	O	C	T	P	O	D	W	L	E	I
O	L	G	R	H	R	A	Y	E	S	T	A	T	E	F
L	D	M	Z	W	L	I	Q	X	A	H	I	C	X	J

SUDOKU

4		7						3
				2				5
	8			1		2		7
			3					9
2								
			4			8		5
		9						1
7			6	8				
	4	1						

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20						21			22					
			23		24									
25	26	27					28				29	30	31	
32							33				34			
35						36	37				38			
39						40				41	42			
43						44				45				
					46				47					
	48	49								50		51	52	53
54									55		56			
57									58				59	
60									61					62

ACROSS

- Therefore
- Not real
- Cancel
- Expert
- Footnote note
- Stop
- Someone too lazy to read
- Small part
- Thick
- Offered formally
- A woman priest
- Abuts on
- Donkey
- East northeast
- In need of repair
- Consumed
- Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
- Make a cake
- Gastric woe
- Wine
- Portent
- Consume food
- Commode
- Driveway surface
- Picnic insect
- Use up
- Unwanted
- Makes like new
- Cut of beef
- Critical
- Valuator
- Picture
- In place of
- Egyptian river
- Aromatic compound
- Sodium chloride
- Storm

DOWN

- Mild expletive
- Regulation
- Smile
- Forthright
- Conifer
- Lets up
- Flying toys
- Lacking teeth
- Entry
- Approaches
- What we're called
- Brought into play
- Fifth sign of the zodiac
- Spooky
- Defector
- Sly slur
- Monastery head
- Highly emotional episode
- Jokester
- Ancient Roman magistrate
- 9 person musical group
- Overact
- Play a role
- Transgression
- Sideways passes
- Drama set to classical music
- Deer horn
- Get rid of
- Utilization
- Brown shade
- Edges
- French for "State"
- Largest continent
- Peddle
- Tall woody plant
- Compete
- Furrow

TRY AND FIND

O H C P C S D S P J F I S H I N G R V I
 L L N U A U D S W I M A G I W O G M M L
 E Z R E B R R F X W B U V S P O R T S R
 K O O A I M A T E S K Z H L X A S L X J
 R A T S N R W D S B V S A A R C D E C K
 O N H T A E E Y I Z G C R N S L E S S W
 N C V S D E E V E S I U B D N E Y T H V
 S K R B Z B L S L T E B O V L Y L E E C
 M A E E L E I S U R E A R N I R W S L V
 Q H E S A U S A G N H I Q A T A N N L V
 B R F I R D N T I S E I A E G R I U S N
 B E S C R H V D T M W S P B N E S S A
 E P E S H U R E N P C W L B U N X X G B
 D W U A Z V L D N I I E V I H I B W Y R
 H J E M E N P P T W N I R H T T Y V E
 C R K A I M A O R U W E K A G I G X L F
 A H F H V I R G I N P R S C J S C R E W
 E R K A N T D N Z W B L E T G O A I D V
 B C C B R Z R W P A U Y R T M I L I K Z
 F R G F Y O D J E R A N T I L L E S L L

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|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Adventure | Cruise | Leisure | Scuba |
| Antilles | Deck | Mates | Shells |
| Bahamas | Fishing | Nautical | Snorkel |
| Beach | Harbor | Paradise | Sunsets |
| Breeze | Inlets | Pink | Swim |
| Cabin | Island | Ports | Tropics |
| Caribbean | Itinerary | Reefs | Virgin |
| Crew | Leeward | Sail | West |

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NYC DOT Begins Major Expansion of On-Street Carshare After Successful Pilot



First 80 of hundreds of new curbside parking spaces reserved for carshare vehicles will be installed starting today in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx, with a focus on equitable distribution

DOT's carshare pilot had encouraging results: greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled declined 7% and 6%, respectively; for every one car shared vehicle, four personal vehicles were either not purchased or sold

New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez has announced the expansion of its citywide curbside carshare program to increase access to convenient carshare,

after a successful 5-year pilot has proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and personal car ownership. Over the next two weeks, DOT will install new signage to demarcate the first 80 new, dedi-

cated curbside parking spaces for carshare service across Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens, with an explicit focus on equitable access.

(Continued on page 9)

Council Member Julie Won Announces \$1,200,000 in Funding For PS 112, PS 199, & PS 150

(Continued from page 1)

On Monday, February 6, Council Member Julie Won visited PS 150 in Sunnyside and announced \$500,000 in capital funding for auditorium renovation. The school administration applied for this funding following the Council Member's last visit in 2022. Council Member Won is visiting every school in District 26 to announce the capital and discretionary expense funding awarded to each school. In Fiscal Year 2023, schools in the Council Member's District received a total of \$11,476,574 in funding.

This past month, Council Member Won also announced \$300,000 for library upgrades at PS 199, \$400,000 in funding for cafeteria air conditioning at PS 112, and \$300,000 for a movable gym wall at PS 343. You can find a full list of Fiscal Year 22-23 below for the awards for local schools.

For parents and students interested in making requests for funding for school upgrades, you can engage in Participatory Budgeting, a democratic process in which community members vote to decide how to spend \$1 million of the council capital budget. Voting week for Participatory Budgeting begins March 25 and ends April 2. For more information on Participatory Budgeting: District26@council.nyc.gov.

Additionally, schools in Council District 26 have received forms to apply for capital funding for the upcoming fiscal year, and the Council Member invites school principals and administrators to apply. The deadline is February 24, 2023 to apply for Reso A capital funding. After school administrators submit their three priorities, applications will be reviewed and determinations will be made in June.

"During my first year in office

as Council Member and mom, schools in my district received 70% of my office's capital budget and a total of \$11,476,574 in funding," said Council Member Julie Won. "I began my term visiting every single school in the district last year, where administrators, teachers, and students shared the top improvements they wanted for their schools. As a local parent, our schools will continue to be a top priority in my office to ensure that our children will receive the best education possible. I encourage school administrators to apply for funding in the upcoming fiscal

year and look forward to supporting all of our educators."

Schools in Council District 26 that received capital funding:

- Aviation High School \$5,000,000
- P.S. 150 Auditorium Repairs \$500,000
- P.S. 112 Cafeteria A.C. Installation \$400,000
- P.S. 343 Movable Gym Wall \$300,000
- P.S. 199 Library Upgrades \$300,000
- P.S. 111 Technology Upgrades

(Continued on page 10)

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli Statement on State Executive Budget Proposal



the long-term sustainability of the state's finances.

"With two months left in the state's fiscal year, tax collections remain relatively strong, exceeding the Division of Budget's mid-year projection by \$7.7 billion through December. These funds should be used wisely in this shifting economic landscape, and I am pleased the Governor has continued her promise to increase rainy day reserves. Robust increases to reserves will better prepare us for future downturns and challenges.

"Governor Hochul introduced her executive budget while many New Yorkers continue to struggle to make ends meet and concerns of a recession grow. Inflation is still too high, and New York still has not regained all the jobs lost during the pandemic. Federal relief aid has provided critical support to the state budget, but will be depleted by the end of the financial plan. New York needs to fund essential programs and services that support quality of life in our state, while also ensuring

"I remain concerned about New York's high debt burden and how it hinders our future, which is why I proposed a roadmap for reform to impose meaningful limits on debt and ban backdoor borrowing. This proposal can serve as the basis for discussion and action to give more power back to voters and return to prudent debt limits and practices.

"My office will release a more detailed analysis of the Executive Budget in the coming weeks."

Senator John Liu Statement on Education Items in Governor's Proposed Budget



"Thank you to Governor Hochul for honoring our collective commitment to fully funding foundation aid with an additional \$2.7 billion for school funding in your budget proposal. New York school kids can finally receive a sound, basic education as they are long owed under the New York State Constitution.

Senator John Liu stated the following about the Governor's proposed budget announcement.

"However, the naked attempt to remove the cap on charters in NYC is a nonstarter. The cap has historically served to strike the balance between giving parents so-called 'choice' and the constitutional requirement to keep public schools open, and it's not common sense to upset that balance."



Council Member Won with the principal, staff, and student council at PS 150 in Sunnyside to announce \$500,000 in funding for auditorium upgrades. (Photo credit: Office of Council Member Julie Won)



Council Member Won with the principal, vice principal, and students at PS 112 to announce \$400,000 in funding for cafeteria central air conditioning. (Photo credit: Office of Council Member Julie Won)

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MTA Unveils New R211 Subway Cars

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) leadership has showcased one of the two R211 open gangway subway trains at the Coney Island Yard in Brooklyn that are currently undergoing testing and expected to be placed into revenue service in the last quarter of 2023 to determine potential future NYC Transit fleet purchases for open gangways. The open gangway cars are part of a 535-car order of the R211 model. That includes 20 cars with the open gangway feature unveiled today, an additional 515 cars with standard futuristic amenities, and 15 Staten Island Railway five-car trains.



These R211 cars are a critical part of the MTA's ongoing modernization efforts and will be phased into service beginning on the A and C lines. The R211s feature 58-inch-wide door openings that are eight inches wider than standard door openings on existing cars. The wider doorways are designed to speed up boarding and reduce the amount of time trains sit in stations. While very similar to the standard R211 cars, the open gangway cars feature soft, accordion-like walls

that connect subway cars and allow riders to move freely between them.

Testing on the standard R211s delivered is underway and are expected to be placed in passenger service in the Spring.

Both new subway car models include security cameras, additional accessible seating, digital displays that will provide more detailed station-specific information, brighter lighting and signage,

among other features that improve the customer experience.

In October 2022, the MTA announced Board approval to order an additional 640 R211 subway cars, bringing the total number of new subway cars to 1,175 within the next two years. This second set of new subway cars is expected to be delivered in early 2025. If testing is successful, there is a second option for an additional 437 cars that could feature open gangways.

Youth Empowerment



The Queens District Attorneys Office Youth Empowerment Unit hosted an Inspired to Learn giveaway, with NYPD Community Affairs and NYC 100 Strong, for the children of PS 201, The Discovery School for Inquiry & Research. Through our effort, nearly 400 students were presented with STEAM-related gadgets and learning tools.

Astoria Homeowners Association



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz attended a recent meeting of the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants and Business Civic Association to hear neighborhood concerns, answer questions and share information about the work of our office. I was joined by officers from the 114th Precinct.

Pheffer Amato Joins New York State Education Committee



the Assemblywoman worked for the NYC Board of Education as a paraprofessional for several years. During her time as a legislator she has led the charge to stand up for non-public schools on all fronts. Last year she successfully negotiated funding to non-public schools throughout the State of New York that granted a historic \$58 million for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum.

With the start of the new legislative session, Speaker Carl Heastie announced the appointment of Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato to the New York State Assembly Committee on Education. "I'm honored by this appointment and graciously thank the Speaker. Through this Committee I will bring the voice of my constituents forward and will only further work to ensure that public and non-public schools have an ally. I will stand up for our schools, public and non-public, and work to create the best educational opportunities for the children of our State," said Pheffer Amato.

The New York State Catholic

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-South Queens) was appointed to the New York State Assembly Committee on Education and is known for being a firm advocate for parents in for public and non-public schools and has often spoken out on the importance of school choice.

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato is a mother of two public school graduates and served as the Parent Association President at her children's school. In addition,

(Continued on page 11)

Meng Brings Queens Flooding Victim to President Biden's State of The Union Address



To bring more attention on the need to combat excessive flooding in Queens, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) announced today that a flooding victim from the borough will be her guest for President Biden's State of the Union address on Tuesday night.

In September 2021, unprecedented flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Ida devastated Queens. Lives were lost and homes and property sustained extensive damage, and more rainfall over the past year caused additional flooding throughout the borough.

Meng will bring Allison Sesso to the President's speech. She is a long-time resident of Forest Hills

whose house on Selfridge Street, which she had moved into two weeks before Ida struck, was severely flooded during the storm. Water filled her basement, and several feet of water also gushed into the first floor. It destroyed much of her home's interior, furniture, personal belongings and even a car, costing her well over \$100,000 in damage.

"Stories like Allison's are heartbreaking and it's something that many others living in Queens were forced to endure during Ida and other storms," said Congresswoman Meng. "After Ida, I visited affected constituents all across my

(Continued on page 10)

IT'S IN QUEENS

It's In Queens! (Feb. 10 to Feb. 16)

Valentine's Day is approaching, and Queens is filled with love. It's also filled with the Lindy Hop, a Monkey King, Chinese Stand-up, German DJs, mousetraps, CPR training, and a murder mystery.

- Feb. 10, The Challenge to Defy Gravity, 7 pm. Music director Frank Owens teams up with choreographer and dance historian Mickey Davidson to present a Swing Era dance experience. Travel back to the 1920s Savoy Ballroom to celebrate the gravity-defying contributions of dancers Frankie Manning and Norma Miller, known for their famous Lindy Hop and air steps. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Feb. 10, Films of Amy Halpern, Feb. 11. A childhood dancer, Amy Halpern (1953-2022) had great appreciation for movement, which is central to her filmmaking. Her works break bonds and evoke freedom, beauty, care, and wonder. Lineup is Falling Lessons on Feb. 10 at 7:30 pm; Unowned Luxuries on Feb. 11 at 4 pm; Plausible Light Sources on Feb. 11 at 5:30 pm. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Feb. 10, Three Days of Dance, Feb. 12. The Take Root program presents Jon Lehrer Dance Company and Colectiva Flamenco Rosado on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 at 8 pm. Then, the Fertile Ground New Works Showcase provides a venue for various emerging artists to showcase their pieces on Feb. 12 at 7 pm. Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Ste. 211, Long Island City.

- Feb. 10, Friends + Family CPR Training, 6 pm. Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps members teach lifesaving skills for those who want to learn CPR but do not need a CPR course completion card to meet a job requirement. This is ideal for new parents, grandparents, babysitters, and others interested in learning how to save a life. Alley Park Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Feb. 10, Harvey Morris + The Deep Center Groove, 8 pm. Dance the night away with some fun musicians. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Feb. 11, Pan-Pot, Octave One (Live), Desna, 10 pm. This German duo stands as one of techno music's most beloved acts, bringing soulful originals to life with joyful spontaneity and a virtuosic level of control. Knockdown Center, 52-19 Flushing Ave., Maspeth.

- Feb. 11, The Monkey King: A Kung-Fu Musical, Feb. 12. Based on a 16th century Chinese novel, this story follows the first-ever female Monkey King as she battles Heaven and Earth's most treacherous foes to save her tribe and achieve immortality. Shows are 3 pm both days. Queens The-

atre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 11, The Mousetrap, Feb. 19. A community theater production of an Agatha Christie murder mystery. After arriving at a guesthouse in the British countryside, several strangers learn that one of them is wanted for a London murder. Slowly, the characters reveal their sordid pasts as tension grows before exploding in an unsuspected ending. Shows are at 2:30 pm on the two Sundays and 8 pm on the Friday and two Saturdays. Maggie's Little Theater, 66-05 79th Pl., Middle Village.

- Feb. 11, Dear Fran, 2 pm. Mary Frances Grace has created a music-heavy play based on letters from her father to her mother while he was stationed in Korea in the early 1950s and some fictional letters from fictional individuals. Celebration Hall at Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd., Kew Gardens.

- Feb. 11, Vampire Cirque Cabaret, 7 pm. An intimate, black box theatre, Victorian style dinner cabaret show with a Victorian or cocktail dress code. Fine cuisine, mythical creatures of the night, live vocals from LEX, and the cult of Spirits, dance, fire, and cirque style aerial performances. Liminal Space NYC, 1080 Wyck-off Ave., Ridgewood.

- Feb. 11, Cupid's Chase 5K, 10 am. This race raises funds for agencies that work for housing and employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Meet between Grand Central Parkway and Van Wyck Expressway, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 11, Candlelight Tours, 6 pm. Explore three floors of exhibits with a guide and learn about the families and history of a landmarked property. The tour repeats on March 11. Onderdonk House, 1820 Flushing Ave., Ridgewood.

- Feb. 11, Tracing Irish Roots, 2 pm. Renowned genealogist Bridget Bray leads a session for participants to trace their Irish roots and/or find out if they have any. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

- Feb. 11, Aftershock, 7 pm. This high-energy, six-piece cover band creates the ultimate mix of yesterday's classics and today's hits with everything from Frankie Valli and Journey to Bruno Mars and Blink-182. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Feb. 12, Exhibitions Tour, 3:30 pm. Assistant Curator and Studio Program Manager Lindsey Berfond leads a free tour of the current exhibitions Xaviera Simmons: Crisis Makes a Book Club and Charisse Pearlina Weston: of [a] tomorrow: lighter than air, stronger than whiskey, cheaper than dust. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 12, Valentine's Day Jazz

Party, 2:30 pm. The 12-piece Dean Saghafi Orchestra, which features vocalist Kathryn Farmer, performs amid wine, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres. Bayside Historical Society, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten, Bayside.

- Feb. 12, Opening Reception for You Are Welcome Here, 1 pm. Huey-Min Chuang is a self-taught artist who has lived in Taiwan, Argentina, Germany, Spain, and the United States. Her art focuses on the theme of resilience, and this show is on display until April 11. Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing.

- Feb. 12 Stamp-o-Mania Workshop, 1 pm. Phyllis Ger, who has a great selection of stamps, leads a workshop to create valentines with drawing and words, note cards, a flipbook, or a small picture storybook. Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing.

- Feb. 12, A Card for Your Valentine, 1 pm. An afternoon of family-friendly botanical crafts and love-themed story time. Create Valentine's Day cards and plantable paper. Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing.

- Feb. 14, Celebrate Loving You, 4 pm. The Shops at Skyview invites the community to celebrate themselves with a one-of-a-kind floral wall created in partnership with local business. Guests are invited to take selfies and build personal mini bouquets to take home. Each one will be wrapped by an expert from CherCher Floral and include a positive affirmation. Those who post their selfie and tag @theshopsatskyviewny will be entered to win a \$500 Love Yourself gift package. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

- Feb. 15, Joe Wong + Chi Zi Stand-Up Comedy, 8 pm. Joe Wong and Chi Zi explore the cultural differences between the United States and China with their sharp wit and hilarious observations. They shed light on the quirks and misunderstandings that can arise when two cultures collide. Queens College's Colden Auditorium, 153-49 Reeves Ave., Flushing.

- Feb. 16, Literary Thursdays, 6 pm. Christine Kandic Torres discusses her first-ever novel, The Girls in Queens, via Queens Public Library's Literary Thursday program. This coming-of-age tale explores loyalty, the complications of sexual abuse allegations within communities of color, and the danger of forgetting that monsters can hide in plain sight. By phone: 1.408.418.9388; Access Code: 2348.388.2440.

- Feb. 16, From Cubop to Hip-Hop! The History of Afro Latin Music in NYC, 10:30 am. Steven Salcedo's Latin-Soul Group explores the history of Afro Latin music in New York City in the 1950s and 1960s. Recommended for grades 2-8. Queens College's Colden Auditorium, 153-49 Reeves Ave., Flushing.

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Statement From The Common Sense Caucus on The City Rescinding The COVID Vaccine Mandate For City Employees And School Visitors

“During our numerous conversations with this administration and with Mayor Adams himself about ending the city’s COVID-19 vaccine mandates, we have always asked that they consider the undue harm of these policies and that, ultimately, they follow the science. Today’s announcement that the city will be rescinding the COVID-19

vaccine mandate for all city employees and for visitors to public schools proves they have done just that.

“This news will come as an incredible relief to thousands of city workers and their families, and the parents and guardians who have been barred from attending their children’s public school events. There is more to

be done for those workers who were unjustly fired for making personal medical choices, but this is a tremendous step toward righting the wrongs of the previous administration’s misguided pandemic policies.

“We are grateful to the Mayor and this administration for listening to us, to their constituents, and to common sense.”

DiNapoli: NYC Spending Priorities Shifted During Pandemic

(Continued from page 4)

uniformed agencies and judicial programs focused on reducing violent crimes and recidivism. Other new initiatives that will receive city funding in the current budget support quality of life improvements such as cleanliness of public spaces and abatement of pests, as well as improving street safety with additional speed cameras. The Department of Sanitation, for instance, received an increase of \$94 million for initiatives such as waste export and recycling, an organics program, public space cleaning and snow removal when compared to the pre-pandemic budget plan.

DiNapoli’s report found that many of these new programs and services in the current budget were funded, in large part, by

agency cost savings, such as eliminating vacancies and a city-wide hiring freeze. With some city operations now reportedly experiencing difficulties in delivering services at pre-pandemic levels, this suggests staffing shortages and highlights the importance of the city more closely monitoring performance at agencies, as recommended by DiNapoli in his previous report on city staffing.

The city also faces additional risks and uncertainties that could impact these newly funded programs and services beyond FY 2024. A significant portion (41%) of the city’s budget is nondiscretionary. It could be more difficult for the city to hold down some costs in the future if there is an economic downturn. In addition, some new recurring costs may not be fully accounted for, such as

the outcomes of municipal labor contracts, the recent influx of asylum seekers, public assistance and other social support costs, which may depend on federal pandemic assistance.

DiNapoli said continued efforts to increase reserves and identify cost savings without hurting city services remain a prudent approach to managing the long-term implications of the pandemic.

Report - Pandemic Impacts on NYC Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Priorities

Related Reports - Update on New York City Staffing Trends Identifying Fiscal Cliffs in New York City’s Financial Plan

Review of the Financial Plan of the City of New York

NYC Department of Education Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

CM Linda Lee, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, And Education Chair Rita Joseph Introduce Resolution Calling For Financial Literacy Classes in High Schools

Council Member Linda Lee, alongside Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Education Chair Rita Joseph, introduced in support of Senator Leroy Comrie’s state legislation that requires New York High Schools to provide a financial literacy class for students to take as a graduation requirement. Currently, New York requires high school students to take courses in “Economics, the Free Enterprise System, and Finance”, but no courses related to financial literacy and personal finance.

“I am proud to introduce Resolution 483 alongside Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Education Chair Rita Joseph in support of State legislation from Senator Leroy Comrie that would require high schools to make financial literacy classes a graduation requirement for all students”, said Council Member Linda Lee, at today’s Stated Meeting. “Too many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, graduate without the necessary skills to make informed long-term budgeting decisions which may include student loans and debt management. Resolution 483 is in pursuit of a vision where every student - regardless of socioeconomic

background - is equipped to make informed financial decisions and improve their quality of life.”

“If we want young adults to make sound financial decisions as they enter college, the workforce or into life in general, we to make sure they are equipped with the basic building blocks of credit and how money works.” said Senator Leroy Comrie “How to properly budget, use online banking tools, and understanding credit scores are the floor in terms of skills that students should be learning. I commend and thank my colleagues, Speaker Adams, Public Advocate Williams, and Council Members Joseph and Lee for advancing a Resolution in support of this important legislation.”

A 2018 survey by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority found that in New York, approximately 28% of credit card holders only made minimum monthly payments in some months, 41% of individuals did not have savings to cover expenses for three months in an emergency, 12% owed more on their home than it was worth, and 11.5% of older adults live in poverty, compared to 9.7% nationally, all areas that can be improved if New Yorkers are taught financial

literacy while in high school. The survey additionally found that 2.5 million New Yorkers owed over \$37,600 in federal student loan debt in 2020, slightly more than the national average. Research has also shown that students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds do not receive financial education related to managing debt, working towards a secure retirement, and setting and working towards financial goals.

Several New York agencies offer financial literacy education to help protect vulnerable consumers, increase household savings, and promote responsible personal finance and financial well-being. However, an audit by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli found that despite some collaboration among the agencies, there is no coherent strategy to coordinate their various efforts, nor is there a shared definition of “financial literacy.”

In the New York State Legislature, there is a bill that will require senior high schools to provide a course in financial literacy as a graduation requirement, introduced by Senator Leroy Comrie and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson.

and her team are doing.

“The members of 32BJ SEIU and the The Hotel and Gaming Trades Council keep New York City

(Continued on page 10)

NYC DOT Begins Major Expansion of On-Street Carshare After Successful Pilot

(Continued from page 6)

DOT’s ambitious program goal for 2023 is to supplement the current 230 on-street parking spaces with several hundred more, working with the three carshare companies – Zipcar, Getaround, and Truqit – to deploy their shared vehicles at new locations.

Carsharing is a service that gives members access to an automobile for short-term use – usually by the hour, or day – at a cost that includes maintenance. With cars parked in publicly accessible neighborhood locations across the city, members can reserve vehicles entirely via smartphone, and then just walk up to a car and drive away, returning later to the same reserved spot.

As part of its initial citywide expansion, DOT and Carshare Companies have identified 80 curbside carshare spaces in the Pelham Bay and Westchester Square sections of The Bronx; Bay Ridge, Bushwick, Brownsville, and Sunset Park, in Brooklyn; and Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Long Island City, and Woodside, in Queens. Spaces will be installed in Brooklyn and the Bronx starting today, with site installations in Queens taking place next week.

Information on precise site locations being installed this month can be found on the DOT’s website. DOT is conducting extensive outreach, taking feedback from community boards and making adjustments where applicable. Once all sites are installed, an up-to-date map of locations will be available here: nyc.gov/carshare

New locations are being selected by participating carshare companies based upon knowledge of customer demand and household demographic data. Locations must also conform with criteria set forth by the NYC DOT to ensure the program reaches underserved New Yorkers in Equity Zone Areas, defined as Tier 1 Priority Investment Areas (PIAs) in the New York City Streets Plan. DOT engaged all community boards covered by the initial expansion and incorporated feedback where possible.

• Carshare users took about 160,000 trips total during the pilot, with an average of 24 trips per month per space. Each month, an average of 17 unique carshare members used vehicles in each space.

• Using detailed customer surveys, researchers concluded that for every car shared within the city, four personal vehicles were either not purchased or sold; In the pilot, about 1,140 users, or 7% of program participants, either sold their cars or opted not to purchase a new one

• Annual Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT) were reduced by about 38.7 million miles and produced an annual net reduction of ~12,000 metric tons in greenhouse gases per year.

• Comparing their pre-carshare behavior, carshare users in the pilot drove fewer miles (7% re-

duction) and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (6% reduction)

• The pilot dramatically increased diversity: Black/Latino membership doubled to about 30% of total carshare users.

• After the first year of the pilot, unauthorized use of on-street carshare parking spaces declined dramatically after DOT allowed carshare companies to use paint to clearly mark their spaces with “Carshare Parking Only,” making the program much more reliable for customers.

• The program brought carshare to 14 neighborhoods citywide with low- and moderate-incomes, including Inwood, Washington Heights, Harlem, Parkchester, Red Hook, Jamaica, and the Rockaways. Many of these neighborhoods saw the highest rates of overall use during the pilot.

“The expansion of carshare will be liberating to my constituents in Ozone Park and South Ozone Park. In our transit desert, we rely on cars for work, medical appointments, and visiting loved ones. The DOT’s carshare program will equip us with the mobility we need while freeing us of the financial and logistical burdens of car ownership,” said Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar. The benefit will expand well beyond the program’s users: studies show that one carshare vehicle takes as many as 15 cars off the road—lowering greenhouse gas emissions, reducing traffic congestion, and freeing up precious parking space. Thank you to Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez for once again advancing transit policies that address the needs of the people.”

“Carshare options provide New Yorkers another degree of flexibility to meet their needs and get where they to go,” said City Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. “Short-term carshare access can reduce emissions and vehicle miles traveled citywide. I support New York City Department of Transportation’s efforts to expand this program, and I look forward to further investment in multimodal transportation options for New Yorkers, especially in the City’s transit deserts.”

“It is great to see the success of the New York City Department of Transportation’s carshare pilot and we applaud Commissioner Rodriguez for expanding this environmentally friendly program even further.” said Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters. “When we first advocated for the city to dedicate curbside parking spaces for carshare service, we knew it would result in fewer single-use private cars on the road and less fossil fuel emissions pouring into our air, and that is exactly what has borne out. With the DOT now dedicating an additional 80 streetside parking spaces to car share rides, it’s a win for the environment and a win for equitable access to transportation.”

32BJ SEIU & The NY/NJ Hotel and Gaming Trades Council Endorse District Attorney Melinda Katz for Re-Election

District Attorney Melinda Katz’s coalition of labor support continues to grow with the endorsement of 32BJ SEIU, a union of over 175,000 members, and the NY/NJ Hotel and Gaming Trades Council, a union

of over 40,000 members. Both unions host immensely diverse memberships and their endorsements showcase the trust their communities have in the work that District Attorney Melinda Katz

Riders Alliance Statement on New York Governor Hochul's FY24 Executive Budget

Riders Alliance Executive Director Betsy Plum said:

"In response to millions of riders' concerns for the future of transit, Governor Hochul's budget lays a foundation for the MTA's survival. Riders are grateful for the governor's proposed revenue increases, which will maintain the public transit service at the heart of New York's

economy.

"As the governor and legislative leaders negotiate a final budget, riders will continue to fight for a targeted new investment in more frequent subways and buses. Funding more frequent service will build on today's footing, seeding ridership growth, enhancing subway safety and transit equity, and combating climate change.

"Now is the moment to invest abundant state resources to tackle transit's persistent challenges and meet the growing needs of riders traveling outside of rush hour. Riders echo both the governor's 'New' New York panel's call to maintain rush hour service levels while funding more frequent off-peak service and the Climate Action Council's plan to cut driving by expanding transit service."

Attorney General James Secures \$410,000 From Tech Companies For Illegally Promoting Spyware And Violating New Yorkers' Privacy

Multiple Companies Owned by Patrick Hinchy Sold Software Products that Allowed Individuals to Spy on their Partners without Their Consent

New York Attorney General Letitia James has secured \$410,000 from Patrick Hinchy and 16 of his companies for illegally promoting spyware that allowed individuals to monitor another person's device without their awareness. The software products sold by Hinchy's companies allowed users to secretly monitor activity on another device, including call logs, text messages, photos and videos, location, Gmail activity, WhatsApp and Skype messages, social media activity, and browsing history. The companies' advertisements and promotions led customers to believe that using their products for spying was legal, however, installing and using stalkerware to monitor another adult's mobile device without their consent violates numerous state and federal laws. As a result of this agreement, Hinchy's companies must pay \$410,000 in penalties and modify their apps to alert device owners that their devices are being monitored.

"Snooping on a partner and tracking their cell phone without their knowledge isn't just a sign of an unhealthy relationship, it is against the law," said Attorney General James. "These apps and products put New Yorkers at risk of stalking and domestic abuse, and were aggressively

promoted by Patrick Hinchy through 16 different companies. Today's agreement will block these companies from allowing New Yorkers to be monitored without their awareness, and will continue our ongoing fight to protect New Yorkers' rights, safety, and privacy."

A consortium of companies owned by Hinchy promoted several apps as tools to spy on spouses or intimate partners without their awareness or consent. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found that Hinchy and his companies also misrepresented their refund and data security policies, failed to disclose the potential harm to a device caused by the installation of their products, and created sham review sites to lure customers into purchasing and using the stalkerware products.

The investigation revealed that Hinchy created numerous websites that purported to provide independent technology advice, but in reality, solely promoted the stalkerware products sold by Hinchy's companies. Hinchy's stalkerware companies also failed to disclose the need to perform an invasive procedure, known as rooting for Android devices or jailbreaking on Apple devices, and the risks associated with such procedures. Customers were also misled by confusing refund policies and false claims regarding the data security of information obtained by the stalkerware products.

This agreement requires Hinchy and his companies to pay \$410,000 in penalties, dis-

gorgement, and costs. In addition, Hinchy's companies must modify the apps and software so that the owner of the device being monitored is notified and informed of the types of information collected by the app or software and made available for viewing by the user of the product. The agreement further requires Hinchy and his companies to make accurate disclosures regarding endorsements, rooting and jailbreaking requirements, refund policies, and data security.

The companies owned by Hinchy and named in today's agreement include Powerline Group Inc., Powerline Media LLC, Powerline Data LLC, Powerline Digital LLC, Powerline Commerce LLC, ILF Mobile Apps Corp., Auto Forward Data Services LLC, DDI Utilities Inc., DDI Data Solutions Inc., Highster Mobile Inc., Highster Data Services LLC, PhoneSpector LLC, Safeguarde LLC, BFG Marketing LLC, Digital Security World LLC, and CTS Technologies Corp.

This matter was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Marc Montgomery, Jina John, and Laura Mumm of the Bureau of Internet and Technology, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Kim A. Berger and Deputy Bureau Chief Clark P. Russell. The Bureau of Internet and Technology is a part of the Division for Economic Justice, which is overseen by Chief Deputy Attorney General Chris D'Angelo and First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

32BJ SEIU & The NY/NJ Hotel and Gaming Trades Council Endorse District Attorney Melinda Katz for Re-Election

(Continued from page 9)

thriving and it's my honor to serve them as District Attorney and to be endorsed by them today," said District Attorney Melinda Katz. "The members of these great unions and their families deserve effective and bold leadership from the District Attorney's office - leadership that recognizes that justice and safety are not mutually exclusive. That's the mentality I bring to work every day; to keep them safe and keep the courtroom fair."

"District Attorney Melinda Katz has provided equitable justice in Queens, the likes of which this borough desperately needed. And she's done it all while keeping our workers and their families

safe in their neighborhoods," said Manny Pastreich, President of 32BJ SEIU. "Our union is proud to endorse Melinda Katz for re-election, and ready to hit the streets this cycle to spread her message of bold justice."

"We are proud to endorse District Attorney Melinda Katz, a true voice for the residents of Queens and New York City. Our members want to see bold policies from the District Attorney's office that make them safer, and bring fairness to our criminal justice system - and Melinda Katz is delivering," said Rich Moroko, President of the Hotel and Gaming Trades Council. "In her first term, DA Katz has been a positive force in Queens - upholding the rights

of our members and keeping them safe. We are looking forward to helping her achieve another term this November."

Melinda Katz was elected District Attorney in 2019 and inaugurated in 2020. Despite taking office in the most turbulent of times, she's provided a steady hand as she's worked to keep Queens families safe and taken on crime head on. She's led the effort to take illegal and ghost guns off the streets and held human traffickers and domestic abusers accountable. DA Katz launched Queens' first-ever Conviction Integrity Unit to ensure justice for those wrongfully convicted. And she's taken a community-first approach to public safety.

Council Member Julie Won Announces \$1,200,000 . . .

(Continued from page 6)

\$300,000
 • Q277 Bathroom Upgrades \$100,000
 • P.S. 11 Technology Upgrades \$100,000
 • Q361 P.S. 339 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q291 P.S. 291 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q384 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q993 P993q Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q993 P.S. Q993 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q125 I.S. 125 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q312 P.S./IS 78q Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q152 P.S. 152q Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q389 Technology Upgrades

\$75,000
 • Q204 I.S. 204 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q166 P.S. 166 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q076 P.S. 76 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q721 P721q Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q004 P.S. Q004 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • P.S. 199 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q277 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q277 P.S./I.S. 78 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q277 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q555 Technology Upgrades \$75,000
 • Q445 Technology Upgrades \$75,000

Legislators Push to Lower The Legal Blood Alcohol . . .

(Continued from page 3)

sister, friends, teachers and scouts. Impaired driving leads to tragedy every single day on our roads and we want to make our roads safer so no other family has to endure this

100% preventable loss. We can no longer look the other way and need to encourage safer behavior. Lowering the Per Se Blood Alcohol to .05 % can save lives where other measures have failed and we can make drunk driving a relic of the past."

Meng Brings Queens Flooding Victim to President Biden's State of The Union Address

(Continued from page 7)

district and saw the destruction firsthand. From tackling the impacts of climate change to upgrading local sewers and catch basins, this problem in our borough must be addressed, especially with the threat of more flooding occurring in the future. Having Allison as my guest will help keep a light shined on this urgent issue and further underscore the need for our city, state and federal governments to take action. I thank Allison for accepting my invitation to attend, and for sharing her harrowing ordeal."

"I am grateful for the diligent support of Congresswoman Meng," said Allison Sesso. "Queens residents need upgrades to our sewer systems that will prevent the loss of life, destruction of our homes, emotional anguish and financial uncertainty caused by increasingly common extreme rain events. I look forward to seeing progress on these needed infrastructure improvements."

Sesso also works in Queens where through a nonprofit, she helps low-income families eliminate staggering medical debt.

President Biden is scheduled to deliver his State of the Union address at 9 p.m. on Tuesday before

a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

In Congress, Meng has worked to combat excessive flooding in Queens. After helping to pass the federal infrastructure bill into law in late 2021, she has constantly urged the city and state to provide Queens with a portion of the billions that New York received, particularly for improving sewers and catch basins so that they can handle rainfall produced by current storms.

In December, President Biden signed her legislation into law that authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers - in coordination with the City of New York - to spend nearly \$120 million on upgrading environmental infrastructure in the borough, which include projects to help improve water and wastewater infrastructure, storm water management and combined sewer overflows.

Meng also joined the President when he visited Queens after Ida wreaked havoc on the borough.

In addition, the Congresswoman has urged the city to consider using millions in federal disaster funds to implement a voluntary buyout program for homes in Queens that are at risk of severe flooding during storms.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notice of formation of Bluejacket Strategies, LLC. Art. Of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 12/22/2022. Office loc: Queens County. Corporation Service Company is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served at 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of MADAM SARA(H) CHARCUTERIE & GRAZING, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 92-19 190th Street, Apt 3, Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

Prime Podiatry PLLC Filed 7/29/22 Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to 5718 Woodside Ave #2101, Woodside, NY 11377 Purpose: Podiatry. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

Notice of Formation of HEATING & COOLING DOCTOR, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/30/22. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: 90-17 Corona Ave., Elmhurst, NY 11373. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Lawrence H. Schoenbach, Esq., Law Offices of Lawrence H. Schoenbach, 111 Broadway, Ste. 901, NY, NY 10006. Purpose: Construction. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of NY IT SERVICE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/17/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8150 102nd Road, Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

QB138 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/11/23. 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, 140-25 Queens Boulevard, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of HERRERA DISTRIBUTORS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/09/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14825 89th Avenue, 30, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful activities. 1/12,19,26,2/2,9&16/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of MEHAR REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/2022. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 104-40 QUEENS BLVD APT 22 B, FOREST HILLS, NY, UNITED STATES, 11375. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HSU & ASSOCIATES LLP Certificate of Registration filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on January 30 2023. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 LLP served upon him/her is: 135-50 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 201, Flushing, NY 11354 / Zack Hsu. The principal business address of the LLP is 135-50 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 201, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

Notice of Formation of BREADBOX PICTURES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 57 Larkin Street, Staten Island, NY 10302. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

2467 CAMBRELENG NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/24/22. 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, 144-20 69th Ave, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/5,12,19,26,2/2&9/2023

Square Street Capital Management, LLC Auth. filed w/ SSNY 11/17/22. Off. in Queens Co. Cert. of Form filed w/ SSDE 7/28/21. SSNY desig. as agt. of LLC whom process may be served & shall mail process to Zaiqing Zhu, 56-27 2nd St, Apt. 2803, Long Island City, NY 11101. The reg. agt. is Zaiqing Zhu at same address. Add. maintained in DE: 3500 S. Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901. Name & add. of auth. officer in DE where Cert of Form filed: DE Sec. of State, Div. of Corp, 401 Federal St, Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Any lawful purpose. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of ERIC ONLINE, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13543 95th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of KORALI 194 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 11/2/22. Office location: Queens County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to 72-08 243rd St, Douglaston, NY 11362. Purpose: any lawful activity. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

Notice of Formation of EUROPEAN ACCENTS STUDIOS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/28/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 31-19 37th Street, Apt 5B, Long Island City, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of SSGM LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/10/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 84-12 265th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

REDEFINE MEALS ROCK ASTORIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/23/23. 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, 2850 Pond Road, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: HONEYBEE GROUP FAMILY DAYCARE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/20/2022. Office Location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o The Limited Liability Company, 440 BEACH 54th ST APT 2C, ARVERNE, NY, UNITED STATES, 11692. Principal business address: 440 Beach 54th St, ARVERNE, NY 11692. Purpose: Any lawful acts. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

File No.: 2021-3432/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: NYC Human Resources Administration, Attorney General of the State of New York

The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of Diane Bell, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained

A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq.

Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Diane Bell, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of Rego Park Health Care, 112-26 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY 11368, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING:

Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Diane Bell, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 30th day of March, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$5,127.44 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the claim

LEGAL NOTICES

of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$655,176.22 should not be partially paid to the extent of the net distributable estate Dated, Attested and Sealed 25th day of January, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000

1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200

Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY Accounting Citation Clare Warnock Gerard J. Sweeney, Esq. 1981 Marcus Avenue, Ste 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 PH: 718 459 9000 Direct Dial: 516 888 9433 FAX: 718 459 3163 2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1354992 for On-Premises Liquor has been applied for by Truth Restaurant Corp to sell On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider at retail in a Full Service Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2735 21st Street, Astoria, NY 11102 for on-premises consumption. 2/2&9/2023

JLEMM 50th St, LLC filed w/ SSNY on 2/1/23. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 2565 34th St., Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1347543 for Beer and Wine has been applied for by EL ASTORIA FAMILY PIZZA INC to sell Liquor, Beer and Wine at retail in a Bar-Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 19 27 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria, NY 11105 for on-premises consumption. 2/9&16/2023

Notice of formation of SONG MEDICAL PLLC Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 5/5/2022. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY design. agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 3808 UNION ST UNIT 2A, FLUSHING, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of PVNX, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 45-14 30th Avenue, Suite 1R, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of ROYALTY TRUCKERS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/12/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 448 Beach 65th Street, Averno, NY 11692. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of Samson Milwaukee LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/25/23. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Samson Management, 1180-5 Queens Blvd, Ste 1710, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023



Pheffer Amato Joins New York State Education Committee

(Continued from page 7)

Conference was thrilled by the news of Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato being appointed to the important committee. "Our Catholic School Superintendents congratulate Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato on being appointed to the Assembly Education Committee. Having a record of commitment and support to all families of school-age children, regardless of where they go to schools, her work on the committee will no doubt benefit the schools and families of southern Queens, and indeed across the state," said James Cultrara, Executive Secretary, NYS Council of Catholic School Superintendents.

Rabbi Yeruchim Silber of Agudath Israel said, "Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato has proven to be one of the best friends of the Yeshiva community in Albany. We are confident she will be a powerful voice on the Education Committee advocating for all students including yeshiva students"

Veterans Committee And Higher Education Committee Hearing



At this hearing, Council Member Paladino spoke about how we can work together to bring Army Recruiters into institutions of higher learning. Bringing Army Recruiters into high schools is important, but it is also important to let our young adults know what military service can offer them even after committing to higher education.

Council Member Linda Lee Presents:
PRE-K AND 3-K INFORMATION SESSION

February 17, 2023 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

3-K FOR ALL Learn How to Apply Using MySchools
 What Makes a Strong Application
 What are Admissions Priorities
 How are Offers Made to Students

PRE-K FOR ALL

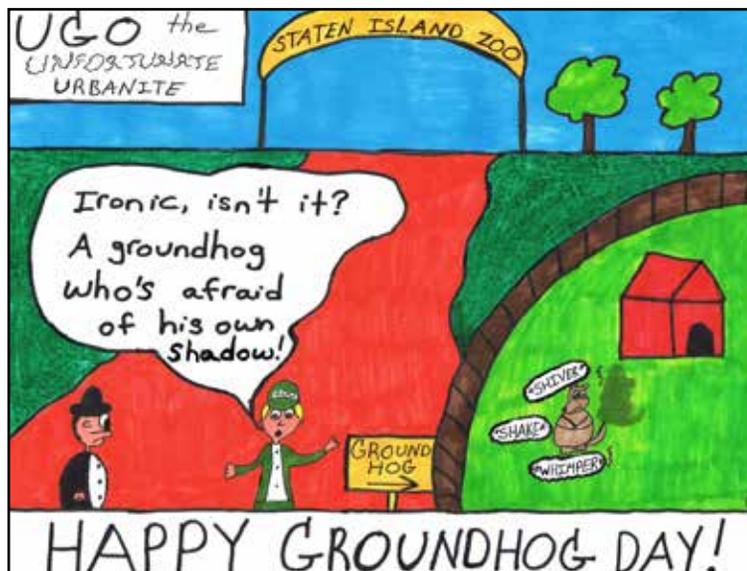
Join In-Person
 Glow Cultural Center
 133-29 41st Ave, Floor 1
 Flushing, New York

Join Virtually
<https://zoom.us/j/8988493442>
 Meeting ID: 898 849 3442

In Partnership With:
 NYC Council Member Sandra Ung
 NYC Department of Education
 Glow Cultural Center
 Parents Group New York

NYC Department of Education
glow CULTURAL CENTER 启揚文化中心
 Parents Group New York

God Bless America



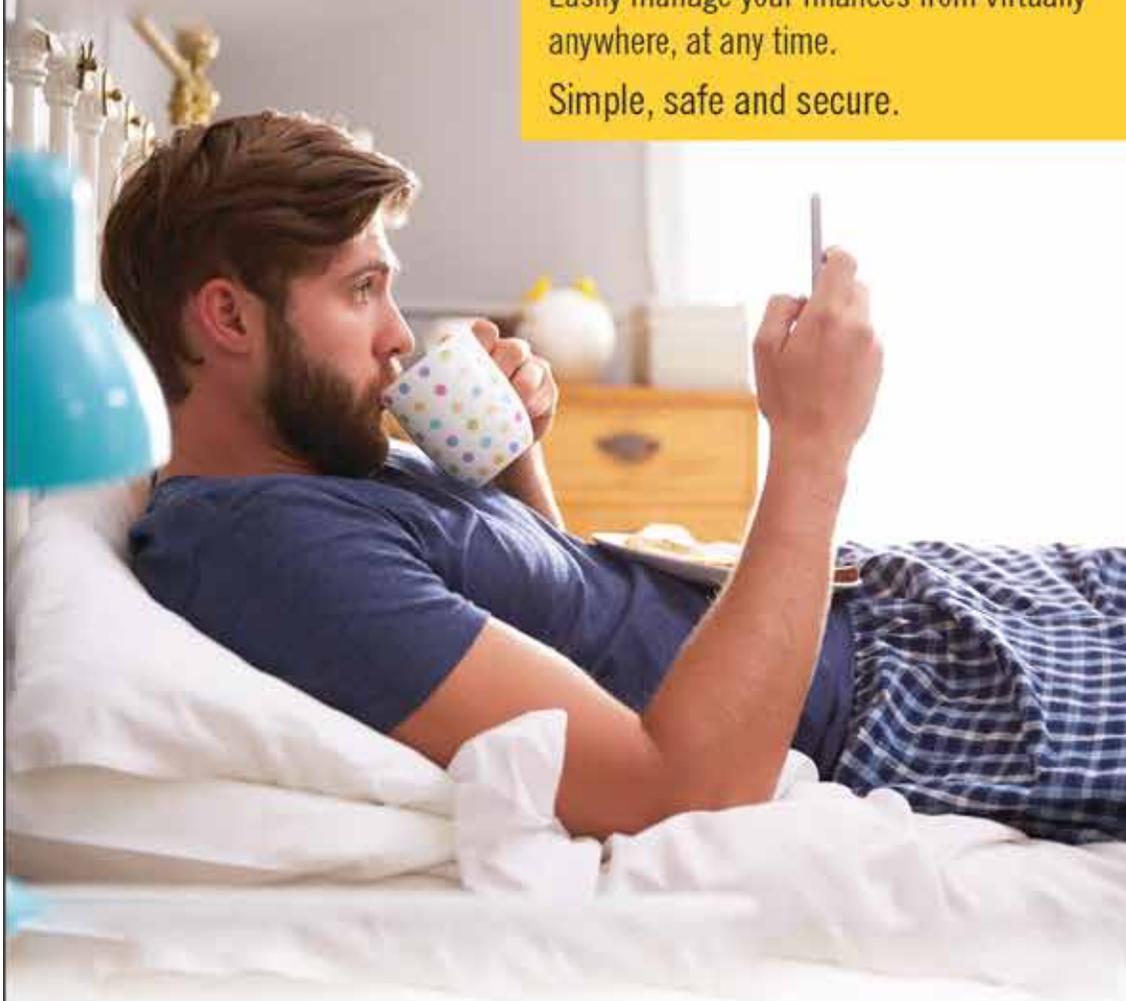
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