

# QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS

## State Legislators Announce Public Hearing on NYC School Governance And Mayoral Accountability

*Public is encouraged to testify at hearing on 'mayoral control'*

The chairs of the New York State legislature's committees on education today announced an upcoming joint public hearing to examine New York City Mayoral Governance and Accountability. The virtual hearing will be open to public testimony and hosted jointly by the New York State Senate committees on Education and New York City Education, and the New York State Assembly Committee on Education.

Last month, Governor Hochul announced in her executive budget the renewal of New York City's system of mayoral accountability (aka mayoral control) for four years. As mayoral accountability is set to expire on June 30, the state Senate and Assembly must also make a determination on whether to renew, amend or disapprove mayoral accountability by the state budget deadline on April 1, or via legislation before the June 30 expiration.

The public hearing will take place virtually on March 4, 2022 at 10 a.m. via ZOOM. Those wishing to testify must pre-register here: NYC Education Committee Witness Registration Form

Senator John C. Liu, chairperson of the Senate Committee on

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## Suozzi Chooses Diana Reyna to Serve as Running Mate For Lieutenant Governor

**Diana Reyna will be the very first Latino elected to statewide office in New York**



Congressman Tom Suozzi, the common-sense Democratic candidate for Governor, held a press conference in Brooklyn to announce that he has chosen Diana Reyna to be his running mate as Lieutenant Governor. If elected, Reyna would become the first Latino elected to statewide office in New York history.

Reyna has served on the NYC Council and was named by then-Brooklyn Borough President and current NYC Mayor Eric Adams, as his Deputy Borough President.

"Diana believes that public service is about getting things done to improve the lives of the people

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## Gov. Hochul, Mayor Adams And MTA Announce Crackdown on Subway Homelessness and Crime



New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Photo: Mayoral Photography Office. See story on page 2.

## Heart Bombing of The Walentyna Janta-Polczynska House

On a snow-filled Sunday, Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society, Queens Community Board #4, and The Newtown Civic Association partnered up for a community Valentine's event to heart bomb the historic Janta Polczyński house located at 88-28 43rd Avenue in honor of Walentyna Janta-Polczyńska. The heart bombing event was to not only show love to Walentyna for Valentine's Day but to show that we are all recognizing a historic and culturally significant site worthy of preservation. The Janta Polczyński house tells the story of heroism against the injustices of racism and human rights in one of the world's worst atrocities; known as the Holocaust, as well as celebrating the Janta-Polczyński's humanitarian work as well as their contributions to Polish American



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# State Legislators Announce Public Hearing on NYC School Governance And Mayoral Accountability

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NYC Education, said, "There continues to be widespread dissatisfaction among parents, teachers, and other stakeholders with mayoral control of schools. What structural changes can be enacted to improve public engagement and strengthen accountability? Should we simply do away with mayoral control, as

Chicago has done? What if any system could work better? We seek ideas and suggestions at this public hearing."

Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, said, "During the height of COVID, we heard from many NYC parents about their frustrations that their voices were not heard. I look forward to hear-

ing all of the witnesses to have a full airing on this important issue."

Assembly Member Michael Benedetto, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education, said, "With the approval of mayoral control last time, we committed to having hearings on the matter. The public hearing on March 4 continues that commitment and encourages the input of all viewpoints."

# Gov. Hochul, Mayor Adams And MTA Announce Crackdown on Subway Homelessness and Crime

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Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul released a plan to make public transportation safer.

Mayor Adams, Gov. Hochul and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Chair Janno Lieber announced the effort that would include increasing police presence in the subways, improving services for people experiencing homelessness and cracking down on those sprawled out on subway seats, using drugs and littering on train cars.

Gov. Hochul said the main goal would be to bring subway ridership back to pre-pandemic levels of about 5 million to 6 million riders per day and give workers fewer excuses about transit conditions to work from home.

Mayor Adams and Gov. Hochul said they will launch a series of programs, including more policing and improved services for homeless people, in order to send a message that the trains are not for living, they're for commuting.

Mayor Adams said, "The system is not made to be housing, it's made to be transportation and we have to return back to that

basic philosophy. If someone is in physical emotional distress, we can't leave them on the train for their own safety and the safety of others. That's a betrayal. We must intervene and get help."

If the pandemic taught Gov. Hochul's administration anything, it was how to expand the availability of medical care options through the surge and flex program for hospitals. Now she hopes to adopt the same mentality for mental illness by increasing the 600 psychiatric beds available in the city.

New York City Police Department Commissioner Keechant Sewell said officers would begin by canvassing sections of the A, E, 1, N and R lines and 1,000 additional officers have already been deployed. Gov. Hochul said her office would push to include a \$10 billion plan to hire more health care workers, such as psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses, in the proposed executive budget by using those funds to pay off their student loans.

She added that \$28 billion will be allocated for psychiatric facilities and 500 supportive housing beds provided by community

organizations, according to the administration.

The return to office has been a key talking point for Gov. Hochul since November 2021, and she has repeated it at events with business leaders. Mayor Adams echoed her sentiments and urged CEOs of major companies to end work-from-home policies and bring workers back.

MTA Chair Lieber said, "Ridership has recovered by 50 percent since the low of the omicron surge and that progress must be protected for the good of the economy." Lieber also said, "The NYPD is an amazing partner for us to handle the policing of the entire subway system and now with the city's promise, the mayor's promise to step up enforcement of that MTA code of conduct. But that enforcement commitment is a game changer. Making sure that we have a safe system is the key to winning riders back."

Mayor Adams did not hold back pointing out the failure of the de Blasio administration in providing housing options and bringing un-housed New Yorkers and those experiencing mental health crises out of the transit system.

# Suozzi Chooses Diana Reyna to Serve as Running Mate For Lieutenant Governor

(Continued from page 1)

we serve," said Suozzi. "As the next Lieutenant Governor, Diana will partner with me to ensure that New York State government addresses the critical issues of public safety, affordability, and improving our education system."

"The historic significance of Diana's candidacy represents a new beginning for the Latino community, that for too long has been effectively denied a seat at the table of state government."

"I am honored and excited to be running alongside Tom Suozzi, as we create opportunities for all New Yorkers," said Reyna. "Tom Suozzi and I won't hide from the tough issues, won't pander to the political left or right, and will stand up to the special interests and lobbyists that have been choking Albany for decades."

"As the first Latina to serve in a statewide position, I will bring a deep sense of empathy, background, and experiences to the job to represent every person in every corner of the state."

Suozzi and Reyna were joined

by a diverse group of supporters and community leaders at Rodney Park North in Williamsburg, which sits squarely within the site of the BQGreen, a proposed 3.5-acres of grassy and wooded open space with recreational amenities including playgrounds, a baseball diamond, and a water play zone to be built on a platform high above the congested lanes of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

Reyna has championed the plan since she was a member of the City Council, securing millions of dollars in funding for development. As Deputy Borough President, she continued to champion the idea hoping to greatly improve the environment and health of the community.

"I want to turn what has been for years a community divider into a beautiful community park, bringing people together," she has said.

Suozzi praised Reyna's 20 years of public service, her legislative and executive experience, and her proven ability to get things done.

Working together, Suozzi and Reyna will address the ongoing

crime crisis, lower the state's sky-high taxes, work to fix our troubled schools, and improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

Reyna, like Suozzi, is a first-generation American. Both of her parents were born in the Dominican Republic. Suozzi's father was born in Italy.

As the first woman of Dominican descent elected to public office in New York State, Reyna served as a New York City Council Member for the 34th district, which includes Williamsburg and Bushwick, as well as Ridgewood in Queens for 12 years.

During her tenure in the City Council, she garnered citywide attention for her efforts in championing affordable housing, economic development, improving equity in education, park space and waste, as well as expanding youth and senior services.

Reyna was born and raised in Williamsburg's Los Sures neighborhood and now lives in Bushwick with her husband, a Lieutenant in the New York City Police Department, and their two teenage sons.

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# Heart Bombing of The Walentyna Janta-Polczynska House

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culture. The Elmhurst community has been actively petitioning the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to landmark their home as a historic cultural site since 2020.

The contributions of local Polish war heroes Walentyna Janta-Polczyńska and her husband Aleksander Janta Polczyński have been recognized by elected officials and the local community recently on September 19, 2021, with a street co-naming (<https://qns.com/2021/09/elmhurst-honors-polish-wwii-heroes-in-hopes-of-preserving-historic-home/>). Walentyna and Aleksander dedicated their entire life to undermining the oppressive totalitarian regimes of Europe in the 1940s. The couple, exiled from their native Poland, moved to 88-28 43rd Avenue in Elmhurst after their marriage in 1949. Their home was a gathering place for notable Polish immigrants, including Czesław Miłosz, Jerzy Giedroyc, Jan Karski and Marek Hłasko. Walentyna died in 2020 after 107 extraordinary years. After her death, the New York Times profiled her extraordinary life - (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/world/europe/walentyna-janta-polczynska-dead.html>) as one of the last surviving members of the Polish government in exile. The event was held at Elmhurst Baptist Church, with notable groups and individuals present at this event. Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society, Queens Community Board #4 and The Newtown Civic Association were joined by Weilai Rice, the District Director for Council Member Shekar Krishnan of District 25, Girl Scouts Troop #4601, District Manager of Community Board 4 Christian Cassagnol, Chair of Community Board 4 Marialena Giampino, Preservation Consul-

tant and New York University Adjunct Instructor Kelly Carroll, Author of "Walking Queens" Adrienne Onofri, Director of Programming for the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation Leeanne G-Bowley and many other local community members.

Council Member Shekar Krishnan, District 25, said, "Elmhurst is one of the oldest neighborhoods of our city, with a vibrant history of its many different immigrant communities. The Janta House is a testament to this history and must not be lost to development. We were proud to join Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society and Elmhurst activists on Valentine's weekend to show how much we love our community and the historical treasure that is the Janta House." Christian Cassagnol, District Manager of Community Board 4, said, "Today's event showcases different colors of hearts that represent all the different communities and nationalities that stand for the cause to landmark this house. We are all Polish Americans today honoring Walentyna."

James McMenamin, Vice President and Co-Founder of Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society and Vice President of The Newtown Civic Association, said, "It is a testament to Ms. Janta, that a sizable group gathered on this Valentine's Day to create hearts with endearing words since so many have now been touched by her amazing life story and have joined the fight the save this cherished site, her longtime home."

Jennifer Ochoa, Co-Founder of Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society and Board Member of The Newtown Civic Association, said, "As a united community, we celebrate the legacy of Walentyna and Aleksander Janta-Polczynski. Their love of people, equality, justice, educa-

tion, and tradition are the building blocks of a strong and proud society. The Janta-Polczynski house reflects the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants to history and society." Kelly Carroll, Preservation Consultant and Adjunct Instructor for New York University, said, "Mrs. Janta's education and bilingualism put her at the nexus of Polish intelligence during World War II. Because of her skill set, she transcribed Nazi atrocities for the world to see. In a world where women's education is still not a right, her story is a story worth preserving and sharing. Our only hope is that the celebration today will propel the house to priority status for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to act and save it for future generations."

The following are a few sayings created from the "Hearts":

"A Valentine for Walentyna, Landmark the Janta-Polczynski House"; "Preserve the Janta house. A lady whose love to help others in need should inspire us to be more like her"

"We need your house to be preserved as a landmark for the future of our community and our children"; "Roses are red, violets are blue, please save this house for me and you. Love Troop 4601"

"Ms. Janta, your legacy lives in our hearts!"; "For the lady of Polish immigrants. We love you!"; "Save this House! Its history must be acknowledged! Love Troop 4601."; "Don't tear this house down, it deserves to stay, Love Troop 4601"; "Have a Heart! Preserve the Janta-Polczynski House in Elmhurst"

"Janta's gifts of love: respect, perseverance, education, justice"; "The house built by and for immigrants"; "We thank you for all your sacrifice"; "This place matters! Polish history is American history #savejantahouse"; "Keep Queens history alive. Please preserve and landmark the Janta-Polczynski house in Elmhurst."

## Oversight Committee Condemns Latest Russian Aggression Against Ukraine

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Rep. Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, released the following statements after President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian military forces to enter Ukraine: "I strongly condemn Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and the threat that Vladimir Putin's actions pose to the lives of innocent civilians and the freedom of the Ukrainian people," Chairwoman Maloney said. "President Putin's apparent decision to invade Ukraine comes after he has repeatedly shown he has no respect for international norms, including by annexing Crimea, poisoning and imprisoning political dissidents and opponents, and launching state-sponsored cyber-attacks. The Oversight Committee stands

alongside President Biden and our congressional colleagues in supporting the people of Ukraine and swiftly and severely responding to Putin's destabilizing activities in Eastern Europe."

"Russia's latest violation of Ukraine's sovereignty is a blatant act of aggression that disregards the democratic freedoms of 44 million Ukrainian citizens and violates Moscow's obligations under international law. Like Adolf Hitler before him, Putin's actions endanger the peace and security of Europe and the free world," Chairman Lynch said. "I fully support President Biden's efforts to unite the 30 nations of NATO to defend democracy from Putin's attacks against the principles of freedom and self-governance that have been the foundation of the rules-based international order since the end of World War II."

On February 16, 2022, the Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing to examine Russia's destabilizing activity in Eastern Europe. During the hearing, expert witnesses argued that Russia's aggression toward Ukraine threatens the international order that has helped preserve peace in Europe since the end of World War II.

Witnesses, including the Honorable Michael McFaul, Director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and former U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation, commended President Biden and his Administration for unifying the NATO alliance. The witnesses warned that the United States' relationship with Russia cannot return to the status quo, and unity and bipartisanship at home will be necessary to challenge the Kremlin's authoritarian worldview.

## Assemblyman Colton Calls on The Public Service Commission to Intervene And Reject Con Edison's Recent Rate Hikes

Assemblyman William Colton (D – Gravesend, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, and Dyker Heights) says that recent Con Edison delivery rate hikes will drive New Yorkers to move out of their homes and leave NYC for good.

"The New Yorkers are already paying the highest prices for electricity and gas in the country. When the pandemic hit our country, many people were facing and still are facing massive financial hardships paying their bills. In 2020, the Public Service Commission had approved a rate increase for Con Edison. The increase would take effect over three years. Customers would be paying about 13% more each month for electricity in 2022 than they did in 2019," Colton stated. "The Public Service Commission controls changes to the rates and must notify customers when changes will be made to the rates. But the recent electricity rate hike

caused Con Edison bills to be two to three times more within a few months for some individuals. If these rate hikes will continue, then it will be impossible for residents to afford their rent and utilities," Colton continued.

"Con Edison already put a great burden on people by raising their rates without the approval of the Public Service Commission. But it didn't stop them in January of 2022 to file a plan with the Public Service Commission asking for \$1.2 billion more for their projects, which would result in an estimated 11% bill increase for electric and gas customers," Colton added.

"The excessive increase in the recent rate hikes in electric bills is outrageous. The PSC should protect people from such increases; therefore, I am calling on the Public Service Commission to intervene and stop Con Edison's recent and future rate hikes without their approval," Colton demands.

## Riders Alliance Statement on The Subway Safety Discussion at the MTA NYC Transit Committee Meeting

Riders Alliance Policy & Communications Director Danny Pearlstein said:

"This weekend's subway attacks show there's more to rider safety than ending transit homelessness, important as that is.

"Governor Hochul should run more frequent trains to cut long platform waits and trip times and give more riders more reasons to take the subway. The lesson of the past generation is that policies that grow subway ridership also make the system safer."

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## Meng, Doyle And Fitzpatrick Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Provide Skill Training For Caregivers of Children With Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities or Delays

Congressmembers introduce measure on National Caregivers Day

On National Caregivers Day, U.S. Reps. Grace Meng (D-NY), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Co-Chair of the Congressional Autism Caucus, and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the bipartisan Autism Family Caregivers Act of 2022, a bipartisan bill that would provide access to caregiver skills training for family members who care for children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays.

“Every day, caregivers give endlessly of their own time and energy to help our loved ones live more complete lives. With families spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as disruptions to in-person learning continue, access to tools and assistance for children with developmental disabilities is essential to support healthy development,” said Rep. Meng. “Our bill directly addresses the disparity in access to services for families of children with autism or other developmental disabilities or delays by providing an evidence-based way to support healthy development of young children with autism while empowering family caregivers with knowledge and skills. Giving caregivers a route to get the type of training and resources they need not only benefits the communities they serve but also the children’s lives they are in charge of enhancing.”

“Making sure that caregivers have the right training and skills to care for children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities can go a long way to ensuring that every child with autism reaches their full potential,” said Rep. Doyle. “I am excited to introduce the bipartisan Autism Family Caregivers Act with Representative Meng and

Representative Fitzpatrick, which will improve both the mental and physical well-being of caregivers and children alike.”

“As a member of the Congressional Autism Caucus, I am deeply committed to ensuring that individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities and their families have the support they need,” said Rep. Fitzpatrick. “I am proud to join Reps. Meng and Doyle to introduce the bipartisan Autism Family Caregivers Act, which will equip our hardworking caregivers with the training and tools that are essential to support healthy development in children with autism.”

The Autism Family Caregivers Act would establish a five-year pilot program that would award grants to nonprofit organizations, community health centers, hospital systems, or a consortium, to provide evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism and other developmental disabilities or delays. Caregiver skills training teaches family caregivers how to use every day routines and home activities to improve the mental and physical well-being of children with autism and other developmental disabilities or delays, and their caregivers, including by addressing communication skills, daily living skills, social engagement, and behavior management.

The measure would also establish a Caregiver Skills Training National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center to assist in the implementation of the caregiver skills training programs at the various sites, evaluate the effectiveness of such programs in improving the lives of children with autism and their family caregivers, and establish best practices.

“We are grateful to Reps. Grace Meng, Mike Doyle and Brian Fitzpatrick for introducing

the Autism Family Caregivers Act of 2022 which recognizes the disparities in access to services in communities across the country for children with autism and other developmental disabilities and delays,” said Dr. Andy Shih, Interim Chief Science Officer at Autism Speaks. “By providing caregivers with access to evidence-based resources, the Autism Family Caregivers Act will bring programs to underserved communities and help to create better outcomes for children with autism and other developmental disabilities while also making improvements in the wellbeing of caregivers.”

“The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center was one of the first sites in the country to pilot the Caregiver Skills Training (CST) program to caregivers of children with autism and other developmental disabilities,” said Kaushal Challa, CEO of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center in Flushing, Queens. “Results from the pilot study of New York City-based Chinese-speaking caregivers show that those who completed the program significantly increased their confidence and sense of empowerment in supporting their children with delays, and also reported improvements in their child’s behavior. We applaud Rep. Grace Meng’s Autism Family Caregivers Act of 2022 which will give caregivers the critical tools they need to significantly support their children’s social and emotional development.”

Organizations that have endorsed the bill include: Autism Speaks, Family Voices, National Council on Severe Autism, Autism Society of America, the Arc, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, American Academy of Pediatrics and National Down Syndrome Society.

## Tax Tips to Simplify Your Filing Experience

*Take advantage of free tax filing resources so that you can get your refund faster and claim all the tax credits you’re due*

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has encouraged taxpayers to follow some important filing tips before they submit their income tax returns.

“The Presidents’ Day holiday is a popular weekend for New Yorkers to file their income tax returns,” said Acting Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Amanda Hiller. “If you plan to prepare your tax return this weekend, follow these tips and visit our website for a range of resources that will help ensure you submit an accurate return.”

File your tax returns for free

Free File software is available at the Tax Department website, [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). Taxpayers with income of \$73,000 or less in 2021 can electronically complete and submit their federal and New York State income tax returns online at no cost.

Nearly 255,000 taxpayers used this software last year, saving them a combined \$51 million in tax preparation fees. To be directed to the free filing options, simply click Free File your income tax return on the Tax Department’s website. It’s easy, fast, and secure.

Free File can help millions of taxpayers claim valuable tax credits without the cost of hiring a tax preparer. The software will help ensure you claim all the credits you deserve, including the earned income tax credit (EIC).

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If you need filing assistance, free help is available. If your federal adjusted gross income in 2021 was \$73,000 or less, Tax Department representatives can guide you through the free tax

preparation software to help you electronically prepare and file your 2021 federal and state income tax returns at no cost.

To register, see Register for a virtual FSA session.

Receive your refund faster

You can receive the refunds you’re owed up to two weeks sooner by e-filing your return and choosing direct deposit.

E-filing is safer, faster, and more efficient than sending paper returns through the mail. And you’ll receive your refund faster if it’s directly deposited into your bank account rather than mailed as a paper check.

To use direct deposit, simply check direct deposit on your tax return, then enter your bank’s nine-digit routing number and your account number. For checking accounts, this information is available on your checks; for savings accounts, contact your bank.

Check your refund status

Taxpayers can also quickly view the status of their New York State tax refund anytime by using the Check your Refund application on the Tax Department website: [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). It’s the fastest and most convenient way to know when to expect your refund. It’s updated daily and provides the same information available to our phone representatives—only without the wait!

You can also find out when your refund will be issued by signing up for Tax Department email alerts. Visit the Tax Department homepage at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) and select Subscribe under the Connect With Us heading at the bottom of the page.

Get your questions answered  
Tax Department representatives are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET at 518-457-5181 on weekdays.

Before you call, however, consider that the most efficient way to obtain tax filing guidance and information, including answers to common questions, is to visit the Tax Department’s website, [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). Our Filing season resource center is a good place to start.

## Mayor Eric Adams Announces Covid-19 Recovery Roundtable And Health Equity Task Force

*As Omicron-Driven Pandemic Wave Recedes, Mayor Adams Convenes Diverse Stakeholders to Accelerate Health, Economic Recovery for New York City*

*Task Force Will Have Eye Towards Long-Term Health Equity as City Rebuilds and Protects Long-Term Growth*

*Policy Advisors and Public Engagement Functionaries Will Help New York City Bridge Gap From COVID to Longer-Term Equity Goals*

New York City Mayor Eric Adams recently announced his administration’s COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Task Force, a commission, unprecedented in its diversity, to advise the administration on long-term, comprehensive policies around health equity and health access. The task force is made up of approximately 40 leaders from a wide variety of sectors, recognizing that to be effective,

the task force must include a wide range of voices whose sectors, taken together, are instrumental in a speedy, effective recovery. The task force will also build a healthier, stronger, and more equitable city for all New Yorkers. The task force will meet monthly over the next year.

“We cannot build a just and prosperous recovery for all New Yorkers without bringing together and listening to experts and community leaders from across the city,” said Mayor Eric Adams. “The COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Task Force bring not only the best minds together to build a speedy recovery, but a lasting one. I’m grateful to the co-chairs and members for bringing their time and ideas to the city as we work towards this shared goal.”

“I’m thrilled to have leaders from every corner of New York City as part of our COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Taskforce,” said First Deputy Mayor Lorraine Grillo.

“Thank you to everyone who has joined this effort, I’m looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting to work developing long-term policies to guide our city through a just and equitable recovery.”

“Assembling a group of leaders, advocates, and practitioners from 11 different fields, ranging from the disability community to the tech sector and the faith-based community will yield an inclusive conversation on how we can continue on the city’s path to an equitable recovery,” said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom. “We look forward to an engaged, sustained, and productive dialogue with the task force in service of building a stronger and more equitable city for all New Yorkers.”

The COVID-10 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Taskforce will be co-chaired by:

- Dr. Ramon Tallaj, chairman of SOMOS Community Care, a

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 (Apr. 21 - May 21)  
 You may find that someone you really cared for in the past has come back into your life. Let go of the past in order to progress. Your lucky numbers are 8,5,9.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 22 - June 21)  
 Don't say something you'll live to regret. Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Your lucky numbers are 7,4,3.

**CANCER**  
 (June 22 - July 22)  
 Avoid confrontations with co-workers. You can avoid hassles by sticking to your work and refusing to get involved in gossip or idle chatter. Your lucky numbers are 9,1,8.

**LEO**  
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)  
 Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. Use your quick wit to win friends. Your lucky numbers are 5,4,3.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)  
 Changes involving your domestic scene may be unpleasant. You might not accomplish all that you want to at home this week. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,3.

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)  
 Put your thoughts into some trendy new ideas. You will find that you are able to clear up a number of small but important details. Your lucky numbers are 6,8,9.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)  
 Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around. Your lucky numbers are 2,9,5.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)  
 Keep an open mind when listening to the opinions of others. Don't overdo it. Don't lend to people who have given you negative vibes. Your lucky numbers are 6,4,3.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)  
 Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Make career changes that may increase your income. Your lucky numbers are 5,7,9.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)  
 You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Don't give out any personal information that you don't want spread around. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,6.

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)  
 You will have a productive day, organize yourself at work. Emotional situations could bring out your stubborn nature. Your lucky numbers are 7,4,5.

**Did You Know?**

- The most common disease is tooth decay
- Avocados have the most calories of any other fruit
- American's eat 18 billion hot dogs a year
- Emus can't walk backwards
- Half of all crimes are committed by people under the age of 18
- The Earth weighs 6,588,000,000,000,000 tons
- The average person goes to the toilet 6 times a day
- Jack is the most common name in nursery rhymes
- There are 7 points on the Statue of Liberty's crown
- 'Babe' was played by over 50 pigs
- The most common time for a wake up call is 7am
- Giraffes has the highest blood pressure of any animal
- India has over 50 million monkeys
- Iceland was the first country to legalise abortion in 1935
- Blue and white are the most common school colors
- Ostriches have a 14 meter (46 foot) long small intestine
- Your foot is the most common body part bitten by insects
- Japan is the largest exporter of frog legs
- The sun is 330,330 times larger than the Earth
- Light is electro magnetic radiation
- Its physically impossible for pigs to look up at the sky

**Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles**

**"Sudoku"**

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

**"Crossword Puzzle"**

ACID	SNAG	LATHE
LOCI	HERA	APISIS
PRESBYTER	CHAFE	
SEDGE	HARAKIRI	
UNDESIRE		
DIVINER	SPY	DAP
ERASER	HOE	PURE
COLE	ICING	OVEN
ONUS	VAT	GALENA
RYE	GAS	DIGITAL
CUTTHROAT		
CRITERIA	PEACE	
BOOST	AGGRESSOR	
APACE	THOU	SIGN
TENOR	ESNE	EASE

**"Try And Find"**

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

- |             |              |         |            |
|-------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| Actor       | Curtain      | Music   | Stage      |
| Audience    | Dance        | Program | Star       |
| Break A Leg | Intermission | Props   | Take A Bow |
| Broadway    | Lights       | Sets    | Ticket     |
| Costume     | Makeup       | Sing    | Usher      |

**SUDOKU**

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

**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	

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | <b>DOWN</b>                        |
| 1. Curdled soybean milk     | 1. An indefinite period            |
| 5. Coastal raptor           | 2. By mouth                        |
| 9. Religious fathers        | 3. A shallow area in a stream      |
| 14. Weightlifters pump this | 4. Undeserved                      |
| 15. Loyal (archaic)         | 5. L                               |
| 16. Geeks                   | 6. Harvester                       |
| 17. A preserve              | 7. Point of greatest despair       |
| 19. Coast                   | 8. Exceptionally tense (situation) |
| 20. Church officer          | 9. Domestic breed of rabbit        |
| 21. Small flutes            | 10. Tummy                          |
| 23. Collection              | 11. Invigoration                   |
| 25. Coach                   | 12. Contributes                    |
| 28. Ribonucleic acid        | 13. South southeast                |
| 29. Prompt                  | 18. Drome                          |
| 32. Wicker material         | 22. Come together                  |
| 33. 54 in Roman numerals    | 24. Sluicgate                      |
| 34. Fecal matter of animals | 25. Hackneyed                      |
| 35. Doing nothing           | 26. A radioactive gaseous element  |
| 36. "The Final Frontier"    | 27. Collection of maps             |
| 38. Arab chieftain          | 29. Aromatic seeds                 |
| 39. Tailless amphibian      | 30. Pieces                         |
| 40. Attempt                 | 31. Heron                          |
| 41. Narrate                 | 33. Nonclerical                    |
| 43. N N N N                 | 34. Kill in large numbers          |
| 44. Ghost's cry             | 37. Forbid                         |
| 45. Opposed                 | 42. Dog-___                        |
| 46. Elephant                | 44. Sponsor                        |
| 48. Feistier                | 45. Deft                           |
| 50. American symbol         | 46. Handbag                        |
| 54. Office worker           | 47. A tea-like beverage            |
| 55. Karakul                 | 48. Scheme                         |
| 57. Antiquated              | 49. In order to prevent            |
| 58. Nile bird               | 51. Effrontery                     |
| 59. Shade trees             | 52. Large luxurious car            |
| 60. ___ alia                | 53. If not                         |
| 61. Makes lace              | 54. Consumer Price Index           |
| 62. Blackthorn              | 56. Donkey                         |

Play Sudoku and/crosswords online.. Visit [www.queenstimes.com](http://www.queenstimes.com) Click on Puzzles

## A Shakespearean Tragicomedy Unfolds in Queens

*"A sad tale's best for winter," the Bard writes in The Winter's Tale. "I have one of sprites and goblins."*

The Rude Grooms theater company presents William Shakespeare's 1623 tragicomedy at Culture Lab LIC now to Sunday, Feb. 27.

A raging, jealous King Leontes of Sicily falsely accuses his pregnant wife, Queen Hermione, of having an affair with his best friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia.

Polixenes flees, while Leontes sends Hermione to prison, where she gives birth to Princess Perdita before dying. Leontes exiles the newborn who is later found and raised by a shepherd and his son.

Flash forward 16 years, and Perdita, who doesn't know about her royal heritage, falls in love with Prince Florizel, who just happens to be a son of Polixenes.

Romance. Humor. Classism. Eventually, Perdita goes to Sicily, where Leontes honesty feels remorse. (Heck he even misses Hermione and Polixenes.) All secrets are revealed, and Perdita learns that she's a princess and worthy of Florizel's hand. A stat-



ue of the virtuous, beautiful, and wronged Hermione comes to life in a coup de théâtre, and the play ends with everybody reconciled.

Reserved seating vary from \$25 to \$35 for the VIP level, which provides pre-play entertainment and a drink. Groundling tickets are \$10 and require standing for part of the production, which runs for about two hours with a 10-minute intermission.

The Winter's Tale always begins at 8 pm. The second set is Feb. 24 to Feb. 27.

Rude Grooms is a nonprofit theater company that prefers intimate settings with interactive and responsive techniques rooted in the classic Shakespearean actor-audience relationship.

Culture Lab LIC is a multi-genre arts center based in The Plaxall Gallery at 5-25 46th Ave. in Long Island City. The 12,000-square-foot campus includes two fine art galleries, a 90-seat theater, classrooms, and an 18,000-square-foot outdoor event space.

## Council Member Gennaro, Local Electeds & Community Leaders Host Street Co-Naming Ceremony on International Mother Language Day

*The Intersection of Homelawn Street and Hillside Avenue Was Co-Named "Little Bangladesh Avenue" to Pay Homage to the Bangladeshi Community*

On Monday, February 21, Council Member James F. Gennaro spearheaded a street co-naming ceremony in which the intersection of Homelawn Street and Hillside Avenue was co-named "Little Bangladesh Avenue." Council Member Gennaro authored the City Council bill to co-name the street, and the bill passed in December 2021. Yesterday's event coincided with International Mother Language Day – a holiday dedicated to linguistic and cultural diversity. International Mother Language Day is widely celebrated as the anniversary of the day when the people of Bangladesh fought for recognition of the Bangla language. It is now celebrated worldwide.

Gennaro was joined by a number of elected officials, local leaders, and hundreds of community members for the co-naming ceremony, which paid homage to the many contributions of the Bangladeshi community in the Borough of Queens. The Council Member opened the proceedings with a moment of silence in memory of the Freedom Fighters who gave their lives in Bangladesh's 1971 War for Independence. Guests included Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Assembly Member David Weprin, Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, Council Member Nantasha Williams, Community Board 8 Chair Martha Taylor, Bangladesh Consulate General Monirul Islam, South Asian American Voice Vice Chair Rhonda Binda, and many others.

"I am thrilled to be here for



this wonderful and timely co-naming ceremony. As many as 65 percent of New York City's Bangladeshi population reside in Queens – and many of them here in Jamaica. Today, we are celebrating the many contributions of the Bangladeshi community to the Borough of Queens," said event organizer Council Member James F. Gennaro. "Also, this co-naming ceremony is taking place on International Mother Language Day. Mother Language Day is part of a broader initiative to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by people around world. In Bangladesh, February 21 is the anniversary of the day when the people of Bangladesh fought for recognition for the Bangla language. That is why it is

so fitting to have this co-naming ceremony on International Mother Language Day. I'd like to thank my colleagues in government, the Consulate General – and all my friends in the Bangladeshi community for joining us for this historic co-naming ceremony."

"We recognize our freedom fighters today," said Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. "I'd like to acknowledge Jim [Gennaro] and all of the legislators. I am grateful to be representing this Borough. I am especially grateful to the Bangla community, who has accepted me with open hearts. 'Little Bangladesh' will be here forever, for the next generations to see."

(Continued on page 10)

## NY Chief Judge DiFiore Supports Overhauling New York's "Obsolete" Court System



New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore said at her annual State of the Judiciary address that overhauling an antiquated trial court structure that too often fails to be racially and financially equitable is a top priority for her.

Chief Judge DiFiore at annual State of the Judiciary address, DiFiore highlighted the findings of former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, whose independent review of the state's court apparatus found a "second-class system of justice for people of color" and "dehumanizing" and "demeaning" culture in criminal, civil, family and housing courts.

Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson was commissioned by Chief Judge DiFiore to review the court system after the May 2020 killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer led to a nationwide conversation on historic inequities facing people of color.

DiFiore said it would take the three branches of state government to remedy what she described as "an absolutely unacceptable state of affairs."

New York's court system, which includes 11 separate trial courts, the most in the country, has not

been meaningfully updated in 60 years, according to DiFiore, who also is chief judge of the Court of Appeals.

"While in no way intended to, our obsolete trial court structure, as it is now configured, breeds undeniable disparities: disparities in the provision of justice services, disparities in the quality of those justice services, and disparities that have greatly exacerbated the fallout of the ongoing pandemic," said DiFiore.

The problems are most apparent in the high-volume courts that serve families dealing with issues such as eviction, child custody and support, consumer debt and other critical matters, she said. The chief judge, however, noted that this year there is majority support in both the state Senate and Assembly to pass her proposed overhaul of the system.

Legislation that seeks to simplify the court system is being sponsored by state Sen. Brad Hoylman, a Manhattan Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Assemblyman Charles Lavine, a Nassau County Democrat who chairs the Judiciary Committee in that chamber. DiFiore first proposed the overhaul in September 2019. She wants to replace the state's existing structure with a three-tiered system that would be phased in over several years.

Under Chief Judge DiFiore's plan: All judges who serve at the level of County Court, Family Court, Surrogates Court and the Court of Claims would become state Supreme Court justices starting on Jan. 1, 2025; Judges who serve in City Courts in 61 upstate cities would become part of a statewide Municipal Court that includes New York City civil and criminal courts and Nassau and

(Continued on page 9)

## Senator James Sanders Jr. Offers Condolences After Firefighter Dies a Day After Battling Blaze in Far Rockaway



**FDNY firefighter Jesse Gerhard, 33, died on Feb. 16, 2022, after experience a medical episode a day after responding to a house fire in Far Rockaway, Queens, fire officials say. (FDNY)**

Senator James Sanders Jr. said: "It is with great sadness that I announce that we lost one of New York's Bravest. Firefighter Jesse B. Gerhard, 33, has passed away one day after battling a blaze at a house in Far Rockaway. As a member of the FDNY, and formerly an EMT, this young man dedicated his life to saving

others. He has earned the respect of the community and this is a tremendous loss for our entire city. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends and all of the members of the FDNY who are grieving. We will be visiting his firehouse today (Ladder 134 at 1617 Central Avenue in Far Rockaway) to pay our respects."

## Westbury Arts Celebrates Black History Month With Opening Art Exhibition Reception and Free Exhibit Viewing Through February 26

By Lyn Dobrin

In welcoming the visitors to the Opening Art Exhibition Reception of Westbury Arts' Black History Month Fifth Anniversary Weekend Jubilee celebration, Creative Visions of Community and Cultural Reflections: Connecting the Community Through the Arts, president Julie Lyon noted that the opening date of February 4 was very fitting because it was the anniversary of the birth of civil rights activist Rosa Parks. Many of the paintings displayed on the walls of Westbury Arts gallery paid homage to the heroes of Black culture and activism.

The juried artwork submitted by local artists was curated by eight Board Directors serving on Westbury Arts' working exhibit group, led by long-time Westbury residents and Board Directors Jacki Beder, Alex Nunez, and Stanley Turetsky. Pat Jenkins Lewis, Board Director, organizer and founder of the Black History Month Celebration, took great pride in how the event has developed over the years. "I'm glad to see the many people who came and



the response to the call from the artists," she said.

Local Queens artist David G. Wilson, whose artwork is on display says "I am a self-taught artist born in Dominica, WI, immigrating to The USA in 1976 and have been painting for 49 years. Since 1980, I adopted a painting technique that I call, Anthropomorphic Alternative Reality. My style is surrealistic and seeks to depict a hitherto unseen alternative reality that I perceive hidden in a traditional three-dimensional image.

Alexa Benjamin is an emerging artist based in Brooklyn. Alexa says, "A common theme in my art is the use of bold colors and strokes that create movement making my paintings come alive. I want my art to speak for itself, to evoke emotion, and to be an extension of my soul."

Vivid portraits by Dr. Nichelle Rivers, of NiRi Art that included James Baldwin and The Ionesco Monk dominated one wall in the gallery. Dr. Rivers is a multi-

(Continued on page 9)

## Senator John Liu Statement on High School Admissions Extension



has held protracted discussions with DOE officials on this matter.

"It's only right that the DOE is extending this year's high school application deadline to March 11th, from the original March 1st deadline announced on January 27th along with substantial changes to the admissions criteria. Many parents have articulated concern and some outrage at the new criteria more resembling a random lottery process rather than admissions based on merit and achievement. However, extending the deadline is only the first step. The DOE must further modify its admissions criteria to consider academic performance and better reflect achievement so as not to penalize the students who have pursued excellence under the previous long-standing admissions criteria. If in fact admissions criteria warrant changes, parents must be engaged prior to announcing such substantial changes in policy."

New York State Senator John C. Liu, chairperson of the Senate Committee on NYC Education, stated the following about today's Department of Education announcement that the DOE will extend the high school application deadline until March 11, 2022. Liu

## REMINDER: MTA Fare Change Pilot to Begin at End of Month



**More Affordable, More Flexible and More Fair: OMNY Will Offer Best Weekly Fares Automatically with New Fare Capping. New Fare Offerings Take Effect Feb. 25 for Commuter Railroads, Feb. 28 for New York City Transit**

## Council Member Julie Won Chairs Oversight Hearing on Fixing Outdated City Contracting Process



Council Member Won partners with Mayor and Comptroller to bring the process into the 21st century

Virtual Hearing Room 2, Virtual City Hall - Contracts Committee Chair Julie Won held a hearing today to kick off oversight on modernization of the city's contracting and procurement system starting with PASSPort, the city's main contracting tool. Chronic delays in contract registration have left many organizations with IOU's from the city even though they provide crucial human services on a shoestring budget. The nonprofits that have been most deeply affected are; senior centers that provide culturally sensitive food to elders in our community, cure violence orgs that have reduced crime in our neighborhoods, and tenant support organizations that have helped people find stable and supportive housing. These are the exact services we need to find our way out of the biggest problems caused by the pandemic and they cannot be provided on the promise of future money forever.

Almost 40% of the city's procurement, \$12 billion, is allocated to the human service nonprofits sector which employs over half a million New Yorkers. In FY22 over three quarters of nonprofit

contracts were registered after the start date of the contract preventing the organizations from accessing the money promised by the city. Often these organizations begin providing services without cash from the city leaving them reliant on loans or forcing them to lay off workers or reduce pay. This unreliable cash flow prevents these organizations from hiring permanent staffers and many talented and dedicated community workers are pushed out of public service altogether. These delays are the direct result of the city's onerous and opaque contracting system that was only upgraded from paper filing to a digital system within the last decade.

Earlier this week CM Won announced her partnership with Mayor Adams and Comptroller Lander at Henry Street Settlement where they released the report "A Better Contract for New York: A Joint Task Force to Get Nonprofits Paid On Time". Both the Mayor and the Comptroller have made the reformation of the city's contracting and procurement system a top priority and are working closely with Chair Won to ensure timely and effective implementation of the recommendations of the report.

The outdated system also leaves huge gaps that have made the city vulnerable to exploitation by bad actors in the nonprofit space. Last year the city cut its ties with a large nonprofit organization, CORE Services Group, that provides services to homeless New Yorkers after the New York Times revealed <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/22/nyregion/jack-brown-core-services-homeless-nyc.html> excessive salaries, conflicts of interest, and other ethical issues. The organization received

over \$352 million in city contracts in the previous administration.

"Our City government distributes over \$30 billion dollars annually through City contracts to community partners using the PASSport system. As we recover from the impacts of the pandemic, we can't afford to lose any time or money on outdated processes and inefficient systems." said CONTRACTS COMMITTEE CHAIR JULIE WON "In partnership with the Mayor and Comptroller, I am committed to modernizing and streamlining PASSport so that our beloved local nonprofit partners can receive the resources they need in time to serve our community."

"Delays and cumbersome steps in the procurement process wreak havoc on cash-strapped nonprofits, MWBEs and small businesses providing critical goods and services that support our communities. PASSPort was built to streamline the sourcing process, but there's more work to be done including complete integration and use of the tool by the Comptroller's Office, broader adoption by the agencies like DOE, avoid duplication of data, expanded training of the City's procurement workforce and vendors, and enhance the milestone tracker to allow vendors to see the status of their contracts. Earlier this week, the Comptroller and the Mayor's office proudly released our findings from A Better Contract for New York: A Joint Task Force to Get Nonprofits Paid On Time, which include approaches to maximize the potential of PASSPort. The Bureau of Contract Administration looks forward to the broadening of PASSPort to better

(Continued on page 9)

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# IT'S IN QUEENS

(Feb. 24 to March 2)

Queens activities reflect the fact that Black History Month goes to Women's History Month this week. Gospel, Blues, and Jazz are musical options. Ballet, female authors, and female filmmakers are among other options. Don't miss the Bangladeshi Fish Fry.

- Feb. 24, Queens Storytellers, March 24. Queens Theatre streams a virtual program with 20 great raconteurs. Shows are Thursdays at 7 pm with host David Lawson. The Feb. 24 episode features Ivy Eisenberg, Andrew Sanford, Kelli Dunham, and Christopher Moncayo-Torres. Free, but advanced reservation is required.

- Feb. 24, Mid-Winter Children's Festival, Feb. 25. Two days and eight children's workshops on Irish dance, music, crafts, and drama. Sessions are 10 am to 4 pm. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

- Feb. 24, Music of the Black Church, 7 pm. Award-winning Broadway veteran Tina Fabrique ("Ragtime," "Bring in da' Noise, Bring in da' Funk," and "The Wiz") presents a soulful homage to Gospel music. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Feb. 24, Jazz, Blues + Gospel, 7 pm. The Queensboro Performing Arts Center streams a live virtual performance by Natalie Carter-Prince, an actress and Neo-Ethnic Soul/Jazz vocalist. Q&A follows.

- Feb. 24, Seen and Unseen, noon. Virtual tours for adults who are blind or have low vision with educators who engage participants through verbal descriptions and conversation. The Noguchi Museum, 09-01 33rd Rd., Long Island City.

- Feb. 24, Dream A Little Dream, Feb. 27. Watch a surreal dance-and-music film that swirls through the garden and decorated rooms of the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona. It features signature Jazz tunes made famous by Satchmo and performed by the Queens College Jazz Repertoire Ensemble.

- Feb. 25, The Benjamins, 8 pm. This group plays a unique combination of classic, edgy, elegant, and modern music. The live shows constantly evolve while maintaining their roots and style. Resorts World New York City, Bar360, 110-01 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Feb. 26, Metropolitan Piano Stories, 4 pm. Musica Reginae presents a night of songs by living women composers from the NYC Metropolitan Area, including Anjelica Negron, Meredith Monk, Valerie Capers, and Beata Moon. Each piece has a story behind it. The Church-in-the-Gardens, 50 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills.

- Feb. 26, Terra Femme, 6 pm. Director Courtney Stephens talks about and then watches this 60-minute collection of archival footage from the first half of the



20th century, all shot by women in locations far from home. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Feb. 26, Motown, 8 pm. The Motown Holiday Revue takes audiences back in time to the most popular and rare Motown hits, along with rock and soul classics. Resorts World New York City, Bar360, 110-01 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Feb. 26, Forest Bathing Walk, 1 pm. Certified guide Linda Lombardo leads a meditative forest walk with bathing as per the Japanese Shinrin-Yoku tradition. The goal is to inspire mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Feb. 26, Monthly Walking Tour: Winter Trees, 2 pm. Explore the beauty of trees in winter, from the collection of conifers in the Pinetum to learning how to identify different trees by their bark, cones, and needles. Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing.

- Feb. 26, Queens Underground Black History Month Film Festival, 6 pm. The first leg of this third annual festival features movies, documentary shorts, music, dance-and-poetry videos, series episodes, and local business commercials. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.

- Feb. 27, The Beauty of Ballet, 1 pm + 3:30 pm. A School of American Ballet troupe does excerpts from "Sleeping Beauty," Swan Lake," and "The Nutcracker." Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 27, Black History Month Film Festival, 2 pm. The African Poetry Theatre presents a panel discussion on the journey

of the Black creative, a program of shorts, a panel on Black speculative fiction, and a screening of "The Harder They Fall." Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Feb. 27, Bangladeshi Fish Curry Cooking Class, noon. Beloved chef Biny leads a live-streaming cooking lesson on light, bright, brothy, and deeply flavorful Bangladeshi Fish Curry. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Feb. 27, Choral Evensong, 4 pm. Saint Luke's Choir and guest soloists present the music of Rossini, Vaughan, Williams, and Bruckner. Saint Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills.

- March 1, Eat Something New In Queens, March 5. Jackson Heights-based writer and food tour guide Laura Siciliano-Rosen hosts this free, five-day fest. Participants try new dishes in neighborhoods they don't often frequent and share their culinary conquests on the Eat Something New in Queens Facebook group, which has more than 8,100 members. (New grocery items, too!)

- March 1, A Conversation with Dolores Reyes & Julia Sanches, 7 pm. Reyes was born in 1978 in the western province of Buenos Aires, where she lives and writes. Her debut novel "Cometierra" was published in 2019. Born in São Paulo, Julia Sanches is the author of more than a dozen translations from Spanish, Portuguese, and Catalan into English. Kupferberg Center for the Arts sponsors this live virtual event.

- March 2, Aquifer of the Weave, March 6. James Allister Sprang presents a 45-minute audiovisual experience featuring a monumental weaving of cyanotypes and immersive sound. The Chocolate Factory Theater, 38-33 24th St., Long Island City.

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## Westbury Arts Celebrates Black History Month With Opening Art Exhibition Reception and Free Exhibit Viewing Through February 26

(Continued from page 7)

media artist, educator and activist who was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She says she has been a social justice activist “since I can remember,” and uses her voice as an artist to convey the pain, turmoil, anger, misunderstanding and lack of acceptance that exists in our society.

Connecting to the past and those forefathers and foremothers, famous and unknown, was a theme woven throughout the evening, which was punctuated with the drumming of the Akoben Wisdrum and Dance Passages beating out tradition West African rhythms in memory of “our African ancestors to invoke and evoke their presence.” A land acknowledgement to the indigenous people of the Algonquin and Shinnecock was part of the tradition libation. Says leader Kamau Ptah, “We want to help our community remember and recognize our collective stories and legacies.” His daughter, eight-year-old Tseday Amma Ptah danced to the drums. “She was dancing from the womb,” says Mr. Ptah.

The emcee for the event was fiber artist Alicia Evans, who also exhibited her visual works. Ms. Evans paid homage to Joysetta Pearse, a powerful force whom the Long Island Press called “an icon of the history of the Black community on Long Island” in her obituary in June of 2021. The African American Museum of Nassau was renamed “The Joysetta and Julius Pearse African American Museum of Nassau County” in honor of the late Mrs. Pearse and her husband Julius. Ms. Evans recalled the many les-

sons she learned from Mrs. Pearse over the 20 years she knew her. “She was a jewel to the community with her passions for culture, arts and sharing the hidden history of African Americans,” says Prof. Evans.

At one point in the evening the audience listened attentively as the artists introduced themselves and spoke briefly about the inspiration for their work. Many paid tribute to their mentors and those who had gone before them. Andrew Joseph Culbreath, a senior BFA major at Five Town College, talked about the richness of Black History. Two of his drawings were of Frederick Douglass and Shirley Chisholm. Louis Francois, a Haitian immigrant, worked with several artists where he studied Fine Art and Technology at Bloomfield College, where he learned about cubism, architecture impressionism and classicism. Marsha Odle-McNair, of Westbury said, “A lot of my influences are from African textiles as well as icons in history who have followed the path in abstraction.” Eric Engles of New York City offered from his collection of poems titled, Words In A Box “The artist at work is courage, filtering and expanding one’s sensitivity, fortitude and creative expression, it’s that spark of inspiration amid kindling’s of doubt which becomes a raging inferno of discipline to be different.”

The gallery will be open Fridays 2:00 – 6:00 PM and Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 PM for additional viewings of this exhibit. The exhibit runs through February, 26.

The Black History Month Celebration is the first in the series *Be The Color of This World*, which

include a Women’s History Month Art Exhibition Opening March 4, an Asian American Pacific Island Heritage exhibit opening May 6, and LGBTQ+ Pride Slam celebrations on June 17 and 18.

These events are made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and is administered by The Huntington Arts Council, Inc. and donation from The Islamic Center of Long Island.

Westbury Arts offers a wide-range of diverse adult, youth and children’s programs including: Summer Concert Series, Annual Asbury Shorts Film Concert, Poetry Slams and various Arts Workshops. Since opening of its new building/gallery in June 2021, Westbury Arts has begun yet another new chapter which includes a diverse range of cultural programs such as the Islamic Art Exhibition Opening Reception July 2. Westbury Arts is also partnering with East Line Theater Company to bring live theater to the theater performance space. This joint venture will bring four original works to Westbury Arts’ theater in 2022. The first is an original work titled, “This Play Was Never About Noses (A New Adaptation of Cyrano De Bergerac)” by Morgan Moffitt. Performances will be held in March on Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 7:30 PM and on Sundays at 3:00 PM.

Westbury Arts is located at 255 Schenck Avenue, off of Post Avenue, in Westbury. Web site: westburyarts.org.

## NY Chief Judge DiFiore Supports Overhauling New York’s “Obsolete” Court System

(Continued from page 6)

Suffolk district courts on Long Island, effective in January 2030; Town and village courts would remain the same; It would not change the way judges on those courts are elected, which means judges now on the bench could continue serving their terms; and, The state’s cap on state Supreme Court justices would be lifted so there would be no need for acting Supreme Court justices.

The change would have to be an amendment to the state Constitution. The amendment would have to pass two consecutively elected state Legislatures and then be approved by voters. If the state Legislature approves the changes this year and again next year, the proposal could be on the ballot in November 2023.

DiFiore said, “Our proposal is sound and balanced and will transform our court system into a model of efficiency and equity. But I would add that no aspect of the plan is etched in stone and will welcome input.”

DiFiore’s proposal drew opposition from the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York. The group’s president, Manhattan-based Appellate Justice Barbara R. Kapnick, issued a joint statement with Bronx-based Justice Mary Ann Brigantti, president of the Supreme Court Justices of the City of New York.

The justices argued DiFiore’s proposal would “centralize power over judges and courts” in the court system’s administration. They said it would undercut the effectiveness and independence of judges across the state.

“This is especially true when it comes to elected judges, which also includes Supreme Court justices statewide, as well as Family, County and District Court judges

outside New York City, who are chosen by the voters,” their statement reads. They said parts of DiFiore’s plan have been rejected more than once by the Legislature.

The justices said the court system could hire new support magistrates and referees for Family Court to offset costs of underfunded and overburdened courts, and expand Wi-Fi access in community centers to make it easier for litigants to appear virtually.

DiFiore also called to increase the payment to private attorneys assigned by judges to represent indigent litigants when public defenders and alternate public defenders are not available due to conflicts of interest. Those “18-B” attorneys, a term derived from the section of County Law that establishes legal services for indigent persons, have not received an increase in pay since 2004, when it was set at \$75-an-hour for felony cases and Family Court matters, and \$60-an-hour for misdemeanor cases.

DiFiore noted that by contrast, private attorneys who provide the same service in federal courts have seen their pay increase with inflation and are now paid at the rate of \$158 an hour. DiFiore said, “The absence of a pay hike at the state level has led to excessive caseloads for overworked attorneys, which, sequentially, hurts litigants who are subjected to delays, adjournments and less time with their counsel leading to substandard representation.

Chief Judge DiFiore said, “State Sen. Jamaal Bailey, a Bronx Democrat, is sponsoring a bill to increase the 18-B rates to \$150 an hour for felony cases and Family Court matters, and \$120 an hour for misdemeanor cases. The bill, which includes a cost of living adjustment, is cosponsored by Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, a Syracuse Democrat.”

## Mayor Eric Adams Announces Covid-19 Recovery Roundtable And Health Equity Task Force

(Continued from page 4)

nonprofit of about 3,000 doctors serving about 900,000 Medicaid-reliant patients citywide and an immigrant himself.

- Dr. Wayne Riley, chair, Board of Trustees, New York Academy of Medicine and president, Downstate Health Sciences University. University Hospital was designated as a COVID-only hospital during the height of the pandemic and is among New York’s most impactful teaching hospitals and research facilities.

- Pat Kane, executive director, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). NYSNA represents over 42,000 frontline health care workers.

- Melba Wilson, whose renowned eatery, Melba’s, is a Harlem institution and an icon of New York City’s beleaguered hospitality industry.

“Eric Adams made a promise to bring preventive care to the streets and neighborhoods of New York City that need it the most – and with this announcement he has kept that promise,” said Dr. Ramon Tallaj, chairman, SOMOS Community Care. “The mayor has done this

by uniting community doctors, leaders from major hospitals, and caring New Yorkers from a diverse range of industries and organizations behind a lasting COVID-19 recovery, and a lasting conversation around health equity that represents and benefits all New Yorkers. We look forward to developing and announcing a recovery plan that builds back the social fabric of the city, especially for poor and working communities.”

“As frontline nurses, we have seen the devastating effects of a lethal pandemic on communities across the city,” said Pat Kane, RN, executive director, New York State Nurses Association. “Uneven resources undercut the fundamentals of equity governing access to health resources in our city. Seeking long-term health equity is key to enhancing the public’s health. We greatly appreciate and thank Mayor Adams for the opportunity to join with diverse stakeholders in a COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Task Force, a much-needed effort to protect the health of all New Yorkers.”

“I commend Mayor Adams for bringing together such an

esteemed panel of leaders and experts to help guide his administration’s efforts to advance New York City’s COVID Recovery,” said Wayne J. Riley, M.D, president, Downstate Health Sciences University. “The public health, economic, arts and recreation, education, hospitality, tourism, and workforce prowess of the city is critically important to creating a thriving ‘new normal.’ The past two years have illuminated the shortcomings of our health care systems and public health infrastructure, particularly for our most vulnerable New Yorkers. We now have an opportunity to learn from our experiences, mistakes, and successes. I am humbled to serve and contribute to this innovative COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable and Health Equity Taskforce, and am encouraged by the mayor’s deep commitment to getting this right.”

“The restaurant industry is the beating heart of our city,” said Melba Wilson, owner, Melba’s. “I am honored to be a co-chair of the Recovery Roundtable and remain optimistic that New York, the greatest city in the world, will rebound stronger than ever!”

## Council Member Julie Won Chairs Oversight Hearing on Fixing Outdated City Contracting Process

(Continued from page 7)

address the issues that plague the City’s procurement process,” said Charlette Hamangian, Deputy Comptroller for Contracts and Procurement.

“Nonprofit organizations rely on city funding to provide crucial social services to their neighborhoods,” said Judy Zangwill, Executive Director of Sunnyside Community Services. “But the

process of receiving these funds can sometimes prove challenging. We’re encouraged by the commitment of Council Member and Contracts Committee Chair Julie Won, along with Mayor Eric Adams and Comptroller Brad Lander, to modernize the city’s contracting and procurement system. A more efficient system will make it easier for organizations to help those most in need, ensuring stronger communities throughout the city.”

## Riders Alliance Statement on the Joint Announcement on Subway Homeless Outreach

**Riders Alliance Policy & Communications Director Danny Pearlstein said:**

“Millions of riders want the mayor and governor to end the crisis of subway homelessness, complementing robust outreach with permanent housing and healthcare to draw people in.

“Governor Hochul can make transit even safer by funding more frequent service in the state budget: Shorter waits mean less time on platforms and at bus stops. Faster trips will make transit more attractive and bring back riders, increasing the number of eyes on the system and helping New Yorkers keep one another safe.”

## Speaker Adams, Council Members Respond to Governor Hochul's Mental Health Investments & Mayor Adams' Subway Safety Plan

New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams and Council Members released the following statements in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's investments into mental health care and Mayor Eric Adams' subway safety plan, jointly announced today.

Speaker Adrienne E. Adams said, "Increased mental health care resources and responses are essential to advancing public health and safety in New York City, whether it's inside or outside of the transit system. Governor Hochul's actions to increase state funds for mental health care and supportive housing are greatly needed and appreciated. Mayor Adams' plan to expand the B-HEARD program that utilizes mental health professionals to respond to mental health-related 911 calls is a welcomed approach as well. When we focus on intervening early to prevent crises with the right response and responders, it is in best interest of New Yorkers' health and safety.

"There are parts of the Mayor's subway safety plan that seem positive and we look forward to reviewing in more detail, such as the increase in health services at DHS sites, creation of drop-in centers near subway stations, and increased coordination across government," continued Speaker Adams. "Other areas of the plan need to be examined in greater detail. When it comes to ramping up NYPD enforcement of MTA rules of conduct to force people out of the subway system, we need to be very careful that those efforts aren't counterproductive by criminalizing people who are in need of housing or treatment. Cycling people through a destabilizing revolving door of the criminal justice system to end up in a worse condition back on the subways and our streets would only make us less safe. For those who need housing or treatment, outreach workers empowered with real pathways to the solutions people need are best equipped to ensure we solve underlying challenges.

"We thank the Governor and Mayor for their continued attention to these issues and look forward to partnering to ensure we are employing the most effective approaches to make New York City healthier and safer."

Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, Chair of the Committee on General Welfare said: "The health and safety of New Yorkers must be our priority. Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams' increased investments in mental health services and supportive housing are essential solutions to addressing the intersection of homelessness, mental health, and public safety. I have concerns about the reliance on police enforcement leading to criminalization that drives people further away from the solutions to their housing, mental health and social service needs. As Chair of the General Welfare Committee, I look forward to hearing more about the details of this plan so that the city's approach is effective at helping all New Yorkers be healthier and safer by ensuring better access to housing, services and treatment. I want to thank both administrations and state partners for recognizing the need for comprehensive solutions, and look forward to partnering to advance the right approaches for New Yorkers across our city."

"Our transportation system must be affordable, accessible, safe, and equitable," said Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "Unhoused New Yorkers deserve easy access to quality resources, and riders and transit workers deserve to feel comfortable be safe on all modes of transit. We must get help to those who need it most and keep riders from all five boroughs safer on our trains. Outreach response teams that connect New Yorkers to housing and services should be empowered to help avert crises quickly and effectively. It is also critical that rule enforcement by police not counterproductively undermine these efforts by criminalizing people in need of housing or treatment."

"I commend Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams for putting forward a plan that places investment in critically needed mental health services, hospital beds, staffing, and supportive housing to address long-standing issues in our healthcare system that is underfunded and under resourced," said Council Member Gale Brewer, Chair of the Committee on Over-

sight and Investigations. "I support the interagency approach that enhances outreach services with medical assistance to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the subways, but we need to be mindful of who is providing these services. We must ensure this work is not on the backs of professionals like school nurses who are already in demand and in short supply, may not be the best partners for this team."

Council Member Kamillah Hanks, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, said: "I applaud Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams for focusing on the serious issue of mental health and safety in the NYC Subway system. On the surface, the expansion of mental health professionals responding to non-violent 911 calls and increased NYPD presence seems to strike a balance to protect public safety in the subway system. Outreach workers must have the necessary resources available to give people the wrap-around services they need, including supportive housing and other programs, and the Governor's increased funding should help to facilitate that goal. The Mayor's plan on safety in the subway, including streamlining the placement process into supportive housing and deploying Joint Response Teams to needed areas in the City should help to keep commuters safe. The City Council must review all of the plans in detail to ensure effectiveness and fair and reasonable implementation to protect New Yorkers.

"I applaud Mayor Adams' Subway Safety Plan as a long-awaited and potentially game-changing step towards helping unhoused people get off the streets and into more stable housing," said Council Member Linda Lee, Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Addiction, and Disabilities. "Too many of my friends and family have stopped using the subway because they fear being attacked. I hope that this plan turns the corner and makes the subway a safer place for both riders and the housing insecure. These initiatives must support those who need mental health treatment and assistance the most, and not result in over-policing and the criminalization of those who desperately need this care."

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of JPKREATIONS & EVENT RENTALS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/03/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 171-15 144th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

Maple Center Realty LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 02/02/22. Office Location: Queens County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 4923 Cloverdale Blvd, Oakland Gardens, NY 11364. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act. 2/24,3/3,10,17,24&31/2022



### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on October 18, 2019, bearing Index Number NC-000690-19/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) STEPHANIE (Middle) MACHUCA (Last) PENA. My present name is (First) STEPHANIE (Last) MACHUCA (infant). The city and state of my present address are Corona, NY. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. The month and year of my birth are February 2018. 2/24/2022

Notice of Formation of SEXEMEBOUTIQUE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/26/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 6260 99th Street, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/24,3/3,10,17,24&31/2022

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### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of BCPC LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/08/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 248-25 Northern Blvd, Ste 1J, Box 333, Little Neck, NY 11362. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

Notice of Formation of Scientific Mechanical LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/7/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 54-59 43rd St, Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/24,3/3,10,17,24&31/2022

KC DECOR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/14/22. 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, 35-54 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

## Council Member Gennaro, Local Electeds & Community Leaders Host Street Co-Naming Ceremony on International Mother Language Day

(Continued from page 6)

"I am so proud to represent this very important community - the Bangladeshi community. I really want to thank my good friend and colleague of many years, Jim Gennaro, for doing this important street naming," said Assembly Member David Weprin. "Now, any time a child will come by will see the sign 'Little Bangladesh,' they'll realize that this is one of the largest Bangladeshi-American communities in the United State of America. And we are very proud of that culture."

"Today is the time when Bangladesh and the USA are set to celebrate the 50th anniversary of [International Mother Language Day], which is a defining moment," said Consulate General Monirul Islam. "They laid down their lives on establishing their mother tongue. Let's pay our deep

homage to our language heroes. I would like to give thanks, especially to Mr. Gennaro, who has given his support."

"It was an honor to be a part of the celebration of International Mother language Day highlighting the street co naming 'Little Bangladesh Avenue' for the Bangladesh Community," said Council Member Nantasha Williams. "The Bangladesh community is one that is continuously thriving; creating businesses, honoring their families and showcasing their beautiful culture and language to our communities. I thank Council Member Gennaro for providing his support and inviting me to be apart of such a significant day."

"As the first South Asian woman elected to New York State Office, I was so proud to join my Bangladeshi family in celebrating the Little Bangladesh Avenue co-naming," said Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar.

"The unveiling ceremony celebrated the many contributions of New York City's Bangladeshi community, one of the fastest growing in our city. By literally putting Little Bangladesh on the map, we are showing that the community finally has the seat at the table it so rightfully earned."

"This is a historic day for the Bangladeshi community here in Queens, and I am honored to be a part of it. I'd like to congratulate Council Member Gennaro, and all those who came out to celebrate this important co-naming ceremony," said Martha Taylor, Community Board 8 Chair. "The Bangladeshi-American community has made so many contributions to this Borough, and it is wonderful there is now a sign on the corner of Homelawn and Hillside Avenue to commemorate all their accomplishments on International Mother Language Day."

## TAKE 5 Top-Prize Winner Sold in FLUSHING

The New York Lottery has announced one top-prize winning ticket was sold for the February 19 TAKE 5 MIDDAY drawing. The ticket, worth \$21,194.50, was purchased at AMI CONVENIENCE INC, located at 75-47 MAIN STREET in FLUSHING.

TAKE 5 players with mid-day and evening draws on

the same ticket must check their numbers at [nylottery.ny.gov](http://nylottery.ny.gov) to determine if they have the winning numbers for the corresponding mid-day or evening drawing.

TAKE 5 numbers are drawn from a field of one through 39. The drawing is televised twice daily at 2:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A Lottery draw game prize of any

amount may be claimed up to one year from the date of the drawing.

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of STELLAR DISTRIBUTION LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4307 Murray St, 1st Fl, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

Notice of formation of C & T REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed w. Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/4/2007. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C & T REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT, LLC., 39-14 103rd Street, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

Notice of Formation of VENTI LOGISTICS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/20/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Ryan Ct, Pooler, GA 31322. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24 &3/3/2022

WELO MANAGEMENT 86, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/24/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 4 Incline Place, Aberdeen, NJ 07747. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

Notice of Formation of NYC CARE ADC0923 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 120-30 196th Street, Saint Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24 &3/3/2022

Notice of Formation of EXCLUSIVE PIECES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 253-15 148th Drive, Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

ALJD 119 REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/18/22. 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, 22-17 119th St, College Point, NY 11356. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of 21 SOUNDBEACH DRIVE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/11/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 233-39 39th Avenue, Douglaston, NY 11363. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

1022 WYCKOFF AVENUE REALTY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Gary Schoer, Esq., 6800 Jericho Turnpike Suite 108W, Syosset, NY 11791. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

BRM DESIGNS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/06/22. 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, 146-01 17th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

48-15 92ND STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/13/22. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 61 Pawnee Dr., Commack, NY 11725. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 48-15 92nd St., Elmhurst, NY 11373. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

59-49 54TH STREET, MASPETH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/28/21. 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, 10 Melody Lane, Middletown, NJ 07748. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

Notice of Formation of DJ TRST PRODUCTIONS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13909 84th Drive, Apt. 211, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/3,10,17,24,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of KHAN GROUP USA LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 146-09 111th Avenue, 1st Floor, Jamaica, NY 11455. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/3,10,17,24 ,3/3&10/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

NIKKI MINDA MINDY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/02/21. 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, 13923 34th Ave, Apt 103, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/3,10,17,24 ,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of 7 SEVEN LOVE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 39-15 Main Street, Suite 502, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Prevail Physical Therapy, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/3/2021. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Nick Hondros, 2818 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY 11105. General Purpose. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

SOUTH MISSION STREET PARTNERS LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/27/2021. Office: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Ochs & Goldberg, LLP, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Ste 747, NY, NY 10020. Purpose: any lawful act. 2/3,10,17,24,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of REHAB RALLY, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 74-19 Calamus Cir, 1Fl, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of HIGH DEFINITION HEALTH LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 80-15 Grenfell Street, F3, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Chung Kim Development LLC filed w/ SSNY on 6/11/21. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 38-15 149th St., #3V, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS Action to Foreclose a Mortgage INDEX #: 718044/2018 FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, vs JUAN R. CRESPO, VENTURA AGUILAR IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH DECEASED, ANY AND ALL PERSONS DERIVING INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON, OR TITLE TO SAID REAL PROPERTY BY, THROUGH OR UNDER THEM, OR EITHER OF THEM, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES, WIDOWS, HUSBANDS, WIDOWERS, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNS, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES, EXCEPT AS STATED, ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NY STATE, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE IRS JOHN DOE (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). MORTGAGED PREMISES: 218-14 99TH AVENUE QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11429 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s)

**LEGAL NOTICES**

within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Queens. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgage Premises. TO Ventura Aguilar Defendant In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Robert I. Caloras of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the First day of February, 2022 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, in the City of Jamaica. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by Juan R. Crespo and Ventura Aguilar dated the February 8, 2018, to secure the sum of \$578,331.00 and recorded at CRFN 2018000063022 in the Office of the Queens County Clerk, on the February 22, 2018. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed September 12, 2018 and recorded on October 17, 2018, in the Office of the City Register of the City of New York, Queens County at CRFN 2018000344117; The property in question is described as follows: 218-14 99TH AVENUE, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11429 HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York

**LEGAL NOTICES**

State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at WWW.DFS.NY.GOV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD AT AUCTION PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PAY PROPERTY TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. § 1303 NOTICE NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: February 11, 2022 Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 70995. 2/24,3/3,10&17/2022



### Saturday Night With Our Youth



As part of the expanded Saturday Night Lights programming in Queens County, The Queens District Attorneys Office teamed up with the Amazing Mets Foundation for an evening filled with team-building experiences, career discussions, swag giveaways and

sports activities for our teens. Special thank you to the City Department of Youth & Community Development, and the local Police Precinct for making sure our youth have engaging programming on a Saturday night to safely occupy their time.

### A Night of Healing



Dr. Stacie NC Grant, in collaboration with the office of the Queens Borough President recently hosted A Night of Healing - A Love Letter to NYC with a focus on Mental Health & Suicide Prevention. This event began late last year as a way to restore hope and provide resources in real time to our neigh-

bors after Superstorm Ida. This week, it served as a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the pain and sorrow that violence and crime has brought to our lives, and stand together in our vow to turn the tide and reject the notion that this brutal cycle can become the norm

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