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25 CENTS

CONSUMER ALERT: NYS Division of Consumer Protection Provides Tips to Help Consumers Navigate The Holiday Shopping Season

Discover What to Look for When Reviewing Return and Refund Policies

As part of its five-part consumer alert holiday series, the Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection reminds shoppers of New York State laws that protect consumers so they can make informed decisions about holiday purchases. To avoid surprises, DCP recommends that consumers carefully review and understand what to look for when reviewing return and refund policies.

"Experts are predicting a strong holiday spending season despite recent economic challenges and as a result, we're expecting more consumer activity this holiday season," said New York Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez. "To avoid any surprises, I urge New Yorkers to pay attention to policies surrounding returns and refunds to be sure you are comfortable with the terms and know the policy before you buy."

Around the holidays, gift givers and receivers often change their minds. According to the National Retail Federation, retail returns increased significantly last year (16.6% in 2021 versus 10.6% in 2020) and this year they're expecting more. To help navigate the busy shopping season, DCP offers the following tips:

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NYS Senator Liu Held Holiday Block Party



NYS Senator John Liu started the Holiday Block Party with caroling by the NY Young Arts Foundation. After the caroling remarks were made by NYS Sen. John Liu, Assemblymembers Edward Braunstein and David Weprin. After the elected officials remarks the Tarumi Violinists continued caroling. Following the caroling games were played. A wonderful time was had by all.

NY State Senator John Liu

said, "Nobody does the holidays like northeast Queens! Despite a little wet weather, the rain couldn't dampen our spirits, and our community came together for a fun-filled evening of caroling, local cuisine, games, prizes and more. Thanks to the Bayside Village BID, Bayside Business Association, and all our local restaurants, businesses, musicians and people who chipped in to make our annual holiday block party a tremendous success."

Suozzi Presents Purple Heart to Iraq War Veteran



Congressman Tom Suozzi presented the historic and prestigious Purple Heart to Iraq War veteran, Chris Levi of Melville. See story on page 6.

Corona's P.S.14Q, The Fairview School, Performed at the 90th Annual Christmas in Rockefeller Center Event Story



Corona's P.S.14Q, 5 Grade Choir performed at the 90th Annual Christmas in Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting Special Event. See story on page 2.

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About Park Side Restaurant - An Italian Landmark in the heart of Corona, Queens, Park Side Restaurant is truly a destination that is worth the trip. After one visit, you will be sure to be back again and again for one of the city's Best Italian restaurants. Bring your appetite and enjoy authentic and always delicious dishes using the freshest ingredients and attention to detail served by our professional staff. Park Side is also happy to host your next function with our private dining area and flexible banquet packages.

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CONSUMER ALERT: NYS Division of Consumer Protection Provides Tips to Help Consumers Navigate The Holiday Shopping Season

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• **Pay Attention to Return Policies:** New York State law requires that retailers post their return and refund policies conspicuously to inform consumers before the transaction is completed. Retailers must provide a written copy of the store's return policies when requested.

New York State Law does not require retailers to accept returns, however, they must post a conspicuous notice visible to consumers before the point of sale advising that no returns will be accepted.

If the retailer does not post a return policy, the law requires the retailer to accept returns of unused, undamaged merchandise within 30 days of the purchase date, with proof of purchase, and provide a refund in the form — cash or a credit

— of the consumer's preference

• **Understand the Refund Terms:** For retailers that allow returns, New York State law does not require refunds to be given in any specific manner. However, it does require the form of the refund — cash, credit, or exchange — be clearly disclosed in advance of purchase. Retailers must also disclose any fees associated with the return. If no fee is listed, shoppers should inquire whether the store imposes a re-stocking fee for returned merchandise and determine prior to purchase if the item can be returned for a refund or only store credit.

• **Retain Any Proof of Purchase:** Consumers should retain receipts in the event a product needs to be returned, and when purchasing gifts, ask if a gift receipt is available.

Consumers having trouble obtaining a store refund are encouraged to file a complaint with the New York State Division of Consumer Protection.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides resources and education materials to consumers, as well as voluntary mediation services between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection.

For more consumer protection tips, follow the Division on social media at Twitter: @NYSConsumer and Facebook: www.facebook.com/nysconsumer

Corona's P.S.14Q, The Fairview School, Performed at the 90th Annual Christmas in Rockefeller Center Event Story

(Continued from page 1)

Heather Benson, the proud Principal of Corona's PS 14Q, The Fairview School, congratulates the Fairview 5 Grade Choir, their Music Teacher Dr. Angelica Ortega and teacher Luanna Lasso for preparing P.S.14Q, 5 Grade Choir, for the wonderful performance they made at the 90th Annual Christmas in Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting Special Event.

"This year PS 14Q is 108 years young and has a deep connection, rich history and tradition to the Corona community in Queens County", said Principal Benson.

PS 14Q Fairview elementary school choir in Corona, Queens was chosen this year's NBC 4 New York Star Choir and sang at the "Christmas in Rockefeller Center" tree lighting special.

PS 14Q, The Fairview School, was chosen by the "Kelly Clarkson Show" as the winner out of a pool of 70 entrants from across the region. At the Christmas in Rockefeller Center tree lighting special they performed "Deck the Halls" on NBC 4.

"The talents and passion of these young singers is contagious," said Eric Lerner, president and general manager of NBC 4 New York. "However, one choir

rose above them all and WNBC is thrilled to welcome the PS 14Q Fairview School Choir to 30 Rock for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

PS 14Q is a K-5 elementary school located in the heart of Corona, 107-01 Otis Avenue, Corona, NY 11368, Queens, and serves a largely Latino, multilingual, immigrant student population. WNBC is awarding \$5,000 to the school in support of their music program. The 31 choir members will also receive tickets to a future performance of "Wicked," the Broadway super hit and official sponsor of this year's "Star Choir" competition.

EV Charger Installations Rocket in NYC And Westchester Thanks to Con Edison Support

EV Chargers Backed by PowerReady Incentives Tripled in Q3 2022

The number of electric vehicle chargers supported by Con Edison's PowerReady program grew sharply in recent months, in a promising sign for the future of clean transportation in the nation's largest city.

Con Edison's PowerReady program opened in 2020, offering financial support to developers building EV charging stations. Installations grew modestly at first but have multiplied in 2022 as the market has picked up speed.

The number of installed and operating EV chargers supported by PowerReady more than tripled in the three months to September, reaching 1,838, according to Con Edison's latest Clean Energy Update. Since then, the number has soared past 2,200 and the growth continues.

Con Edison intends to support approximately 19,000 EV chargers by 2025 and 400,000 by 2035, to help meet demand as the number of EVs on New York's roads grows.

"The market for EV chargers is beginning to blossom in New York," said Gregory Elcock, Con Edison's Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Distributed Re-

source Integration. "PowerReady was designed to accelerate this climate-critical market and that's exactly what we see happening on the ground. The many thousands of charge points already installed and coming soon to New York City and Westchester County will ease concerns about range anxiety and help to fuel EV adoption."

The shift to EVs on New York's roads means less tailpipe pollution locally and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Con Edison is building a grid to deliver 100 percent clean power by 2040, ensuring that EVs deliver significant environmental benefits compared to vehicles that run on fossil fuels.

Nurturing New York's Market for EV Chargers
 PowerReady offers financial incentives to prepare sites for EV charger installation, with additional support for projects in disadvantaged communities.

• According to the Clean Energy Update, PowerReady supported the installation of 1,716 Level 2 (L2) chargers through September, and another 122 DC fast chargers. The number of EV plugs installed under PowerReady reflects installed and operating chargers.

• L2 chargers provide approximately 20 miles of driving range for each hour of charging, while

DC fast chargers offer 180 miles of range or more for each hour plugged in.

• The vast majority of DC fast chargers built under PowerReady are publicly accessible. The outer boroughs of New York City and Westchester account for 90 percent of DC fast chargers built so far, but more are coming in Manhattan.

• More than half of L2 plugs installed under PowerReady are within or near a disadvantaged community.

Con Edison seeks to encourage a dynamic, competitive and diverse market for EV chargers, with a mixture of publicly accessible plugs and those located at residential buildings and businesses.

In addition to PowerReady, Con Edison supports EV adoption through a number of other programs, including Smart-Charge New York, which is a managed charging program that aims to reduce stress on the grid from EV charging, and through a partnership with NYC Department of Transportation and charging company Flo that installed curbside chargers in all five boroughs.

Con Edison Customers Building Solar and Batteries

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Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas to Introduce Bill in the Assembly to Decriminalize Sexual Activity of People With STIs

New York May Become the Next State to Repeal Its STI Criminalization Law

In honor of World AIDS Day, Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas announced that she will introduce a bill in the Assembly to decriminalize the sexual activity of people living with sexually transmitted infections (STIs). More specifically, the new bill would repeal New York State Public Health Law 2307, a 76-year-old law, which makes it a misdemeanor for any person with a known STI to have sexual intercourse with another. The bill would also expunge any prior convictions. Currently, the statute has no exceptions for cases when a person with a known STI discloses their status, is undetectable, or uses protection – it broadly criminalizes all sexual activity regardless of harm reduction activity. By repealing Public Health Law 2307, New York would join twelve other states that have either repealed or amended HIV criminalization laws. Assemblymember González-Rojas is a member of the Assembly Health Committee and is currently one of four LGBTQ legislators in the New York State Assembly.

The criminalization of people living with STIs in New York is rare, but it does occur. Not only are people criminalized pursuant to Public Health Law 2307, but they are at risk of prosecution under assault statutes, and of civil commitment. Violating Public Health Law 2307 may be determined to be a “Crime Involving Moral Turpitude” for the purpose of immigration, and a conviction could either make someone deportable or make it difficult for someone to adjust their immigration status. Black and brown young people, Black and brown cisgender women, low-income people, LGBTQ+ people, and those occupying multiple marginalized identities have well-documented histories of police trauma, criminalization, and harassment from law enforcement. These groups are also at risk for HIV and other STIs. Public health research has found that increasing criminalization doesn’t change behavior and that HIV transmission has gone down nationally. This repeal bill anticipates potential changes in politics that would result in greater enforcement or weaponization of Public Health Law 2307 as it stands, which would further perpetuate race, gender, and class inequities in the criminal legal system.

2023 is the 20th anniversary of *Lawrence v. Texas*, the Supreme Court case that decriminalized adult consensual sexual relationships after decades of police harassment of marginalized people. Repealing New York’s archaic statute is another step toward respecting individual autonomy and protecting vulnerable populations from dubious policing. Advocates believe it’s time for the legislature to recognize that Public Health Law 2307 is counterproductive to public health measures to reduce STI transmission, including HIV,



across New York State. If passed, this new bill would ensure that people living with STIs can no longer be held criminally liable for having sex. Despite advances in treatment and diagnosis, the stigmatization and dissemination of myths concerning people living with STIs and HIV are still high, even in New York. Decriminalization is one important step to ending that stigma. More work must be done to increase testing, and treatment, and to provide resources to people living with STIs.

The legislation is backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), the Center for HIV Law and Policy, New Pride Agenda, Legal Action Center, Housing Works, Make the Road NY, Legal Aid Society, Transgender Law Center, Treatment Action Group, and Lambda Legal.

“On this World AIDS Day, I’m honored to join advocates in announcing that I’m introducing legislation to finally decriminalize the sexual activity of people living with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. New Yorkers living with HIV or other STIs already face barriers to accessing the care and support they need, and criminalizing them for sexual behavior only perpetuates racial inequities and stigma rather than combat transmission. Our laws should reflect modern-day science. We know that increasing access to testing, treatment, and other resources helps to curb the transmission of STIs, not criminalization. This archaic part of New York’s Public Health Law belongs in the trash heap of history, and I urge my colleagues in Albany to support this bill in the upcoming legislative session,” said New York State Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas.

“New York has reduced HIV

and STI transmission through progressive public health approaches, yet archaic laws that criminalize people living with STIs remain on the books. It is past time to repeal these stigmatizing laws, which disincentivize disclosure, ignore current science, and subject LGBTQ+ people, young people of color, and Black and brown cisgender women to unnecessary policing. Repealing Public Health Law 2307 and ending prosecutions based on people’s health status is a moral and public health imperative,” said Jared Trujillo, Senior Policy Counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union.

“PHL §2307 is an outdated 76-year-old law that reflects old prejudices and is contrary to modern science. It stigmatizes STIs and HIV which is contrary to public health and disproportionately harms communities of color. We need more access to testing and healthcare, not criminalization.” - Jose Abrigo, HIV Project Director, Lambda Legal.

“PHL 2307 is indicative of the lack of sexual health and infectious disease literacy surrounding the routes, risks, prevention tools, and treatment realities for the transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases. This law works to perpetuate discrimination and vilify those living with stigmatized diseases, undermining New York’s public health goals to address infectious diseases and end the HIV epidemic.” - Jada Hicks, Staff Attorney, The Center for HIV Law and Policy.

“PHL §2307 is an archaic law that maintains a harmful moral panic about people living with HIV and STIs. Sex workers and people profiled as sex workers, particularly trans and nonbinary people of color, are put at

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Democracy Wins! Court Agrees With Assemblymember Pheffer Amato And Orders NYC Board of Elections to Count Absentee Ballots in 23rd AD Race

New York State Supreme Court Judge Joseph Risi today ordered the New York City Board of Elections to count 94 absentee ballots and 4 affidavit ballots which the board had mistakenly declared invalid. The order came as a result of a court action brought by Assemblymember Pheffer Amato to preserve and protect the integrity of the election process by ensuring that every ballot that should be counted would be counted.

The 94 absentee ballots in question were all from voters who had been deemed qualified to vote by the Board of Election when they were initially issued their absentee ballots. Though they were required to by law, the Board took no action to notify these voters of their ability to vote in a different manner, or to cure their ballots. Further, the board

noted that under state law, the interpretation of election laws and rules “shall be construed liberally in favor of... protecting the right of voters to have their ballot cast and counted.”

“Voting is the cornerstone of our American democracy,” said Doug Forand, campaign spokesperson. “We will not allow anyone to silence the voices of voters who have exercised their constitutional right to have their votes counted. We are grateful to the courts for following the law and rightfully ruling that these ballots must be counted.”

Due to the close margin, the race is already subject to an ongoing mandatory hand recount. Assemblymember Pheffer Amato currently leads by 7 votes overall with almost 60% of the ballots recounted. The recount is on track to conclude Thursday.

City Council Speaker Adams And Chancellor Matos Rodríguez Unveil Plans For ‘One Stop’ Welcome Center at York College to Help Students Re-Enroll in School



This \$4.4 million effort is part of CUNY Reconnect, a program to encourage New Yorkers with college credits to complete their degrees.

3,000 former students re-enrolled this semester and more than 10,000 students have been contacted.

New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams joined Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez and York College President Berenecea Johnson Eanes today to unveil plans for the construction of York College’s new Welcome Center, a dedicated facility where former students will meet with counselors about re-enrolling in school and getting the services and support they need to complete a degree or credential.

The new center is part of CUNY Reconnect, a \$4.4 million program advanced by Speaker Adams in this year’s city budget to engage and re-enroll thousands of working-age New Yorkers who have earned credits but left college before they graduated. Black and Latina women disproportionately comprise the population of students with college credits but no degree. The program was envisioned by the Center for an Urban Future’s research and first proposed by Speaker Adams at the Association for a Better New

York’s Power Breakfast and in her State of the City address.

CUNY Reconnect navigators, which were hired when the program launched this fall, have already reached out to more than 50,000 people who were once enrolled at CUNY and did not finish a degree. They have engaged with over 17,000 of those students and re-enrolled 3,000 of them. Helping these former students resume their pursuit of degrees or other credentials will enable them to advance their careers, improving their economic mobility and the city’s post-pandemic economy.

“Helping working New Yorkers complete their college degrees will expand opportunities for economic mobility that advance our communities and local economy,” said Speaker Adrienne Adams. “CUNY Reconnect has already supported thousands of students re-enrolling at CUNY and will reach even more people with the services and guidance they need. The addition of a new Welcome Center at York College will further advance these efforts, and I am excited by the impact it will have for students at my alma mater. I am grateful for the leadership of Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, York College President Johnson Eanes, my Council colleagues, and everyone who is supporting

(Continued on page 4)

Mayor Adams Announces Opening Of Satellite Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Sites to Support Newly Arriving Asylum Seekers

Eight Satellite Asylum Resource Navigation Sites Will Provide Range of Services to Asylum Seekers Throughout New York City

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Manuel Castro today announced an additional eight Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation sites that will be opened across the five boroughs, in an effort to continue supporting newly arrived individuals and families seeking asylum. Eight community-based organizations have been chosen and granted \$2.1 million to run these sites that will build on the ongoing work of the city's first Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center, operated by Catholic Charities of New York.

"The city's first Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Centers has served nearly 7,000 individuals since opening a few short months ago, and I'm proud to expand the footprint of this important work across all five boroughs to support the asylum seekers arriving in our city every day," said Mayor Adams. "In partnership with these eight community-based organizations, these additional centers will help support the more than 26,000 asylum seekers who have arrived here in New York City with a range of services including legal assistance, medical care, and school enrollment. New York City will continue to do all we can to meet our moral and legal mandates and welcome and support asylum seekers arriving here, and these sites will play an important role delivering critical services directly to families and individuals who need them."

"Throughout the city's response to the asylum seeker crisis, we have worked in partnership with community-based organizations," said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom. "Today's announcement builds upon that work and offers additional layers of support for individuals and families seeking a new home in New York City. Thank you to our partners who will continue to serve asylum seekers at satellite locations in all five boroughs."

"New York City has led the nation's response to the influx of asylum seekers, launching the first Asylum Seeker Navigation Center," said MOIA Commissioner Castro. "Today, we take another stride forward by announcing several community organizations that will serve as satellite sites across the five boroughs to support our new neighbors. Through this effort, our administration

will continue to lead with care and compassion and empower our newest New Yorkers with resources and services."

The selected organizations will provide individuals and families with in-person support — in Spanish and in other languages — including a variety of supplemental services, comprehensive case management, and immigrant rights workshops:

- Aid for Aids International
- African Communities Together (ACT)
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
- Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Brooklyn & Queens
- Coalicion Mexicana
- La Colmena
- Mercy Center
- Mixteca Organization
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

The city's first Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center — located at the American Red Cross of Greater New York headquarters — will continue to operate on weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and provide individuals and families with in-person support. Services at the navigation center and Catholic Charities sites will be available by appointments and walk-ins are accepted in all other locations. Appointments can be made by community-based partners and certain city agencies, including city shelter staff. Since this humanitarian crisis began, the city has — largely on its own — taken fast and urgent action, managing the arrival of a rapidly increasing number of buses across New York City with virtually no coordination from states sending them — opening 57 hotels as emergency shelters and three humanitarian relief centers already.

"Expanding access and resources for those seeking asylum is important as we work to ensure newly arrived immigrants are welcomed with dignity and respect," said Beatriz Diaz Taveras, executive director, Catholic Charities Community Services. "Catholic Charities of New York is excited that we can continue our partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and extend our reach through 11 impactful organizations that will help to support this incoming population. As an extension of our work at the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center, these satellite sites will help to provide much-needed on-the-ground case management services in all five boroughs."

"The immigrants coming to New York seeking asylum and inclusion are diverse and include

significant numbers of West Africans and other Black migrants," said Amaha Kassa, executive director, ACT. "New York's African immigrant communities are already welcoming these new New Yorkers into our mosques, churches, and community centers. ACT is proud to partner with the city on the Asylum Seeker Navigation Center to provide them with greater support and stability."

"La Colmena has been one of the organizations that has been in the forefront in Staten Island in welcoming asylum seekers by providing them with free construction workforce classes, pre-apprenticeship programs, English classes and most importantly a community," said Yesenia Mata, executive director, La Colmena. "Every asylum seeker we speak to lets us know that they are here to work to provide for their families and contribute to the economy. As a satellite we will continue working with all city agencies and organizations on Staten Island to ensure that all workers regardless of immigration status get the support that they need."

"The Mexican Coalition is proud to be part of a quality and effective welcome for our migrant community and all those who arrived seeking asylum," said Jairo Guzman, president, Mexican Coalition. "We thank MOIA, which is committed to supporting migrants and all seeking help in New York City. Grassroots organizations are part of the great infrastructure of New York City to help all its residents. MOIA shows its availability by supporting the creation of welcome centers and incorporating Coalicion Mexicana into its mission."

"Asylum Seekers have gone through a difficult ordeal over the past few months. In order to support them, our organization is joining the city's effort to connect asylum seekers and their families with critical services and resources they need to thrive," said Lorena Kourousias, executive director, Mixteca.

"NICE connects new immigrants and asylum seekers to essential services, including health and safety trainings daily, but we cannot address the increasing need of this community alone. We're thrilled to partner with the city of New York and other vital organizations to provide holistic and essential wrap-around services to our newest New Yorkers as a satellite site for the new Asylum Seeker Navigation Center," said Diana Moreno, executive director, NICE. "Together we can ensure our new neighbors are welcomed with the dignity and respect they deserve."

City Council Speaker Adams And Chancellor Matos Rodríguez Unveil Plans For 'One Stop' Welcome Center at York College to Help Students Re-Enroll in School

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the advancement of opportunities for New Yorkers."

"We know the complicated web of factors that can discourage or prevent a person from returning to college. Working to help each individual successfully navigate this transition presents a game-changing proposition for York College and CUNY to promote access and opportunity across New York City," said Chancellor Felix Matos Rodríguez. "By enabling thousands more New Yorkers to complete a college degree or credential, CUNY Reconnect will help to ensure the equity of the city's post-pandemic economic growth. We again thank Speaker Adams and the City Council for partnering with CUNY to make measurable improvements for so many New Yorkers and the city itself."

"Everyone New Yorker should have the chance to obtain a college degree, including those who left college before graduating," said New York City Council Majority

Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers. "Students are often forced to withdraw from school due to circumstances beyond their control. As a result, they are denied the learning and career advancement opportunities that come with a college degree. Hundreds of thousands of former students would benefit from a chance to re-enroll, and I applaud Speaker Adams, Chancellor Rodríguez, and President Johnson Eanes for their efforts welcome these students back to York College."

CUNY estimates that there are approximately 700,000 working-age New Yorkers, who have earned credits and could return to finish their degrees or earn certificates that would help them enhance their careers. This includes students who left college during the pandemic, as well as those who withdrew years or even decades ago. The initiative will also conduct outreach to students who graduated from high school during the pandemic and were unable to attend college because of personal circumstances.

Chairman Jeffries: "House Democrats Are Committed to Defending Democracy And Fighting For Freedom"



Incoming Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), incoming Democratic Whip Katherine Clark (D-MA) and incoming Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar (D-CA) held a leadership press conference where they highlighted House Democrats' continued work to swiftly organize for the 118th Congress and fight for lower costs, better-paying jobs and safer communities.

JEFFRIES: Earlier today, there was a solemn moment of recognition for the Capitol Police officers and the Metropolitan Police Department officers who so bravely and valiantly defended the Congress, the country and the Constitution on January 6. Several of whom, as a result of the events of that day, paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives. It was important for the Congress to come together in this way to confer the Congressional Gold Medals to these two departments in connection with the officers who were involved on that fateful day. I just wanted to reiterate our gratitude as House Democrats for those heroes who were on the frontline pushing back against the effort to destroy

our democracy, halt the peaceful transfer of power and undermine the foundational principle of free and fair elections.

It's unfortunate that as a result of some of the extremism that we continue to see on the other side of the aisle, that it's not clear yet that the threats to our democracy are over. There's still a lot of work to be done to make sure that what we saw with the Big Lie and what we saw with the violent insurrection and what we saw with the effort to halt the peaceful transfer of power never happens again. House Democrats will continue to be committed to defending democracy while at the same time fighting for freedom, reproductive freedom and otherwise, protecting the public interest and ensuring economic opportunity in every single zip code. And it's our continued hope that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will do the same.

CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to reiterate what an honor it was to be at the Congressional Medal of Honor

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EV Charger Installations Rocket in NYC And Westchester Thanks to Con Edison Support

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Published quarterly, the Clean Energy Update tracks deployment of key technologies across Con Edison's service area, with the aim of making it easier to follow New York's clean energy transformation.

Con Edison's customers built another 24 megawatts of solar-power capacity during the third quarter, lifting the total to 459 megawatts spread across nearly 50,000 individual systems. Battery storage capacity rose to 23.5 megawatts.

Con Edison supports New

York's target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions statewide by 2050. The company is building a reliable, resilient and dynamic smart grid that pairs local clean energy resources, such as rooftop solar and batteries, with large-scale renewable generators located across the state and region.

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For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)
 You need adventure and excitement in your life. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. Your lucky numbers are 3,1,4.

TAURUS
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)
 Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. You can make money if you put your savings into conservative investments. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,7.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes. Someone around you may not be trustworthy. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,1.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 Don't get involved in other people's private doings. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Your lucky numbers are 4,5,9.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Empty promises will cause confusion. Any attractions toward clients will be one sided and must be put right out of your head. Your lucky numbers are 9,3,2.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 Someone close to you will get angry if you are neglecting your duties. You will have opportunities to advance. Your lucky numbers are 3,8,9.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 You will have to control the way you feel. Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. Your lucky numbers are 5,7,1.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 You are likely to travel or attend seminars. Your efforts won't go unnoticed. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Your lucky numbers are 7,8,5.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 Don't let others try to create guilt if you can't meet their demands. Take care of yourself or you can expect to suffer from minor illness. Your lucky numbers are 7,8,4.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
 Your accomplishments could exceed your expectations. Mix a little business with pleasure. Try not to be too aggressive to others. Your lucky numbers are 3,7,3.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 Make changes that will enhance your appearance. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Consider volunteer work with children. Your lucky numbers are 7,1,8.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
 You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,9.

Did You Know?

- there are 2 credit cards for every person in the US
- 40% of Amsterdam commuters get to work by bicycle
- \$30 of raw popcorn translates into \$3,000 in sales at movie theaters
- a person produces enough saliva to fill 2 average size swimming pools during their lifetime
- the average person sheds .7kg (1.5 pounds) of skin each year
- the average woman will consume over 2.7kg (6 pounds) of lipstick in their lifetime
- the human body creates 2,500,000 new red blood cells every second
- a soap bubble is 10,000 times thinner than the average human hair
- all snakes are carnivorous
- the tentacles of the giant arctic jellyfish can reach 36.6 meters (120 feet)
- the only letter which doesn't appear in the Periodic Table is j
- October the 10th is national metric day
- the typewriter was invented in 1829
- the dishwasher was invented in 1889
- diamonds are the hardest substance known to man

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21						22			
				23				24	25					
26	27	28	29		30			31						
32					33			34		35		36	37	38
39				40				41	42					
43						44	45				46			
			47		48		49				50			
51	52	53					54			55				
56						57	58				59	60	61	62
63						64				65				
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

"Sudoku"

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

"Crossword Puzzle"

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

"Try And Find"

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

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TRY AND FIND

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

Bunny Hop	Clog	Country	Polka
Cha-Cha	Conga	Crowds	Disco
Charleston	Contest	Crush	Flamenco
Choreograph	Cool	Hop	Tango
Class	Cotillion	Date	Fox-Trot

- CROSS**
- Mindful
 - Indian music
 - Plate
 - Greens with dressing
 - Ages
 - Put ____ words
 - Fatuous
 - Play parts
 - Preentious person
 - Acculturate
 - Belgrade native
 - In the center of
 - Floor
 - Molten rock
 - Consumed
 - Our star
 - Frosts, as a cake
 - Essence
 - Coniferous forest
 - Flying disk
 - Turned a corner
 - Above a baritone
 - Pierce
 - Open to all
 - 18-wheeler
 - Night before
 - Large northern deer
 - Suppurate
 - Plateau
 - Unit of paper
 - Subjugation
 - A Great Lake
 - Taps
 - Push
 - Portent or omen
 - Type of sword
 - Consumer of food
 - Miami basketball team
 - Fathers
 - Pottery fragment
- DOWN**
- Largest continent
 - Grows pale
 - "Oh dear!"
 - Hindu princess
 - Swelling
 - Facts
 - Colonnades
 - An international trade treaty
 - Judge
 - Disharmony
 - Not outer
 - Cache
 - Spare-time occupier
 - Picture
 - Ballet attire
 - Boost
 - Anagram of "Care"
 - Blood vessel
 - Variety
 - Crosses
 - False god
 - Nerd
 - Combines
 - French cheese
 - Overweight
 - Enticed
 - Felt blindly
 - Not stale
 - Spooky
 - Siberian antelope
 - Donkeys
 - Daddy
 - Monarch of Iran
 - Infinitesimal amount
 - Not under
 - Geek

Suozzi Presents Purple Heart to Iraq War Veteran

(Continued from page 1)

On Saturday, December 3, at the North Shore Historical Museum in Glen Cove, Congressman Tom Suozzi (D – Long Island, Queens) presented the historic and prestigious Purple Heart to Iraq War veteran, Chris Levi of Melville.

“It’s never too late to do the right thing,” said Suozzi. “As I begin to close out my six years of service as a Member of Congress, I recognize one of my greatest privileges is to honor our veterans. Today, I had the great honor to present the prestigious and historic Purple Heart to retired U.S. Army Corporal Chris Levi of Melville.”

Levi, who enlisted in the Army in 2003, lost both legs to an IED explosion in Iraq in 2008. On March 17, 2008, his unit was attached to an Iraqi Army unit, patrolling an area south of Sadr City, a suburb of Baghdad. Levi was in the front seat of a Humvee when a roadside EFP (explosively formed penetrator) detonated. The copper plate inside the EFP became a molten copper slug, tearing through the armor of the Humvee, talking off both of his legs and badly mangling his right arm.



The soldiers who initially responded to the blast thought Levi was dead; however, when he came to and realized the extent of his injuries he started yelling. Eleven minutes after the explosion, Levi was being operated on by a surgeon. It was the first of over 130 surgeries he would undergo, 30 of which were considered life-altering.

“Chris Levi is truly a remarkable human. Initially offered the Purple Heart while still hospitalized in Iraq, he insisted on wait-

ing until his entire platoon had returned home before accepting the award. After several years and technical snafus within the VA, for which Chris holds no bitterness, it was my honor to award the well-deserved and long-overdue Purple Heart to Chris,” said Suozzi. “Today, a grateful nation said thank you to Cpl. Chris Levi.”

Saturday’s Purple Heart ceremony was planned in conjunction with Robert Chiaponne and Erle Mutz of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Inducts Schmidt’s Candy Into State Historic Business Preservation Registry

Assemblywoman Brings City And Stakeholders Together To Recognize 97-Year-Old Business In Her District

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar (D-AD 38) brought the community together at Schmidt’s Candy to induct the historic business into the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. A beloved neighborhood staple, Schmidt’s Candy is a 97-year-old confectionery in Woodhaven. Inclusion in the registry will provide Schmidt’s with educational and promotional support from the State of New York.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar brought together stakeholders from across the City to the induction ceremony, which took place inside of the candy store itself. In attendance were Queens Chamber of Commerce President Tom Grech, New York City Department of Small Business Services’ Tynisha Sykes, Queens Economic Development Corporation Public Relations Director Rob MacKay, Community Board 9 Chairwoman Sherry Algreto, Vance Barbour of the Woodhaven Residents’ Block Association, Queens Together founder Jonathan Forgash, a representative from Councilwoman Joann Ariola’s office, and numerous members of the community.

In 2021, Assemblywoman Rajkumar secured a seat on the Assembly Committee on Small Business, and has led efforts to empower small businesses around the State. She aided small businesses in recovering from the COVID-19 economic downturn by helping to create the \$800 million Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program and the \$600 million State Small Business Credit Initiative. She has



Pictured from left to right: Jessica Genna from Councilwoman Joann Ariola’s office, Tom Grech, Sherry Algreto, Jonathan Forgash, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Vance Barbour, Margie Schmidt, Neir’s Tavern owner Loycent Gordon, a Schmidt’s Candy employee, Rob MacKay, and Tynisha Sykes

also helped make resources more easily accessible to mom-and-pop shops. She helped pass legislation creating small business liaisons in state agencies, and requiring the Department of State to provide information on business assistance programs when new businesses file. The Assemblywoman also assisted with changes to the tax code, helping enact legislation to reduce taxes on small business income and create the COVID-19 Capital Costs Credit.

The Assemblywoman has brought increased attention, resources, and services to Woodhaven since she took office in 2021. Earlier this year, she passed the historic first-ever state resolution commemorating Woodhaven’s birthday and honoring its history.

Her induction of Schmidt’s Candy into the historic registry provides support to one of Wood-

haven’s most beloved small businesses. Located in the Assemblywoman’s district, Schmidt’s Candy has served the finest chocolates since 1925, when Margie Schmidt’s grandfather Frank Schmidt founded the confectionery. Today, Ms. Schmidt handcrafts the candies herself in-house, using many of her grandfather’s original recipes, and works as much as sixteen hours per day during the holiday season. The shop is a beloved institution in South Queens, where many residents have enjoyed Schmidt’s chocolates since childhood.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar said: “I brought this State recognition and support from citywide stakeholders to Schmidt’s Candy because Margie Schmidt has

(Continued on page 10)

Solving Our City’s Mental Health Crisis, Compassionately & Effectively



Earlier last week Mayor Adams announced a new plan to tackle the city’s mental health crisis. Specifically, he issued a directive to police officers and other city workers instructing them to involuntarily hospitalize people deemed unable to care for themselves or “meet basic living needs”, even if they pose no risk to others. While I am encouraged to hear the Mayor accurately identify the crisis as one of our city’s biggest problems, I (and many others) have raised concerns about the strategies he’s implementing. For one, his plan continues to rely on sending police officers as the first responders to mental health calls, instead of trained mental health crisis responders. Best practice from successful programs across the country aiming to solve the ballooning mental health crisis is to send a trained, expert worker equipped to make careful, safe mental health assessments into the field, having them engage in strategies that lead to voluntary consent to connection of care whenever possible. No city worker, no matter how much supplemental training they get or resources they are offered is a substitute for a full-time, professional mental health crisis responder. Read more about the plan and some of the critiques in

this New York Times piece.

Here in New York City, we already have a promising model that we should strengthen and expand. The B-Heard pilot program, which operates in just a few neighborhoods in the city, dispatches an EMT paramedic alongside a mental health professional from NYC Health + Hospitals as first responders to people experiencing a mental health emergency. Instead of investing city dollars on programs that rely on failed strategies from the past, I’d like to see our city invest in proven models, like B-Heard, and build out the infrastructure needed so that New Yorkers have, in Mayor Adams’ own words, a “continuum of care.” That means safe respite centers, overdose prevention centers, and long-term supportive housing, among others. But that’s not possible if our city is pushing through an austerity budget and cutting headcount at critical social service agencies. Working with my colleagues in the Council and the Mayor’s Office to advance outcome-driven solutions to make our city safer and healthier will be my top priority this upcoming budget season and I’m optimistic that we can come together across lines of difference to deliver the long-term results New Yorkers expect.

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Hofstra Lecture on Systems Design And Broadcast Engineering

By Karoline Otavalo

This week's Tech Thursday, hosted by Makayla Bullard, student tech engineer of Hofstra's radio station WRHU, invited guest speaker Barry Grossman to speak about his work in systems design and broadcast engineering. The event ran on December 1 from 8-9:35 pm in the main office of WRHU. Refreshments were provided for all attendees, who were mainly audio and radio production students, as well as journalism students.

As an engineer, Barry Grossman, 64, has over 30 years of production experience in systems and broadcast design within the spheres of performing arts and sports. He has worked at several companies including TV networks like WMGM-TV 40 NBC, WWOR-TV, WPRI-TV, and media outlets such as The Sun Newspaper. He has also worked on touring version of the The American Idiot Broadway musical and on a floor projection for the Madison Square Garden arena, which features The Knicks' showcase.

"My role as a systems engineer is to work with the project managers, content creators, programmers, video designers and others to come up with a system which will meet the needs of the show, be reliable and affordable," Grossman said.

Currently, Grossman works as an independent contractor. "Everyone wants to be behind the camera and work the camera but no one wants to fix things," he said. Grossman, however, has made a career out of fixing

(Continued on page 10)



Attending Hofstra's lecture on becoming Systems Designers and Broadcast Engineers are Andy Gladding, Karoline Otavalo, Mariama Kabbah, Makayla Bullard, Isabella Ehrhardt, Estelle Barbieri, Nick Costanzo, Michael Ventrice and Matt trasverso. Photo by Andy Gliding



At Hofstra's lecture guest speaker Barry Grossman answered students questions from Mariama Kabbah, Isabella Ehrhardt, Nick Costanzo, Michael Ventrice, Estelle Barbieri, Matt Trasverso, among others. Also in attendance was Cav. Josephine A. Maietta, host of the Italian Cultural Music Show "Sabato Italiano" at WRHU; she also asked Grossman how students should go about networking. Photo by Cav. Josephine A. Maietta

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic Announces Holiday Investment in Commonpoint Queens

\$50,000 in State Funding to Support Holiday Meal Deliveries

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D,WF-Queens) announced \$50,000 in funding she allocated to Commonpoint Queens. The state investment will be used to provide food deliveries for seniors and families in need this holiday season.

"As the holiday season approaches, it is crucial that we look out for those in need," said Assemblywoman Rozic. "Commonpoint Queens' dedication to providing culturally appropriate food packages to Queens residents is essential year-round and even more during the pandemic. I am proud to be able to support their continued efforts."

"We are so incredibly grateful for the partnership and generosity of Assemblymember Rozic, who is constantly providing hope and resources for our vulnerable neighbors," said Danielle Ellman, CEO of Commonpoint Queens. "Thanks to this support, we will be able to provide high-quality meals, essential home items, and unquantifiable holiday spirit for hundreds of isolated older adults



in our community."

Commonpoint Queens is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of individual, family and communal life throughout Queens. In addition to their food delivery program,

their services include community programming, educational initiatives, and cultural events. Rozic has long supported their work both through state funding and by volunteering to deliver food packages personally.

Sunnyside Community Services Hosted Thanksgiving Day Celebration



On Thanksgiving Day, staff, volunteers, and Board Members of Sunnyside Community Services (SCS) prepared, cooked, and served a traditional Thanksgiving meal for more than 150 older adults at SCS' main building in Sunnyside, NY. The Thanksgiving celebration is an annual tradition at SCS and this year marked the return of the in-person event. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and safety concerns, meals were delivered for the previous two years. Participants enjoyed

a number of activities before and after the meal, including singing, dancing, games, music, and a raffle with prizes. State Senator Michael Gianaris stopped by to visit with participants. The event was funded by NYC Aging and CityMeals.

The Thanksgiving Day event is just one of many programs throughout the year that SCS offers free for adults aged 60 and older. To join SCS' Center for Active Older Adults, contact info@scsny.org or 877-577-9337.

Meng Issues Statement on Senate's Failure to Pass The House Resolution to Provide Rail Workers With Paid Sick Leave



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) has issued the following statement condemning the Senate's failure to

pass a resolution, H. Con. Res. 119, to provide rail workers with seven paid sick days. The resolution passed the House with a 221-207 bipartisan vote on Wednesday, November 30.

"I am extremely disappointed by the Senate's failure to adopt the House-passed resolution that put essential rail workers ahead of corporate profits. Rail workers are responsible for transporting essential goods like fuel, water, and food across our nation. They, like all workers, deserve paid sick leave and it is appalling that some lawmakers disagree."


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IT'S IN QUEENS

It's In Queens! (Dec. 9 to Dec. 15)

Everybody is busy this time of year, including the borough of Queens. Holiday markets compete with holiday concerts and house tours. Then there are the workshops to make wreaths, gingerbread houses, and cards.

• Dec. 9, New York Croons for Christmas, 7 pm. Colm Reilly delivers a cabaret-style performance with some of New York's most esteemed jazz musicians. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

• Dec. 9, Curators' Choice Film Series, Jan. 21. More than two dozen movies screen during this annual promotion which shares MoMI curators' favorite 2022 films. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

• Dec. 9, Three Nights of Dance, Dec. 11. The Pioneers Go East Collective and Emilee Lord perform on the first two nights (\$17, 8 pm). Various artists offer new pieces and works-in-progress on the final one (\$15, 7 pm). Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Ste. 211, Long Island City.

• Dec. 9, Ceramics Holiday Market, Dec. 11. More than 30 ceramic artists peddle their work at accessible prices. Schedule: Dec. 9, 5 pm to 9 pm; Dec. 10, 10 am to 7 pm; and Dec. 11, noon to 5 pm. BrickHouse Ceramic Art Center, 10-34 44th Dr., Long Island City.

• Dec. 9, Sunnyside Shines, Dec. 23. A full set of vendors. Schedule is Thursday and Friday, 6 pm to 9 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm. Alewife Brewing, 41-11 39th St., Sunnyside.

• Dec. 10, Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas, Dec. 11. Calpulli Mexican Dance Company presents a story about a young NYC resident whose parents are from Mexico. Through a dream, he attempts to bring the two cultures together with Aztec-inspired dance performed to Christmas carols and Mariachi music melding with Tchaikovsky. Shows are 2 pm and 7 pm (Dec. 10) and 3 pm (Dec. 11). Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

• Dec. 10: Murder At The Museum, 5:30 pm. Diner, dessert, and delinquency. Once upon a time, a rich-but-grouchy man was deciding which of his relatives to leave his fortune... when suddenly he was murdered in a museum. Formal attire is recommended. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.

• Dec. 10, Annual Winter Concert, 7:30 pm. The Queens College Choral Society sings Handel's "Messiah" as part of an 82nd annual winter concert. Queens College's Colden Auditorium, 153-49 Reeves Ave., Flushing.

• Dec. 10, Say It Ain't So, 8 pm. A reading of a new play about Sandra, an affluent Black mother who's on the lam with her deaf sister, Renny. Sandra encounters

her ancestors who question if Black women can ever be free in the United States. ASL interpretation provided. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

• Dec. 10, Musiquita, 4 pm. The local children's group Musiquita offers a special Nutcracker show with tap dance star Demi Remick and Steve "the Wizard of the Upright Bass" Whipple. Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.

• Dec. 10, A Poetry Reading, 2 pm. David Mills reads his poems honoring former African American slaves who are buried in the cemetery. They include George Washington Johnson, Victoria Earle Matthews, Millie Tunnel, and Fannie Anthony. Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.

• Dec. 10, Brace For Impact: A New Play, 7 pm. A staged reading of Paraguayan playwright Maia Nikiphoroff's one-woman show about a flight attendant who fights to stay focused on the job while her father's body is being cremated. She gets help from a disheveled clown only she can see. Culture Lab LIC at The Plaxall Gallery, 5-25 46th Ave., Long Island City.

• Dec. 10, Queens Craft Brigade, noon. Jewelry, food, crafts, art, fashion, good times. Katch Astoria, 31-19 Newtown Ave.

• Dec. 10, Christmas Grand Market: A Caribbean Celebration, 5:30 pm, concert at 7 pm. Vendors sell crafts, drinks, food, toys, and other items with West Indian twists. The event ends with shows by Jodian Pantry (Jamaica), Denise Belfon (Trinidad & Tobago), Braata Folk Singers, Jonkanoo Parade, and others. Merrick Academy Charter School, 136-25 218th St., Laurelton.

• Dec. 10, Tree Lighting Ceremony + Holiday Dance Performance, 3 pm to 5:30 pm. Traditional holiday music with energetic street dancers. Santa and a surprise guest appear at the end to take photos. Free, but registration is required. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

• Dec. 10, 19th Century Tea Party, 3 pm. Design and construct a paper teacup using examples of real 19th-century cups during this King Manor Museum program. Learn about designs and motifs popular with early Americans and discover where and how popular teas were made across the globe. Queens Public Library, Ozone Park Branch, 92-24 Rockaway Blvd.

• Dec. 11, Holiday Historic House Tour, 1 pm. Four Flushing landmarks open their doors to the public during this 35th annual event. The participating sites — Bowne House (37-01 Bowne St.), Flushing Friends Meetinghouse (137-16 Northern Blvd.), Kingsland Homestead (143-35 37th Ave.), and Voelker Orth House (149-19 38th Ave.) — will be decorated as they were during their first holiday seasons. Plus, each one will offer time-honored

activities and refreshments.

• Dec. 11, Holiday Show, 3 pm. Queens Symphony Orchestra, conducted and directed by Martin Majkut, celebrates the holiday season with everything from Christmas carols to Hanukkah tunes. LeFrak Concert Hall, 153-49 Reeves Ave. Flushing.

• Dec. 11, A Christmas Festival, 4 pm. The Sacred Music Society of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and the Oratorio Society of Queens perform under the artistic direction of Maestro David Close. The program includes selections from Handel's "Messiah," beloved Christmas carols, and Holiday favorites. Our Lady Queens of Martyrs Church, Ascari Avenue and Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills.

• Dec. 11, Kunqu Society, 2 pm. To celebrate the season of harvest and reunion, the Kunqu Society presents three plays -- "Asking for Tea," "Fleeing Down the Mountain," and "The Interrupted Dream" -- featuring resident artists and members in costume and make-up. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

• Dec. 11, Holiday at the Castle, 2 pm. The Bayside Historical Society runs a family-friendly event with seasonal crafts, refreshments, storytelling, sing-a-longs, and a visit from Santa Claus. The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten.

• Dec. 11 + 18, Astoria Holiday Market, noon. Art, jewelry, toys, chocolates, body care, handbags, clothing, stationery, scarves, hats, and pottery on two days (Dec. 11 and 18). Plus, the host venue offers the Grandmas Kitchen menu, which includes homemade soups, platters, and apple strudel. Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden, 29-19 24th Ave., Astoria.

• Dec. 11, Wrap and Ribbon Holiday Market, noon. Local vendors sell gifts of all kinds, including jewelry, clothing, food, and beverage items. Commonpoint Queens Sam Field Center, 58-20 Little Neck Pkwy., Little Neck.

• Dec. 11, Christmas Bazaar, noon. Grace Episcopal Church King Hall, 155-24 90th Ave., Jamaica.

• Dec. 11, Holiday Brunch + Craft Cocktails Demonstration, 1 pm. Learn how to make a Champagne cocktail while enjoying a pastry basket. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

• Dec. 12, Holiday Wreath Crafting, 5:30 pm. Decorate a holiday wreath with a master florist. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

• Dec. 13, Adult Holiday Punch Needle Embroidery Craft, 5:30 pm. Learn embroidery with a renowned artist. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.

• Dec. 14, Quintet of the Americas, Dec. 17. This Jackson Heights-based group -- Kim O'Hare Bonacorsa (flute), Matt

(Continued on page 11)

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Attorney General James Reaches Multistate Agreement With CarMax to Protect Drivers' Safety

CarMax Failed to Tell Consumers about Safety Recalls on Their Vehicles

New Industry Standard Will Require Used Car Dealers to Inform Drivers of Open Safety Recalls Prior to Selling Used Vehicles

New York Attorney General Letitia James and a multistate coalition of 35 attorneys general today secured \$1 million from CarMax for failing to disclose open safety recalls on their used vehicles to consumers before sales. CarMax did not provide consumers with information about safety recalls on critical vehicle parts, such as brakes and fuel pumps, before selling vehicles. Today's agreement will set a new industry standard for used car dealers to disclose open safety recalls to customers before they make a purchase. New York will receive an estimated \$53,772.49 of the total settlement funds.

"When someone buys a car, they need to know that it will keep them safe," said Attorney General James. "CarMax put New Yorkers at risk by allowing drivers to get on the road without warning them that their newly purchased vehicles had open safety recalls. This agreement will protect New Yorkers and ensure that consumers are aware of any safety recall before they start driving. As At-

torney General, I will continue to ensure that companies that bypass the law are held to account and that New Yorkers are protected."

A multistate investigation found that CarMax, a nationwide used car dealer, misled consumers by failing to disclose needed repairs on vehicles with open safety recalls. CarMax classified those vehicles as "safe" despite there being open recalls for parts, including airbags and other critical safety features.

This agreement requires CarMax to stop these improper practices and changes overall industry standards in the used car market to protect consumers. Customers of used car dealerships will now be able to access information about any open safety recalls for any vehicles available for purchase. Under the agreement, CarMax is required to provide digital links for vehicles advertised online and QR codes for vehicles available on their lots which will allow consumers to access this information as they shop.

In addition, CarMax will present customers with documentation on any open safety recalls and obtain their signature to confirm proper disclosure before presenting the with any sales paperwork. The company will pay \$1 million in penalties, of which an estimated \$53,772.49 will go to New York.

CarMax will continue to use the National Highway Traffic and

Safety Administration's vehicle identification number tool to provide important safety information, including open recalls, to consumers. To check for any open recalls on their vehicle, consumers can use this online tool.

Joining Attorney General James in today's agreement are the attorneys general of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

This agreement was led by Deputy Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Rochester Regional Office Benjamin Bruce and Consumer Frauds Bureau Chief Jane Azia. The Rochester Regional Office is a part of the Division of Regional Affairs, which is led by Deputy Attorney General Jill Faber. The Consumer Frauds Bureau is a part of the Division of Economic Justice and is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Chris D'Angelo. The Division of Regional Affairs and the Division of Economic Justice are overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

Gillibrand Pushes to Close \$3.6 Billion Funding Gap in 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program in End-Of-Year Spending Bill

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand sent a letter to leadership pushing Congress to pass the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act in order to deliver \$3.624 billion in supplemental funding to close the impending funding gap in the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP). The funding shortfall will begin affecting the program and its ability to provide services starting in FY2025. Senator Gillibrand is pushing to include the bill in any upcoming legislative vehicle, including the omnibus spending bill or any end-of-year funding package. Gillibrand was joined during her video press conference by Ben Chevat, Executive Director of Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, and Tom Hart, a 9/11 responder and president of IUOE Local 94. Tom also sits on the Board of Directors of Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act.

"In 2011, we established the World Trade Center Health Program to provide first responders, survivors and their families with health care benefits in order to treat 9/11-related health conditions," said Senator Gillibrand. "Unfortunately, funding for the WTCHP will run short soon and force benefit cutbacks unless Congress takes action. The 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act will close this \$3.6 billion funding gap and ensure the program has the resources it needs now and into the future. I am going to work closely

with my colleagues to get this legislation included in any end-of-year spending bill."

"On behalf of Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, I want to thank Senator Gillibrand for her continuing efforts on behalf of 9/11 responders and survivors suffering from the impact of the toxins at Ground Zero even today over 21 years later. By working to ensure that the World Trade Center Health Program has the funds it needs, before the impending shortfall. This means that we will not have to ask responders and survivors to come to Washington again and walk the halls of Congress seeking action. Thank you, Senator Gillibrand." - Benjamin Chevat, Executive Director for Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act

"Thank you, Senator Gillibrand, for truly Never Forgetting 9/11 and for getting this done." - Tom Hart, 9/11 responder, President of IUOE Local 94, Board of Directors of Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act

After years of efforts and calls on the federal government, Congress established the WTCHP on a bipartisan basis in 2011 with a five-year authorization to provide medical treatment and monitoring for over 120,000 9/11 responders and survivors suffering from the effects of the toxins at Ground Zero. The program covers the lifespans of all exposed, including responders and survivors of the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the Shanksville

crash site, children who were in schools in downtown Manhattan on 9/11 and during clean-up, and those who have since experienced, or are expected to experience, adverse health effects that are linked to the attacks in the coming years. The program was reauthorized in 2015 and extended through 2090 with bipartisan support. Today, seven years since Congress reauthorized the program, it is estimated that the funding formula in the statute will not be able to keep pace with the anticipated costs of providing the program's services for 9/11 heroes, who span all fifty states and 434 of the 435 congressional districts. Soon, the WTCHP will not have the funds needed to provide care for all those still suffering the physical and mental impacts of 9/11 and for those who have yet to be diagnosed with new 9/11-associated conditions caused by their toxic exposures.

The original 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act was cosponsored in the Senate by Senators Schumer (D-NY), Menendez (D-NJ), Booker (D-NJ), Murphy (D-CT), Blumenthal (D-CT), Brown (D-OH), Kaine (D-VA), Baldwin (D-WI), Casey (D-PA), Reed (D-RI), Markey (D-MA), and Sanders (I-VT). The bill is led in the House of Representatives by Representative Carolyn Maloney and has over 120 additional cosponsors.

Senator Gillibrand has been a forefront advocate for 9/11 first responders and led the effort to pass

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries Statement on His Election as Democratic Leader

Following his election to House Democratic Leader for the 118th Congress, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) released the following statement:

"For the past five terms, it has been my great honor to serve in the Congress working alongside colleagues from all across this country.

Today, with immense pride, I stood in front of the House Democratic Caucus as a candidate for Democratic Leader, and I am eternally grateful for the trust my colleagues placed in me with their votes. It is a solemn responsibility that myself, Katherine Clark and Pete Aguilar are inheriting, and we will lean in hard and do the work with the seriousness and solemnity the moment requires. We stand on the shoulders of historic individuals, including our iconic Speaker Nancy Pelosi, our resolute Leader Steny Hoyer and our historic Majority Whip James E. Clyburn.

I am particularly humbled to be accepting this honor alongside my friends and partners in leadership, incoming Democratic Whip Katherine Clark and incoming Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar. Katherine rep-

resents another important crack in the glass ceiling, a trailblazer in the tradition of Speaker Pelosi. She makes all of us feel seen and heard and will work tirelessly to support our Democratic Caucus. I have watched how Pete brings people together to get things done, rolling up his sleeves as only a former Mayor can do. Katherine, Pete and I will work closely together fighting hard for everyday Americans.

Over the last few years, House Democrats have delivered extraordinary results for the American People. We are going to continue to put People Over Politics and fight for all our values. House Democrats will lift up working families, the middle class and those who aspire to be part of it, young people and senior citizens, veterans, the poor, the sick and the afflicted and the least, the lost and the left behind.

We will look for common ground with Republicans whenever and wherever possible, but oppose extremism on the other side of the aisle whenever necessary.

Democrats, at our best, fight For The People. That's not a slogan, that's a way of life, and we are just getting started. Onward."

MTA Proposes Fare Hike,

TSTC Demands Ending NY's Gas Tax Holiday

At a recent monthly board meeting, the MTA announced it will be conducting hearings on a proposal to increase subway, bus, and commuter rail fares by 5.5 percent. The fare increase, in addition to next year's \$2.6 billion deficit, will be included in the budget that is being prepared in December.

Earlier this year, Governor Kathy Hochul suspended the collection of roughly 17 cents per gallon in gas taxes until January 2023. The recent increase in gas prices now has a bipartisan group of legislators calling on the governor to extend the gas tax holiday.

Statement from Renae Reynolds, Executive Director of TSTC:

"The continued underfunding of the MTA has put the agency in a dire fiscal crisis. Without new revenue sources, fares will have to increase, services will be cut, and workers will be laid off. While these measures will temporarily help close the MTA's budget gap, they will also make it harder for working families and seniors to get around — and make our region less competitive economically.

"Governor Hochul must act now to protect transit riders and essential workers from a fare hike. We're calling on the governor and state lawmakers to immediately end the gas tax holiday and implement new dedicated funding sources for the MTA. To combat the region's crises — including road violence, traffic congestion, and carbon emissions — the state

must invest in mass transit rather than making it cheaper and easier to drive a private vehicle.

"TSTC has long advocated for dedicated transit funding, which would prevent these kinds of crises from happening. This is not a problem that can be resolved overnight, but Governor Hochul and state leaders have failed to enact any meaningful solutions. In fact, the state has actually made things worse by suspending its gas tax; according to an analysis by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (NY Focus), nearly a third of the benefits — up to \$183 million — are retained by fossil fuel companies.

"For every dollar New York loses in gas tax revenue because of the suspension, less than 50 cents go back into state residents' pockets, the analysis found. Only 42 percent of the benefits are going to New Yorkers who were intended as primary beneficiaries, while 22 percent go to out-of-state residents and 6 percent go to New York's richest 5 percent of households.

"Transit has long relied on gas tax revenue, but in recent decades those funds have been drying up significantly. There is a reluctance among politicians to raise the gas tax, and millions of Americans are switching to electric vehicles (EVs) — avoiding the tax entirely and further diminishing the pool of available funds. We are therefore urging Governor Hochul to end the gas tax holiday and provide sustainable funding for public transportation. The MTA needs a long-term funding solution — and it needs one as soon as possible."



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(Continued on page 10)

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Inducts Schmidt's Candy Into State Historic Business Preservation Registry

(Continued from page 6)

more than earned this recognition from her family's decades of contributions to the community. The confectionery exemplifies how Woodhaven is home to some of the city's most historic businesses and hardest-working owners, and I will ensure that they receive the support they deserve. This holiday season, Schmidt's Candy will again be packed as people from across the State enjoy these sweet chocolates."

Kevin D. Kim, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services said: "Small businesses like Schmidt's Candy are what makes New York City unique. Congratulations to Margie Schmidt on the well-deserved induction into the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. Here's to another 97 years!"

Margie Schmidt said: "When my grandfather founded Schmidt's Candy 97 years ago, he would have never imagined that the confectionery would literally make the history book. Thank you to Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar for being the one who made this happen and for her tenacious advocacy for our neighborhood's small businesses and its people. She is also the only person I know who works more hours than I do, and I will always be grateful for her work."

Queens Chamber of Commerce President Tom Grech said: "I was honored to participate in this momentous occasion for Schmidt's in Woodhaven today. Thanks so much to Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar for leadership and devotion to small businesses in the great County of Queens."

Vance Barbour of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, whose grandmother worked for Schmidt's Candy, said: "Margie Schmidt is a pillar of our community. She was one of the first inductees into the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association Hall of Fame. My neighbor Assemblywoman Rajkumar has now taken that recognition to new heights by adding Schmidt's Candy to the state historic registry. She is making sure Woodhaven gets its rightful place in the history books. I still remember when the Assemblywoman passed the resolution this year honoring Woodhaven's birthday. I thank her for her dedication to promoting our neighborhood's history and businesses."

Queens Together founder Jonathan Forgash said: "Today, Schmidt's being recognized for not only its history but its cultural significance in Woodhaven. Queens is filled with living cultural and culinary monuments, such as Schmidt's, that represent where we are from. The rich diversity of Queens is showcased in our restaurants and small businesses. Congratulations to Margie Schmidt for her much-deserved honor, and thank you to Assemblywoman Rajkumar for making it possible."

Community Board 9 Chair Sherry Algreto said: "Today we gathered to commemorate and celebrate the famous Schmidt's Candy on its historic milestone. This event was only possible because of Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar. She is always there for us, always advocating for our needs, and always here in the community. This was just one of the many ways she has brought so much more activity and engage-

ment here in South Queens. We are lucky to have her."

Queens Economic Development Corporation Public Relations Director Rob MacKay said: "This was a good news day. I was so happy for this moment. Thank you to Assemblywoman Rajkumar for making this happen. Schmidt's is so much more than a chocolate shop. It is a part of the community. Margie is always taking part in all the events and festivals in Woodhaven. She earned this place in the registry with her work in the shop and in the community, and Assemblywoman Rajkumar saw to it that Margie would have her moment in the sun."

State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. said: "What an honor it is for this community staple to officially be recognized in the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. Schmidt's Candy has been serving the people of Woodhaven since 1925. Throughout the years the family has kept this small business open and operating, and today we have Margie Schmidt — granddaughter of the original owner, Frank 'Grandpa' Schmidt — to continue the family tradition. As a fan of Schmidt's Candy, I congratulate the Schmidt family on this historic occasion, and I wish them all the luck going forward for another 97 years!"

Councilwoman Joann Ariola said: "Schmidt's Candy is a staple of the Woodhaven community and we are so happy to be celebrating 97 years of their sweet success. They have been able to withstand many of the obstacles that mom and pop shops face and people from all over Queens travel to Jamaica Avenue to visit this store."

Gillibrand Pushes to Close \$3.6 Billion Funding Gap in 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program in End-Of-Year Spending Bill

(Continued from page 9)

the bipartisan Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act in 2019, which fully funded and extended the September 11th Vic-

tim Compensation Fund. In 2010 she authored and passed the James Zadroga, 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that both created the WTCHP and reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). In October of 2018, following the announcement that the September 11th VCF

was set to run out of funding before its expiration date in 2020, Senator Gillibrand, joined by Senators Gardner and Schumer and Representatives Maloney, Nadler, and King, introduced a bipartisan bill to permanently reauthorize and fund the VCF for 9/11 heroes and their families.

Hofstra Lecture on Systems Design And Broadcast Engineering

(Continued from page 7)

things — primarily fixing setups. His company, BarryG Technologies LLC, provides a combination of services. For example, he offers broadcast and event engineering services for media outlets, live events and broadcasting setups, as well as audiovisual services.

In addition to discussing his career, Grossman gave students advice about entering the professional world of technology and design engineering. He recommended that students gain professional experience through internships or summer jobs in order to stand out from

other degree-holding candidates pursuing work in the industry.

Many Hofstra students, ranging from freshman to seniors, attended the event. They asked Barry personal and professional questions and also solicited general life advice. Mariama Kabbah, Isabella Ehrhardt, Nick Costanzo, Michael Ventrice, Estelle Barbieri, Matt Trasverso, among others, were some of those students who had their questions answered by Grossman. In addition to the student guests, Cav. Josephine A. Maietta, host of the Italian Cultural Music Show "Sabato Italiano" at

WRHU, asked Grossman how students should go about networking.

Grossman mentioned that it is essential to start creating a Linked profile and constantly update it with new information.

All students ended the informative night by thanking Grossman for coming to Hofstra. Many students noted how he offered many words of wisdom for the next generation of engineers interested in systems design and broadcasting. They expressed interest in continuing to come to events hosted by the radio station, making this week's Tech Thursday a big hit!

Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas to Introduce Bill in the Assembly to Decriminalize Sexual Activity of People With STIs

(Continued from page 4)

disproportionate risk by such laws that criminalize sexual expression. This law is not based on the abundance of infectious disease prevention research and undermines harm reduction efforts used by people who trade sex." - Mariah Grant, Director of Research and Advocacy, The Sex Workers Project of the Urban Justice Center.

The continued criminalization of HIV defies advancements in modern medicine. PHL 2307 continues to perpetuate discriminatory misconceptions about people living with HIV - that are historically felt by queer and trans people of color. HIV is not a crime and we look forward to working with our partners to repeal this outdated and backwards law. - Elisa Crespo, Executive Director of the NEW Pride Agenda

As someone who has been living with HIV for the past 11+ years, PHL 2307 has been one of the scariest things about my diagnosis. Not only was I worried about staying alive, but I was incredibly fearful of becoming a criminal because of my sexuality. This type of stigma, trauma, and violence disproportionately burdens Queer, Trans, Non-Binary people of color and does nothing to advance the health of the public, which is the very purpose of Public Health Law. We are worthy

of just and affirming public health law, and look forward to creating it collaboratively with our partners. - John Yates, Founder and Executive Director of PODER

HIV criminalization laws offer a false sense of protection and safety under the guise of public health. Laws like PHL §2307 cause unjust harm to people who use drugs, sex workers, TGNCNB folks, and Black and Brown folks. To end the HIV epidemic in New York, we need to stick to proven interventions that do not disincentivize testing and instead decrease stigma and discrimination associated with HIV & AIDS. - Taylor Edelmann, LGBTQIA+ Health & Harm Reduction Manager, National Harm Reduction Coalition

Criminalization is never an appropriate response to a healthcare issue. PHL §2307 increases the criminalization of trans people, especially Black trans people, and is counter to best practices in public health. People living with HIV and other STIs deserve care, compassion, and support, not violent policing and punishment that harms these community members. New York should join the growing number of states recognizing this reality and repeal PHL §2307. - Milo Inglehart, Staff Attorney, Transgender Law Center

"For decades Queers New Yorkers have been criminalized for having HIV/AIDS.

It's now time for New York state to repeal PHL 2307" - Alisha Kohn Director of Queers for Justice at The Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center.

"For 76 years, New York's PHL 2307 has unjustly criminalized individuals living with an STI or HIV. This law is not only outdated but grossly undermines public health and safety and ignores decades of scientific advancement in infectious disease prevention. Repealing this harmful law is vital to advancing New York's public health goals and to end the discriminatory treatment of people living with HIV & AIDS." Christine Khaikin, Senior Health Policy Attorney at The Legal Action Center.

"Criminalization is a bad substitute for public health initiatives," said Tyrone Hanley, NCLR Director of Racial and Economic Justice Initiatives. "Not only is it ineffective, but it also perpetuates stigma and discrimination against unpopular groups. This is a reason why the LGBTQ movement has a long history of resisting efforts to criminalize our community and violence by the state, including the police. Repealing New York's law which criminalizes people living with sexually transmitted infections is a part of that legacy and the law deserves to be put into history books - where it belongs."



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of NENOT'S NYC LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 6336 Fitchett Street, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

EVIUM CHARGING, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/2/22. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to David Fenig 152 Beach 6th St Far Rockaway NY 11691. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/3,10,17,24,12/1&8/2022

Notice of Formation of ELITE EHS CONSULTANTS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/12/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2520 42nd St. #1C, Astoria, NY, 11103 Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

Notice of Formation of ATREVIDO LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/22/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4509 104 Street, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/10,17,24,12/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of 9108 ROOSEVELT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/02/22. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o MCO, 111-15 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11375. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

2340 27 STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/28/22. 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, 2340 27th Street, Queens, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of TREMAINE SECURITY SERVICES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/01/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 167-20 144th Drive, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of ABA TAX LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8595 150TH Street, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/3,10,17,24,12/1&8/2022

67-22 Fresh Pond Road LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/12/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Calogero & Maria Noto, 158-16 89th St., Howard Beach, NY 11414. General Purpose. 11/3,10,17,24,12/1&8/2022

SJ Richmond LLC filed w/ SSNY on 11/4/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 126-15 89th Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: any lawful. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

8230 Parsons LLC filed w/ SSNY on 10/11/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 30-55 37th St., Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful. 11/10,17,24,12/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of AZUGA POWER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/11/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 50-22 40th St, #2G, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

518 Services LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/20/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 33-15 211 St., Bayside, NY 11361. General Purpose. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

Notice of Qualification of CV Executive Services, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/30/22. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/06/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1482 E. Valley Rd., Ste. 300, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. Address to be maintained in DE: 838 Walker Rd., Ste. 21-2, Dover, DE 19904. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

AARG CAPITAL LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/8/2022. 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: The LLC, 141-03 71st Ave, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Mejor Amiga Appliances, LLC filed w/ SSNY on 11/18/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 163-07 Depot Rd., Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of SPECIMEN DESIGNS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1867 Bleecker St., Apt 2F, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

168-07 Northern Blvd LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 168-07 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11358, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIANO IRAGGI, a/k/a MARTIN IRAGGI, Deceased. Case No. ST-2021-PB-00032
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Ancillary Administration has been filed on behalf of the Estate of Mariano Iraggi, a/k/a Martin Iraggi, deceased, and all persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, verified by affidavit, and all persons indebted to the Estate to make payment promptly to the Petitioners: Nancy Abatemarco, Ramona Cottone and Gerilyn Cefalu, or their undersigned counsel. Law Offices of Richard H. Dollison, P.C.
Dated: December 2, 2022
By: /s/ Richard H. Dollison
Richard H. Dollison
V.I. Bar #: 502
5143 Palm Passage, Ste. B28/29
P.O. Box 6135
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00804-6135
(340) 774-7044
(340) 774-7045 fax
rhd@rdollisonlaw.com
12/8,15,22&29/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of RGM TRANSPORT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/19/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 5860 78th Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

Notice of Formation of NF Psychology, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Rodin Legal, P.C., 215 E 58th St, Ste 4C, NY, NY 10022. Purpose: practice the profession of Psychology. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023



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Sullivan (oboe and English horn), David Valbuena (clarinet and bass clarinet), Barbara Oldham (horn), and Alexander Davis (bassoon) -- mixes Mozart with wind music, tango, and a Kwanzaa tune. Shows are • Dec. 14, 7 pm, The Church-in-the-Gardens, 50 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills; Dec. 17, 3 pm, Queens Public Library in Jackson Heights, 35-51 81st St.; and Dec. 18, 3 pm, The Center at Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.
• Dec. 14, Monthly Jazz Jam, 7 pm. On the second Wednesday of the month, musicians hone skills and jam with peers and the house band. Don't play? Don't worry. Listen! Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
• Dec. 14, 15 + 16, Made In Queens Market, 11 am to 2 pm. QEDC's annual, three-day market features borough makers only. Bulova

Corporate Center Atrium, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., East Elmhurst.
• Dec. 14, Kids Holiday Christmas Card Making, 4 pm to 6 pm. Make holiday cards with free snacks. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.
• Dec. 15, A Christmas Carol, Dec. 31. Ebenezer Scrooge is unkind to his employees in this classic Dickens play. One cold Christmas Eve, he is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, and then by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future. He ends up filled with holiday spirit. Fifteen shows. Performances at 7:30 pm. Matinees on Dec. 17, 24, and 31 at 3 pm. The Secret Theatre, 38-02 61st St., Woodside.
• Dec. 15, Kids Gingerbread House Crafting, 4 pm to 6 pm. The Shops at Skyview, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing.



Chairman Jeffries: "House Democrats Are Committed to Defending Democracy And Fighting For Freedom"

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award ceremony, and also express my gratitude not only for the members of the Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police force, the families who were present, but also to our January 6 Select Committee for their leadership in making sure that we have accountability for that day. And a special thanks to our Vice Chair and Caucus Chair-elect Pete Aguilar for his service on that committee.

With just three weeks left in the 117th Congress, House Democrats are not letting up on our fight for people and for progress. This week, we are on track to take up the NDAA, and we will send the Respect for Marriage Act to President Biden's desk. When the right-wing Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade and subverted reproductive freedom in this country, House Democrats jumped into action. We voted to protect the right to abortion, the right to access birth control, the right to travel across state lines to receive health care and the right to marry who you love. We acted to stop Republican extremism that has left women and families

around this country worried about their future. Americans don't want a Congress that is limiting their rights, freedoms and their ability to chart their own future.

There is an essential question facing Republicans. Do they have an affirmative vision for our country, or is their only plan to divide us, suspend our Constitution and roll the clock back on liberty? House Democrats understand it is our job to build a better future for every American – to meet their challenges with solutions that move us forward. So we're continuing our work to create good, green jobs, make our communities safe, tackle the high costs of housing, child care, health care. And no matter where you live, or your party affiliation, these are problems that we are going to work to deliver on for the American people. Our commitment is simple – to leave no one behind as we work to strengthen our nation's future.

AGUILAR: As both leaders mentioned, the significance and the importance of the Gold Medal Ceremony that we attended today isn't lost on me, the members of the January 6 Committee and the entire

Democratic Caucus who stood in lockstep to support that Gold Medal for Capitol Police officers, Metro Police officers and those law enforcement first responders. This morning, at our Caucus meeting, we also talked about the importance of preventing a GOP-led government shutdown and the consequences of a continuing resolution, particularly as it would impact and damage our military. This is, this was underscored by Chairman Adam Smith, who talked about the importance of the National Defense Authorization Act, bringing it to the floor and how a CR would prevent us from funding any new priorities related to defense and the importance of standing with the people of Ukraine as well. The President sent us a request for funding, and it's incumbent upon us to act on that in this Congress.

And finally, every member of our Caucus is encouraged by the economic news. Under the Biden administration, over 10.5 million jobs created, gas prices declining, and we're going to continue to try to enact reforms and measures that will help our economy and help our recovery.



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato Brings New York State Hearing On LIPA & PSEG To Rockaway Peninsula



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-South Queens) along with other representatives of the Legislative Commission on the Future of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, December 15 at the Rockaway YMCA, starting at 10am. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato, who was appointed to the highly coveted commission, is bringing the opportunity for the public to speak on LIPA and PSEG. "Too often our community is overlooked and forgotten but I have secured us a seat at the table and hope all of you will pull up a chair. This is our chance to stand up and make our voices heard and give our input on LIPA and PSEG," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato.

The public is encouraged to attend and speak about their experiences with LIPA and PSEG. "The Commission wants to hear from everyone," said Pheffer Amato. The goal of the hear-

ing is to gather testimony from the public which will then help the Commission craft reforms that LIPA, and its subsidies like PSEG, would respond to in the areas of transparency, overall operations, electrical rates, storm response, while also deciding the future of LIPA, along with PSEG which provides electricity on the Rockaway Peninsula. "By hearing from residents, community civic groups and members, small business owners and everyone who is a customer of LIPA and PSEG, we can incorporate their ideas towards making the needed changes to get us the electrical provider we deserve," said Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato. The Commission, which took testimony from Nassau County residents on November 29, will also take testimony from those in Suffolk County on December 16.

To register for the hearing or for more information, people can visit the website nylipa.gov.

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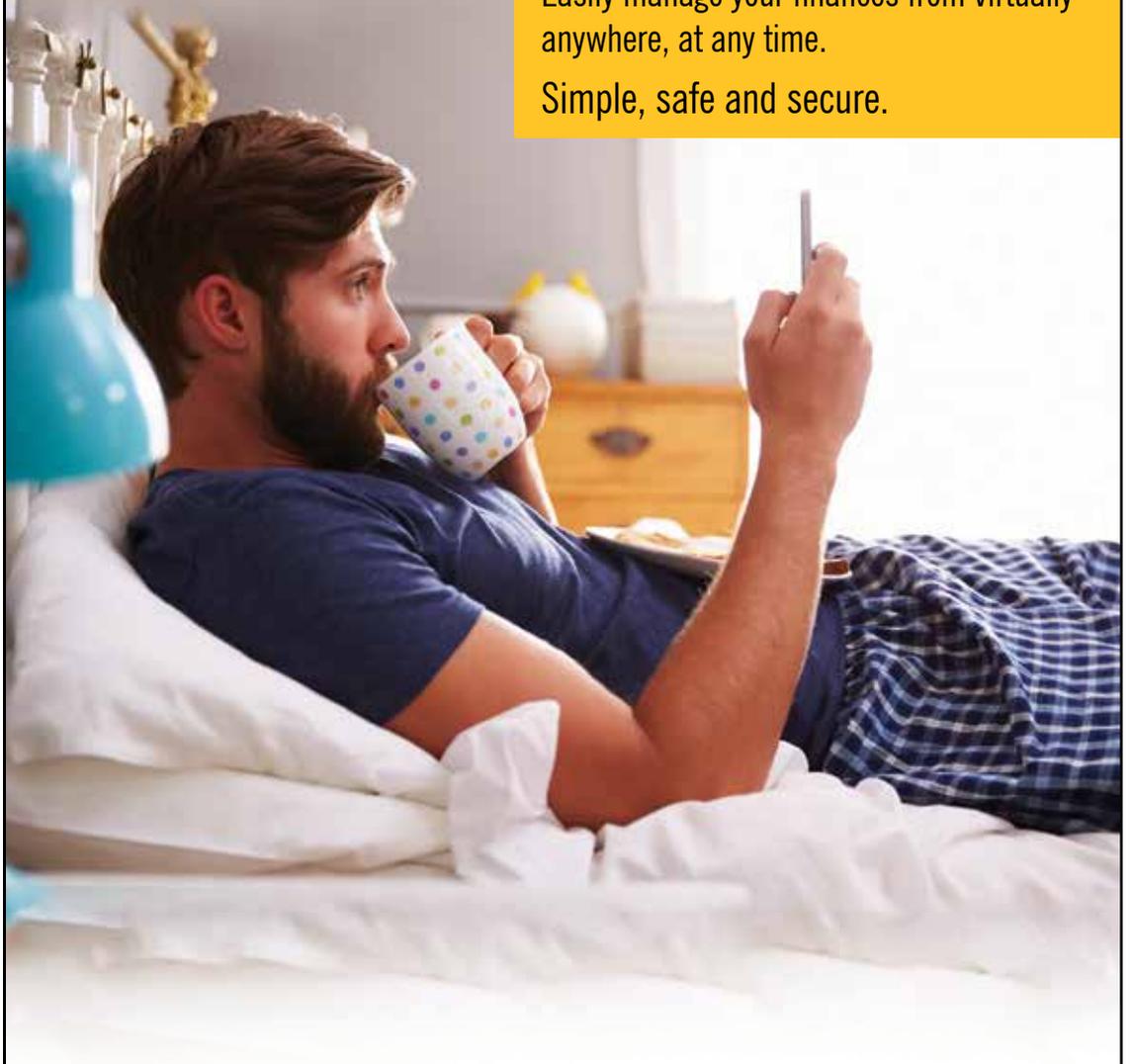
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