



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 29, No 13 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2016



**INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
REFLECTIONS ON GUN CONTROL | PG. 4



**CANDIDATES SPAR IN 13TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE | PG. 7**

## MORE BEAT COPS HIT THE STREETS

*52nd Precinct Launches New NCO Program, Revamps Sectors*



Photo by Adi Talwar

**ASSISTANT NYPD CHIEF** Terence Monahan (holding mic) offers an overview of the new sector maps following the formal rollout of the Neighborhood Coordination Officer program.

**By DANIELA BEASLEY**

The 52nd Precinct officially rolled out the Neighborhood Coordination Officer program (NCO), part of the NYPD's overall Neighborhood Policing Program.

Eight patrol officers and one sergeant, referred to as neighborhood coordinating officers (NCOs), make up the precinct's NCO program. They're offered the chance to

create their own schedules while also provided with a smartphone for residents to stay connected to them at all times.

"I guarantee that if you have a persistent problem, these cops will take care of it," said Assistant Chief Larry Nikunen, referring to the roundtable of NCOs at the front of Mintz Auditorium in Monroe College on June 20.

The new program goes beyond just introducing a new crop of officers, but changing the precinct's overall approach to fighting crime. Previously, the precinct was divided into 15 different sectors, areas where officers are assigned to patrol during their shift. Under the program, the precinct was rezoned into four sectors categorized as 52A, 52B, 52C and 52D. The 52nd Precinct

covers Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood and University Heights.

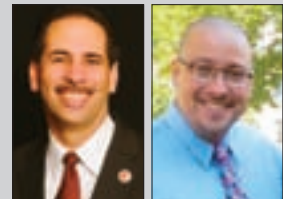
Within the month, the program will commence in two more precincts, the 48th and the 42nd, and the NYPD is working to see all of their precincts establish this program by the end of the year.

Two patrol officers will exclusively tour an assigned

*(continued on page 19)*



**Movies at the Oval**  
pg 5



**Cabrera to Run  
Against Rivera for  
33rd S.D. | pg 6**



**Norwood News  
Snapshots | pg 10**



**Out & About**  
pg 18

Vol. 29, No. 13

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC)  
3400 Reservoir Oval East  
Bronx, New York 10467  
Phone: 718 324 4998  
Fax: 718 324 2917  
E-mail: [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org)  
Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

**Publisher**  
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

**Executive Director of MPC**  
Melissa Cebollero

**Editor-in-Chief, Norwood News**  
David Cruz

**Accounts Receivable**  
Dawn McEvoy

**Proofreader**  
Judy Noy

**Regular Contributors**  
David Greene, Adi Talwar

**Contributors**  
Daniela Beasley, Jasmine Gomez,  
Miriam Quinones

**Interns**  
Tatyana Turner, Adrianna Lombardo

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## EDITORIAL

# NYPD Must Win the Public Over Through NCO

The 52nd Precinct rolled out its Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) program, falling under its Neighborhood Policing Plan, a commendable patrol program in which a handful of cops will permanently stay within a segment of a precinct to derail crime (see the front page story on the introduction of the program).

The new role officers have adopted is nearly akin to a small-town sheriff—they know everyone and everyone knows them. For the pair of officers immersing themselves in the respective neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, University Heights, Fordham and Kingsbridge Heights, interfacing with the public can be awkward, maybe uncomfortable for both sides. But achieving that sheriff-like quality should involve an unwritten agreement between the police and those policed.

For residents, the understanding should be this: don't confuse an officer's kindness as weakness.

For officers, to win over the public means embracing the quasi-skeptic, dropping the us-versus-them angle, and ensuring your phone can accept text and voicemail messages.

For both, safe streets are a mutual benefit.

The first prong is relatively easy. Residents must know that the NCO program functions as a community-relations initiative that's not an automatic program where officers cozy up with residents. An officer's primary role is to keep the peace, eliminate crime, and answer pesky quality-of-life concerns. They're not there to be a friend, though the courteous and helpful tactic, not being curt, can work in mending fences. This distinction should be underscored. There's no get-out-of-jail free card should you commit a crime.

For officers, winning the public goes beyond seeing the familiar faces, and speaking to those who don't regularly



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**OFFICERS INVOLVED IN** the NCO program such as these are more likely to be the faces of the 52nd Precinct.

attend community council meetings or board meetings. One admirable quality in the NCO program is the creation of group meetings intended to meet folks less likely to attend a community council meeting. For the NCO program to be a true success, it requires officers to not just make nice with the frequent guests of community board and community council meetings but the ones who won't step foot in a meeting and would not dare to help police.

Lastly, a component of respect must be established by the two sides. Neighborhoods have long seen the effects of sour police relations so much, it's left a community scornful. But those scars can be softening some if communities learn to let go of resentment and start fresh. In southern portions of Bedford Park where gangs and crews call it home, for instance, letting go appears remote. High praise to any officer who can turn that neighborhood around.

Changing the perception is a tall order, of course. In a way, the program loosens the tribal grip that's been linked to police since the Giuliani and Bloomberg years, where the wedge between the NYPD and the community was so great it saw a spike in the number of suits against the Police Department.

Part of this breakdown in community relations was largely due to the NYPD's stop, question and frisk, a policy so overused during the Bloomberg years it became a closely-watched federal court case that the NYPD ultimately lost. With the NYPD's Risk Management Bureau, a burgeoning internal panel, one can bet the NCO program will be closely watched to determine whether being officer friendly can decrease instances where police officers are shot at and lawsuits decline.

## Public and Community Meetings

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7** committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229 E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Community Relations/Long Term Planning Committee meets June 28; Economic Development Committee meets June 28 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the Board office at (718) 933-5650.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Starting in July, local Community Board 7, Bedford Mosholu Community Association, and the 52nd Precinct Community Council will be taking a summer hiatus, and will resume in September. Community Board 7 will continue to have regular office hours during the summer.



# Opinion

## Answers for the Student Homelessness Crisis

By LATOYA JOYNER

Of the 58,000 people sleeping in shelters on any given night, nearly three-quarters are parents and their children, who are unable to afford an apartment in our increasingly unaffordable city.

For the six-year-old living in a shelter or doubled up in the home of a family friend, the daunting prospects of learning to read and social dynamics of making new friends are fraught with the instability of homelessness. Children who are homeless are more likely to be suspended and to have behavioral issues in school. Due to the often longer commutes, they may struggle to complete their homework

and study for exams. Indeed the stigma of homelessness can be a source of stress and trauma for children.

While this citywide phenomenon has received only scant attention until recently, I have been all too aware of this crisis due to the significant impact on my own community in Bronx School District 9 where a full 18 percent of the student body was in temporary housing during the 2013-14 school year, according to the Department of Education. The impact of homelessness is not abstract, but has a direct effect upon student performance in the classroom, as approximately 33 percent of students experi-



LATOYA JOYNER

encing homelessness are considered chronically absent. This is not a problem limited to just one borough – instead it reaches into communities throughout the city; nearly 30,000 students resided in a shelter over the course of last school year.

Since my election to the New York State Assembly, I have been a relentless advocate for additional state funding to expand opportunities and improve results for children living in homeless shelters and I am pleased Mayor de Blasio is moving forward

with a critical initiative to better support this population. His administration's new \$10.3 million investment in improving outcomes for homeless students significantly expands educational support for youth in shelters including investments in onsite literacy programs, attendance assistants to reduce chronic absenteeism, and social workers to provide emotional support for families. It also devotes funding to initiatives that ensure communication among Department of Education staffers and families to address challenges in real-time.

Coupled with a \$19.5 million commitment to build school-based health centers that will expand access to health care for students living in shelters, Mayor de Blasio's initiative is critical progress toward New York's public education system, effectively meeting the needs of students in need of permanent housing.

And in January of this year, the de Blasio administra-

tion rectified a longstanding inequality that deprived children in shelter from access to yellow school buses. Now, thousands of children have yellow school buses picking up and dropping off children in shelters. Parents are now spared lengthy commutes to and from schools and are better able to maintain employment.

Having seen the impact of homelessness on the educational performance of students in my community, I know firsthand the challenges students and their families face in today's difficult housing market. By building an effective partnership between our schools and our shelters we can restore opportunities and enhance educational attainment for a generation of New Yorkers.

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represents the communities of Claremont, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden and Morris Heights sections of the Bronx.*

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# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE

**This week we asked readers if they think domestic terrorism is on the rise and if stricter federal gun control laws would solve the problem.**



Most certainly domestic terrorism is definitely on the rise as shown in Orlando, Fla. I believe what [President] Barack Obama was saying at a town hall meeting, and he made a great analogy with driving and guns. People were dying in accidents at a phenomenal rate until they did a study and they were able to determine that seat belts save lives. The gun lobbyists won't let us do any kind of research at all, in regards to guns and death. Certainly, we're not saying that we want to repeal the second amendment [right to bear arms]. All we're saying is let's do some research, get some data and start saving lives.

**Donna Sue Johnson**  
Westchester Square

Yes, I do think domestic terrorism is on the rise and there's very little being done about it. I actually think gun control will help and guns won't be so accessible.

**Darlene Thomas**  
Pelham Parkway

I definitely think it's on the rise. I think stricter gun control is one of the solutions for sure. It seems to be that the Democrats in the House are filibustering to try and get a bill introduced, so that's exciting and I think it's high time for things to change. I think we need to have a dialogue in the country about mental health and how people get treated instead of ignored. Even in the prison system in New York City, there are a lot of people locked away that have mental issues that we wouldn't have to keep them in prison if those issues were addressed.

**Anthony Molina**  
Mott Haven

I do believe terrorism is on the rise, because hate is on the rise. I don't think that gun control would change anything because guns don't kill people, people kill people. So it doesn't matter if there's 12 guns or a million guns, it's people killing people. It won't help. If I had the solution, I wouldn't be here. People have to begin to stop hating and start loving each other.

**Francis German**  
Grand Concourse

Domestic terrorism? I would say yes. I think they should ban all assault weapons. I think all guns should be thrown into a river or a fire.

**Kathleen LaMantia**  
City Island

**Editor's Note:** Have an idea for an Inquiring Photographer question? Send suggestions to [dcruz@norwoodnews.org](mailto:dcruz@norwoodnews.org).

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Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) are part of the New York City Rent Freeze Program, helping those who are eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent.



# Movies Under the Cover of Twilight



Adi Talwar

**IN THE TAIL** end of magic hour, the time just before dusk, neighbors brought out their lawn chairs, blankets and snacks, kicking back at Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood, the scene for a free outdoor screening of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" on June 11.

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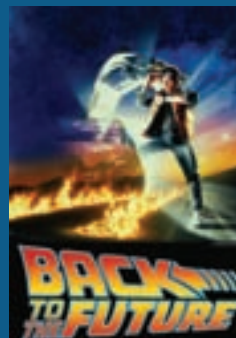


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# Cabrera to Run for 33rd Senate District...Again

By DAVID CRUZ

State Senator Gustavo Rivera, a Democrat representing the 33rd Senate District in the Bronx, told the *Norwood News* he thought he was going to have a quiet summer.

Those plans were scrapped after hearing he would once again have to defend his Senate seat against a familiar political adversary—Councilman Fernando Cabrera.

Cabrera, representing the Bronx's 14th Council District, announced a run for the seat, confirming rumors that he would run again. His announcement goes against a request by Bronx Democratic County Committee chair Marcos Crespo, who mended fences with Rivera shortly after he and Cabrera squared off during the 2014 election cycle. Crespo, whose overarching goal is for more party unity, asked Cabrera to hold off on running again, according to Rivera. Cabrera's run, according to Rivera, seems inexplicable. After all, Council members have a higher salary (thanks to a recent raise), are spared multiple trips to Albany, and have discretionary funding at



File photos

**POLITICAL REMATCH.** COUNCILMAN Fernando Cabrera (l) is once again challenging state Senator Gustavo Rivera (r).

their disposal.

For his part, Cabrera expressed disappointment in Rivera's record of Senatorial achievements within the last two years, calling him a "do-nothing Senator" who has brought "not a dollar" to the largely

working poor district compared to millions of dollars other state senators in the Bronx have funneled into their respective districts (Albany legislators do not have discretionary funds). "That's why we get elected—to bring resources to the community," said Cabrera, who's been in office the last seven years, and could seek another Council term.

"I believe that I have the track record of having brought funding to our district, at a level of \$40 million not just in our district, but city-wide," said Cabrera, citing other initiatives that include upgraded park facilities at St. James Park in Fordham, an anti-gun violence initiative dubbed Cure Violence, and more surveillance cameras than any other Council district in the city. "I would ask my opponent: 'what schools have you brought funding to?' And every single principal has told me that the Senator has not brought a dollar."

Cabrera, a Democrat, is an ordained minister with some conservative leanings. His positions led Rivera to characterize Cabrera as a "Republican in Democrats clothing."

"We have a guy who is a Republican, changed his registration to Democrat just so he could run for office," said Rivera. "He's anti-choice, anti-woman, anti-LGBT, and he takes money from right-wing hedge-funders who really give

money to Republicans across the country."

Troubling Rivera more is Cabrera's personal conservative stances, pointing to a 2014 incident where Cabrera praised the government of Uganda for its zero-tolerance policy on gay marriage. Cabrera called Rivera's criticism "Donald Trump-type of politics" in which a legislator with no solid platform goes on the attack.

"He's trying to bully people when you don't have a track record," said Cabrera. "That's why he's thinking that way. I understand; he's scared."

Rivera's strength comes via his constituent services portion of his office, helping in housing, immigration, business, and other legal matters free of charge. He's also become the legislative point-man for the Kingsbridge Armory project, having organized a town hall forum on the status of the project. Cabrera, who did not attend the forum, was accused of using his position as Councilman to persuade developers of the project to fund his nonprofit in exchange for voting in favor of the project in 2013.

The race comes amid a potential shift in power within the state Senate. With Republicans holding a majority, albeit barely, the push to change the political winds in the state Senate has become paramount.

The 33rd Senate District covers the Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights, Fordham, Van Nest, Morris Park, and Crotona Park. Its reach is double the size of the 14th Council District, which Cabrera finds to be a desirable factor when running for the seat.

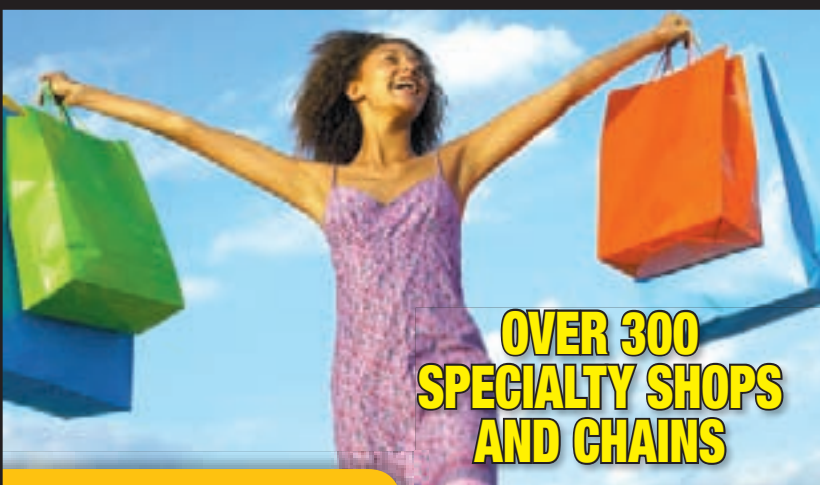
The last race between Cabrera and Rivera saw the incumbent grabbing 70 percent of the vote. Cabrera blamed a "liberal media" for his loss.

"What he's asking me to do is to go back to my constituency and ask them again for their help and their support to continue working on their behalf. I am more than happy to do that," said Rivera. "That is a great summer to spend going up and down stairs in 90-degree weather."

The Democratic primary is scheduled for Sept. 13.

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# At 13th CD Debate, Minus Three Candidates, a Tamer Joust

By DAVID CRUZ

The candidates for the 13th Congressional District race squared off in a penultimate debate before the June 28 primary, this time focusing more on policy and staving off mudslinging.

The debate, hosted and televised on BronxNet, saw six of the nine Democratic candidates—Sam Sloan, Clyde Williams, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Keith Wright, Suzan Johnson Cook, and Mike Gallagher—take prepared questions from Gary Axelbank, the moderator. Three of the candidates—Assemblyman Guillermo Linares, Senator Adriano Espaillat, and Yohanny Caceres—were unavailable. Espaillat said last-minute business in the Albany Legislature, particularly talk on mayoral control, compelled him to stay. Linares and Caceres did not offer an explanation on their absence.

The debate, the fourth so far, saw a return to a less combative setting instead, unlike the previous two debates where accusations of candidate suppression and heckling by members of the audience raged.

The answers saw a kaleidoscope of responses on questions ranging from the fight for affordable housing, economic development, student loan forgiveness and Mayor Bill de Blasio's overall performance (not one gave him an A). The district, long held by soon-to-retire Congressman Charles Rangel, is unevenly split, with roughly 20 percent covering the Bronx, in-

cluding Norwood. The rest covers Manhattan, particularly all of Harlem where a waning power base exists.

Many pegged themselves as always keeping the Bronx in mind, offering the chance to insert their borough connection and characterize the rest as just arriving. The borough link had many candidates vowing to open a district office in the borough, a promise unfulfilled by Rangel. The small portion has indeed put the Bronx on the political back burner, though a burgeoning Hispanic population in the district, has compelled candidates to go beyond Manhattan.

“What the folks in Norwood, what the folks in Riverdale, what the folks in University Heights want is exactly same thing as everybody: we want affordable housing, equal access to healthcare, (and) we want a good education for our children,” said Wright, the front runner.

Housing certainly remained at the forefront for Williams, who warned if “we don’t do something soon, the diversity that we see in this community today will not be here 10 or 15 or 20 years from now.”

While Sloan pushed for gentrification in the Bronx, Johnson Cook, ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom, said low-income housing is needed for Bronx residents who can’t afford to buy a home yet. “We’re going to make sure that there are levels for

(continued on page 17)



Photo by Adrianna Lombardo

**THE CROWDED FIELD** of candidates for the 13th Congressional District seat include (l-r) Sam Sloan, Clyde Williams, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Keith Wright, Suzan Johnson Cook, and Mike Gallagher. Senator Adriano Espaillat, Yohanny Caceres, and Assemblyman Guillermo Linares were unavailable for the debate. Standing behind them is Gary Axelbank, debate moderator.

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# Timber?

## *Dogwood trees could come down at Mosholu Pkwy. after two years*

By JASMINE GOMEZ

For the past few years, about 250 dogwood trees have been blooming in what was once an open field covered in green grass. But the fate of those trees has been left dangling like a dead tree limb.

The dogwoods, found along Mosholu Parkway, were planted by the forestry division of the New York City Department of Parks in 2014. An official explanation on why they're being removed in September is not clear.

But Elizabeth Quaranta, president of Friends of Mosholu Parkland, said she first heard the news by a Parks employee who explained the dogwoods would be removed citing complaints from residents who hadn't been informed of the plantings. A discovery that the trees had been mistakenly planted on historic landscape was another reason.

A spokesman for the Parks Department noted the parkway appears on the Capital "Legacy Park" list, a status that

takes into consideration the consistent look of an area.

Quaranta, who favors keeping the trees, contacted the National Register of Landscape Preservation and was told that they do not have Mosholu Parkway legally registered as a historic landscape, but that it may be viewed so by local residents.

Quaranta now believes that the removal of the trees is solely based on the complaints of a few influential members of the community, members who have yet to come forward. She also suspects some of the complaints may be from older members of the community who recall using the now occupied open field for pastimes like football.

"We didn't know either that those trees were going to be planted there. However, we welcomed them because they were put there for good reason. And if you move the clock to today, they actually have benefitted us already," said



Photo by David Cruz

**WHAT WILL BECOME** of these trees is a question some residents want answered following claims they'll be removed two years after being planted.

Quaranta.

The trees have had several benefits including soaking up water from heavy rainfalls that would erode the soil, creating a greener lawn and healthier trees, and less noticeably, absorbing pollutants from the many cars that travel on the parkway daily, according to Quaranta.

Quaranta sees no environmental reason to remove the trees, calling the matter ironic. "Because they [the residents] complained that they weren't involved in the planting of those trees, does that give them the right to again not involve the rest of the community and take them

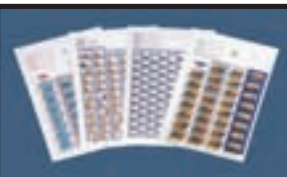
out just for political reasons? Are we taking them out for political reasons or are they environmental?" said Quaranta.

Talks regarding the dogwood trees are still ongoing, according to Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, who told the Norwood News, "We will continue the dialogue with our elected partners and community stakeholders to determine the next steps."

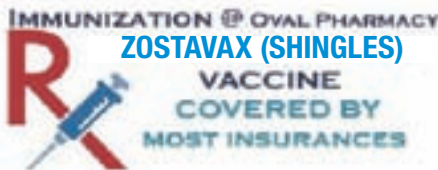
In the hopes of putting a halt to any dogwood removal plans, the Friends of Mosholu Parkland has sent a letter to both the Bronx borough president and the Parks commissioner. They will also be circulating an online petition.



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# Judge's Proposal to Release KNIC's Lease Attached With Stipulations

By DAVID CRUZ

A Bronx judge presiding over one of four intertwining cases linked to the Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), proposed to city lawyers it allow the ice center's lease be freed from escrow "forthwith" until next February so it can raise funds needed to begin the long-awaited project.

But Judge Ruben Franco of Bronx Supreme Court, blatantly nudging to advance the \$350 million project, warned KNIC it would have to relinquish the lease if it doesn't obtain the \$138 million needed to proceed with the project's first phase. The recommendation bore similarities to a proposal outlined by both KNIC and New York City Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen in April.

The two sides were initially in court to report back on a letter they had sent to the state showing it has written proof it's ready to give a \$138 million construction loan to KNIC. The state has yet to respond.

The judge's recommendation followed an hour of arguments, rebuttals and some heated exchanges between both sides. At issue is whether KNIC has the required funds necessary for the city to con-

fidently give ice center developers the lease. KNIC has long argued it has financial commitments from the state, specifically the Empire State Development corporation (ESD) and Public Authorities Control Board (PACB), two panels that agreed to offer KNIC the full loan needed for the project's first phase. KNIC so far has \$15 million.

By having a lease released from escrow, KNIC can proceed with obtaining the full construction loan from ESD and PACB, and perhaps a variety of mortgage loaners. To receive a state loan, KNIC needs to show the state it has the lease. It's a requirement that could prove attractive to other potential lenders should KNIC decide to look beyond the state.

Judge Franco's proposal still needs approvals from the New York City Economic Development Corporation and KNIC's board of directors. Both sides are expected to return to court June 23 to tell a judge whether it would approve the terms.

If this recommendation is approved by both sides, work cannot start until all full funding is made available.



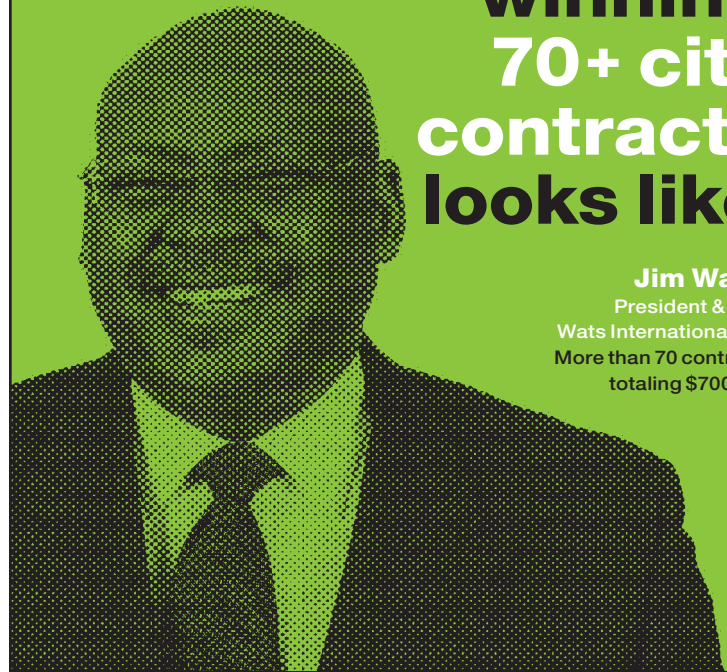
File Photo

**ONE OF FOUR** cases involving the Kingsbridge National Ice Center is being hammered out in Bronx Supreme Court (pictured).

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96	1 Bedroom	\$1,192	1	\$41,589 - \$45,300	
			2	\$41,589 - \$51,780	
			2	\$49,920 - \$51,780	
39	2 Bedroom	\$1,429	3	\$49,920 - \$58,260	
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Submit completed applications by **regular mail only** to the post office box number listed on the application postmarked by **July 11, 2016**. No priority, certified, registered, expressed or overnight mail will be accepted. Applications postmarked after 7/11/16 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery. There will be a preference for 33% of the apartments for applicants currently residing in the City of Mount Vernon. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted.



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# NORWOOD NEWS

## S N A P S H O T S



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**THIS HANGING GARDEN** display can be seen inside Montefiore Moses Campus' West Garden on 210th Street in Norwood as part of an overall art initiative by the hospital's Fine Arts Program. The presentation, held on June 15, saw senior citizens working on artworks alongside students from the local St. Ann's Catholic school.



Photo by Adi Talwar

**A CHILD GLEEFULLY** runs beneath a parachute, one of the many cool exercises at the third annual Family Fitness Fun festival sponsored by the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District, Mosholu Preservation Corporation, Friends of Williamsbridge Oval and NYC Department of Parks.



Photo courtesy 52nd Precinct

**NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN HUDDLE** around a police horse and its handler/officer at an open house at the 52nd Precinct stationhouse on Webster Avenue. The June 17 event also featured a towering rock wall and a meet and greet with officers.



Photo courtesy Aquinas High School

**THE AQUINAS HIGH** School softball team wins the Archdiocese of New York Softball Varsity Division Champions and Varsity A City Softball Finalists awards.



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**DAVID CRUZ, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** of the *Norwood News*, holds a Certificate of Appreciation he received from Community Board 7's chair, Adaline Walker-Santiago (l), at the Board's final meeting before its summer hiatus. Cruz was recognized for an editorial he drafted detailing the popularity of the 311 system among residents living within Community Board 7.



Photo by Tatyana Turner

**SECOND GRADE GIRLS** wave their white hand fans around as part of their dance routine called "Rise Up" by Andra Day at PS 94 Kings College School in Norwood. The annual performance by the school's dance club took place June 16.



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# A Gripping Simulator Signals Talk on Police Shootings

By DAVID CRUZ

A witness called in the incident—shouting between two sisters. In a neighborhood of one-story ranch houses and serene weather, it's not exactly the scene of a domestic dispute. But Gloria Bent, a member of Community Board 7, goes in. One of the sisters, abutting her front door, urges Bent to get her other sister out of the house.

The trespasser's tics and moaning draw suggests she's high and agitated. She fidgets with a pair of scissors. Bent notices her voice growing more impatient. "She's in there, she's bothering me; she's telling me she wants me to get out of there," stated the trespasser.

In a swift beat, the edgy woman lunges for Bent, scissors in hand, ready to stab. Bent, who unsuccessfully used soft-spoken commands, could've used a standard police gun to take out the woman, but it was too late. Angry eyes. Fade to black. "Oh my God," whispered Bent.

Bent, who actually works in healthcare, would've been dead. Lucky for her, it was a video simu-



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT** Manager for Community Board 7, tries out the Law Enforcement Simulator at Monroe College.

lation that's a reality for thousands of officers.

For Bent and the rest of Community Board 7's Public Safety Committee, it was an unusual meeting.

The committee, which usually discusses safety issues at the Board of office, took a trip to Monroe College in Fordham to step into the shoes of a police officer.

At a time when officer-involved shootings (there were 21 reported police-involved shootings last year, according to NYPD data), especially those videotaped, have driven an even greater wedge between police and communities, Monroe College's School of Criminal Justice has brought the issue to the forefront with a training video simulator that puts aspiring officers in vulnerable domestic or street encounters. The program, nicknamed "Law Enforcement Training Simulator," serves as one of several classes criminal justice students enroll in as part of their education, and is similar to what NYPD cadets go through at the Police Academy in the borough of Queens. There, cadets participate in a scenario with live actors portraying suspects, lending a more authentic experience.

Each tense exercise involves hair-raising decisions often coming with a dose of cautious paranoia. For participants, empathy follows.

"It helps you understand what they're going through," said Ernest Cooper, who attended the exercise with Bent.

In a classroom at the college's Jerome Hall, a large screen envel-

ops one side of the room. The screen plays a video featuring a textbook domestic or street encounter between police and community residents. A laser weapon, designed to look and feel like a gun, is used during the presentation. Success, usually involving a suspect surviving an encounter, is determined by the professor. If it appears a student has control over a mock scenario, a professor presses a button activating a version where the suspect obeys. If not, the scene plays out where a suspect flashes a gun, forcing the student to shoot.

"We tell the students this is not a game. This is not Grand Theft Auto. This is a real situation," said Everett Faison, a professor of criminal justice at Monroe College. "It's about not teaching the students deadly force."

Each scenario was followed by a conversation on why the shooting was justified. In every instance, a weapon was shown or used prior to the shooting. This was illustrated in another incident where a Board member tried out the simulator. In this case, a suspect with a gun stuffed to his backside was shot in the back.

"Anybody had a problem with the fact that she shot him?" asked Faison.

"She was justified," said a guest.

"Why was she justified?"

"Because she saw a weapon about to be used to kill."

"Even though she shot him in the back?" asked Faison.

"Yeah."

"Absolutely right. A lot of people complain, 'she shot him in the back.' Why did she shoot him in the back? He had a weapon," said Faison. "She saw a weapon and not only did he have a weapon but the way he grabbed it...He grabbed it full grip."

But more questions came: why not shoot them in the leg? Why not a Taser? Why not a swift kick to the chest?

"It really all varies. It could go from zero to 100 so quick and in a blink of an eye," said Police Officer Michael Puente, the 52nd Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer, attending the meeting. "And that's how fast a knife could be pulled out or a gun."

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Crafty Seniors

R.A.I.N. Boston Secor Senior Center, 3540 Bivona St, presents a free exhibition of crochet creations by the seniors on June 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 671-8550.

### Rent Freeze Meeting

A Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) workshop will be held on June 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Serviam Gardens, 323 E. 198th St. Those eligible may be able to receive a rent freeze, and can receive help completing their applications and collecting all documents needed for this program. Seniors must be at least age 62 or disabled, have a household income of \$50,000 or less, and pay more than a third of their monthly income on rent. Section 8 recipients don't qualify. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 933-2539.

### Smoke Detector Giveaway

R.A.I.N. Nereid Senior Center, 720 Nereid Ave., presents a free smoke detector giveaway on June 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 796-5345.

### Alternate Side Parking

On July 4 alternate side parking is suspended in observance of Independence Day. Alternate side parking is also suspended from July 5 to July 7 in observance of Eid al-Fitr.

### U.S. Citizenship

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., hosts free legal and financial help services for those seeking U.S. citizenship, Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. Meet one-on-one with an attorney and financial counselor. For more information or to make an appointment, call 311 and say "Citizenship Appointment," or call (212) 514-4277.

### NYC High School Directory

The 2017 New York City High School Directory, a booklet profiling 160 high schools in the Bronx, is available online at <http://on.nyc.gov/1TTBWS9> or by going to a Family Welcome Center, 1 Fordham Plaza, 7th floor, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. It's translated into nine languages. For more information, call (718) 741-8495.

### Reduced Parks Fees

As of June 1, annual membership fees for New York City Parks recreation centers for U.S. veterans and people with disabilities has been reduced to \$25. Fees for seniors and young adults remain at \$25, free for under age 18, and \$100 to \$150 for adults.

### Free Tenant Legal Advice

Free legal services for Housing Court cases for tenants who seek

help with apartment issues including repairs, eviction, and Housing Court are available at 2432 Grand Concourse, suite 506, 5th floor, Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call (718) 933-2034.

### MMCC Programs

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center offers free programs for out of school youth ages 16 to 24, a food stamp assistance program, English as a Second Language, and Mosholu Day Camp. For more information, or to donate, call (718) 882-4000 or visit [www.mmcc.org](http://www.mmcc.org).

### Employment Bulletin

An Employer Guide for those looking for jobs is available. To pick a copy, go to 2432 Grand Concourse, 5th floor, suite 506. For more information, call (718) 933-2034.

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# Montefiore to Roll Out First-Ever Float at Gay Pride Parade

By DAVID CRUZ

In the last three decades, employees from Montefiore Health System made it a point to join hundreds of people in marching at the Gay Pride Parade in Manhattan.

Teams of hospital employees, decked out in rainbow-colored shirts, would amble along Fifth Avenue in solidarity with members of the LGBTQ community, in which many call Montefiore their go-to hospital or their employer.

This year, and perhaps in perpetuity, a first-ever float bearing the hospital logo will roll out at the festival parade, joining a cavalcade of other floats that send its message of support to the gay community. It also serves as outreach for the hospital's services specific to the LGBTQ community, including a burgeoning department for transsexuals.

"We really felt that this platform of Manhattan pride that Montefiore as an institution can really promote these services, and let the LGBTQ know that we're here in the Bronx," said Justin Toro, LMSW, a clinical social worker at the hospital's Adoles-



Photo courtesy Montefiore Health System

**STAFF AND SUPPORTERS** of the Adolescent AIDS Program at Montefiore, pictured marching in last year's Gay Pride Parade, will be showing off their first-ever float at this year's parade.

cent AIDS Program.

Toro's unit partnered with a cadre of departments, including the hospital's primary care sites, Center for Positive Living, general medicine, urology and plastic surgery, combining funds to purchase the float. Roughly 40 associates will take part in the float, joining 250 guests or hospital employees at the parade.

It's an initiative with direct sup-

port from Dr. Steven Safyer, president and CEO of the hospital, who allocated a portion of the funds for the float.

The hospital's marketing department helped conceive the float's design, part of an overall awareness campaign on "safe, compassionate, cutting-edge LGBT care," said Stephen Stafford, director of communications and special projects at the

hospital's Adolescent AIDS Program.

Those efforts also include turning the system into a more transgender-friendly environment, offering "services that are needed for people to have a full spectrum of transition-related services," according to Dr. Robert Beil, director of the hospital's Centers Implementing Clinical Excellence & Restoring Opportunity (CICERO). Those services include plastic surgery for patients transitioning to their desired gender identity.

The parade comes on the heels of the Orlando, Fla. shootings, in which a gunman killed 49 people at a gay nightclub, making visibility for gay pride an all-important priority for Montefiore. "There's still a lot of anti-gay feeling, and we want to come together in happiness and in pride," said Dr. Donna Futterman, M.D, director of the Adolescent AIDS Program.

The parade kicks off on Sunday, June 26, beginning at noon. It starts at 36th Street and Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, and ends at Christopher and Greenwich streets in the Chelsea section of Manhattan.

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## Mourning for Orlando Victims

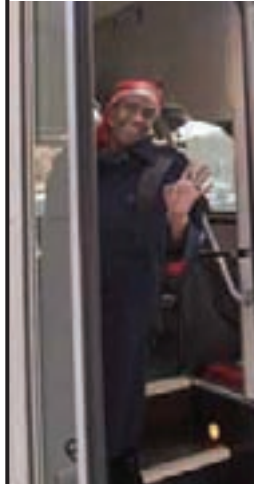


Photo by David Greene

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN** Diaz Jr. places a rose next to the photos of the 49 victims killed in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., at a vigil hosted by his office at Borough Hall. The mass shooting is ranked the deadliest in U.S. history, signaling the debate on gun control.

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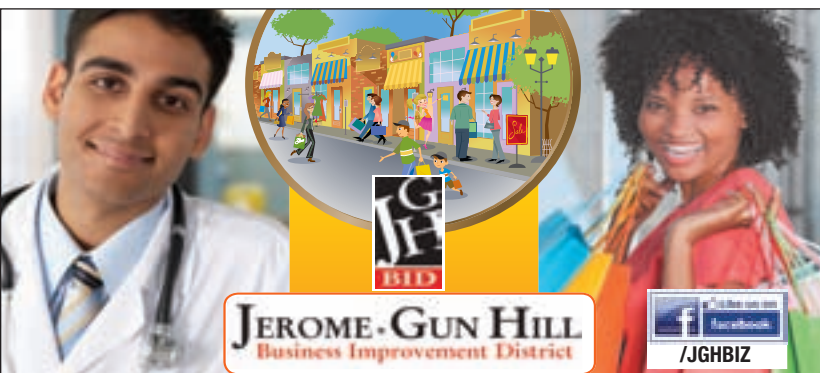
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### TRIPS

**Trip to Dorney Park and Wild Water Kingdom** in Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 9 from East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard at 8 a.m. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

**Lake Compounce Amusement Park and Water Rides** in Connecticut - June 25, 2016; \$85 pp. Depart from Brooklyn and Bronx.

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### LAWN PARTY

**The Bedford Park Congregational Church**, located at 201st St. and Bainbridge Ave., will host a lawn party on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts and a small raffle. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for Children under 12. All are welcome.



# At 13th CD Debate, Minus Three Candidates, a Tamer Joust

(continued from page 7)

everybody so the playing field is even," said Johnson Cook.

Immigration stood as a talked-about issue, with Sloan proposing a federal voter ID card for undocumented residents that can offer a driver ID component. "Unless you have a green card, you can't get an ID card," he said.

Wright, meantime, called for a "real" federal DREAM Act that could decrease deportations of illegal immigrants while Gallagher, a former systems analyst and now stay-at-home father, said the immigration system is broken to the point where Republicans are embracing reforms, notwithstanding the party's presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

"The idea that we'll be able to deport 12 million people, the man, Trump, can talk all he wants like this," said Gallagher. "But the Republicans are running away from that because they recognize that we're all in this together."

The debate also saw a variety of strategies that painted the bulk of

the candidates as outsiders to establishment politics or entrenched politicians with track records.

"People are tired of the same ways," said Johnson Cook. "If you use the same people, the same ways, you're going to get the same results."

The subject opened the chance for candidate Powell, a former city councilman and state assemblyman, to call out candidates who've taken campaign contributions from landlords even as talk on housing affordability rages across the district.

"There are some candidates here who certainly don't come in with clean hands. They're in the pockets of every landlord, every slumlord that ever lived in northern Manhattan," said Powell, whose jabs seemed to be directed at Wright, perhaps one of the more engrained legislators in the contest. Among his biggest endorsements was by Rangel himself.

"It's very easy to criticize folks when you really haven't been on the battlefield, when you've really been a spectator, when you haven't been to a community board meeting," said

## 13th CD Candidates Grade de Blasio

Sloan:	<i>Fail</i>
Williams:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Powell:	<i>B</i>
Wright:	<i>B</i>
Johnson Cook:	<i>Work in progress</i>
Gallagher:	<i>C</i>
Espaillet:	<i>n/a</i>
Caceres:	<i>n/a</i>
Linares:	<i>n/a</i>

Wright, countering he would change the formula of New York City's area median income, used to determine the rent price of housing.

Wright was also the target of Williams, a former White House aide

under President Obama, who downplayed Wright's victories in Albany pointing to an erosion in affordability in New York City.

"It's a war he's losing," said Williams of Wright.

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# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Fireworks for the Fourth

The public is invited to an American Fireworks Extravaganza at Orchard Beach on June 30 after 9 p.m. in an early celebration of Independence Day. All music will feature Bronx artists. For more information, visit [www.ilovethebronx.com](http://www.ilovethebronx.com).

## Events

The Bardekova Ensemble will perform **"The Music of 400 Years,"** a free music concert at the Poe Park Visitors Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, on July 7 at 2 p.m. The quintet will also perform at the Woodlawn Cemetery Chapel, 501 E. 233rd St., July 10 at 3 p.m. For more information, call (917) 584-6626.

Fordham Road BID presents **Fordham Film Festival**, at Fordham Plaza, Third Avenue and 189th Street. Events begin at 5 p.m. and include music, games and activities, and films begin at 8:30 p.m. June 24: "Back to the Future," and June 25: "Back to the Future II." For more information, visit [fordhamroad.nyc](http://fordhamroad.nyc).

Tilila Casa Publica & Cocina, 3648 Bailey Ave., presents **Bronx Artist Brunch**, June 26 from noon to 4 p.m. featuring the artwork of Suzanne Axelbank, performances by the Paul Carlon Jazz Trio, and brunch (Latin and American cuisine). For more information, call (929) 222-4968 or visit [www.tilila.nyc](http://www.tilila.nyc).

The public is invited to **Boogie on the Boulevard**, to take part in a day of free music, and art and fitness programs in the center lanes of the Grand Concourse starting at 162nd Street which will be closed to vehicular traffic, from noon to 4 p.m., June 26, July 31, and Aug. 28. Activities include biking, bollywood classes, button making, face painting, skating, street games, yoga, zumba, and more. Main stage performances are at 165h Street (call for detailed schedule). For more information, call (718) 681-6000 or visit [www.bronxmuseum.org/events/boogie-on-the-boulevard\\_1](http://www.bronxmuseum.org/events/boogie-on-the-boulevard_1).

Bedford Park Congregational Church at 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue hosts a **lawn party**, June 26 at 12:30 p.m. Featured are hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts, and a small raffle (\$10/adults; \$5/under 12).

Bronx County Historical Society presents a **guided tour**, In the Footsteps of Edgar Allan Poe, a 3-mile walk from Poe Cottage to High Bridge via Aqueduct Avenue. Meet at Poe Cottage on the Grand Concourse at East Kingsbridge Road on June 25 at 11 a.m. (\$10/BCHS members; \$20/non members). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 881-8900.

The Family Learning Place at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore holds a **Family Picnic**, July 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at MMC's East Garden, 111 E. 210th St. For more information and to RSVP by June 26, call (718) 741-2357 or visit [flp@montefiore.org](http://flp@montefiore.org).

Montefiore Health System will hold a free workshop at 3400 Bainbridge Ave. in the Medical Arts Pavilion on the 2nd floor: **Treatment Options for Kidney Failure**, about hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, home dialysis, and supportive care, June 23 and July 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call (800) MD-MONTE.



File Photo

**BE SURE TO** check out the fireworks extravaganza at Orchard Beach on June 30 (see Editor's Note for more information).

**Wave Hill**, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects**: Luminous Paper Lanterns, to use colored tissue paper and papier-mache to make lanterns, June 25 and 26; and Butterfly Habitat Hats, to make hat filled with flowers and insects, July 2 and 3; both in WH House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **Lumiere String Quartet**, July 6 from 7 to 8 p.m. on the Great Lawn, performing classical and popular music. Bring chair or blanket.

Grounds admission is free until noon Saturdays and Tuesdays all year. For more information and a schedule of events including tours and walks, call (718) 549-3200.

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents its **3rd Annual Golf Classic**, June 27, at Paramount Country Club, 60 Zukor Rd., NY. Events include pre-golf breakfast, on-course lunch, post-golf dinner, raffles, auction, and prizes. Golf package options are available. For more information or to reserve a spot, call Julissa Reyes at (718) 882-4000 ext. 350.

## Library Events

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents the following events for children: **Hands-On Projects at 4 p.m.:** (ages 7 to 12; pre-registration required), Plant Pot Making, June 23; and Animal Magnet Making, June 30. Teens/young adults can attend **film:** "The Fifth Wave," June 27 at 5 p.m. The entire family can enjoy **Folktales From Around the World:** presented by storyteller on June 25 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

The Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for adults: **Free Computer Classes:** to learn email and basic computer information, Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Jerome Park Library, 118 Eames Place (near Kingsbridge Road), offers for adults: **Computer Basics at noon:** June 23 and 30. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by June 27 for the next publication date of July 7.

**The Bardekova Ensemble Performs**  
**The Music of 400 Years.**  
 POE PARK VISITOR'S CENTER 2640 Grand Concourse (between East 192nd and East Kingsbridge Road) Bronx New York 10458 on July 7, 2016 at 2:00  
 This performance of the Bardekova Ensemble is made possible by the Poe Park Visitor's Center and with public funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts, through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the Greater NY Arts Development Fund Program. This program is also made possible with public funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York State Council on the Arts, Music Performance Trust Fund and Private Donations.  
 For more information, Contact 917.584.6626  
 Sponsors: Bronx Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Greater NY Arts Development Fund Program, New York State Council on the Arts, Music Performance Trust Fund, and Private Donations.



# More Beat Cops Hit the Streets

(continued from page 1)

sector where they will answer 911 calls specifically in that sector. A part of their shift will involve immersing themselves in the community, in a kind of meet-and-greet format, forming so-called “work groups” comprised of residents and business owners to determine issues NCOs need to address.

This is a departure from standard policing in which wherever the call comes from dictates where the police officers will be dispatched, instead the officers will only receive calls from their assigned sectors.

“Familiarity breeds trust,” Ninkunen said.

Before being assigned to the new beat, each NCO officer underwent new training. They spent two weeks in a criminal investigative course, four days in an NCO training course and another four days in a mediation course. Assistant Police Chief Terence Monahan, attending the presentation, said that the training and structure of this program will “allow cops to think out of the box.”

“Set up meetings on your block, establish that voice, get that silent voice heard,” advised Monahan, stressing the importance of community involvement in this program.

The model for this program can be paralleled to the “park, walk, and talk” initiative, that was put into practice in the early ‘90s as one of the first forms of community policing adopted by the NYPD. Officers would have an hour scheduled into their day to listen to people’s complaints and travel around a certain community by foot as opposed to in their patrol cars.

In the timeframe that the program stuck around, the endeavor seemed to be an overall success. But when the crime rate ticked up, the program took a backseat and driving down crime took center stage.

The crime rate across the city is comparatively lower than two decades before, offering the NYPD the chance to change its public perception through the program. The 52nd Precinct, typically referred to as a busy precinct, has so far seen a .66 percent increase in crime, compared to the same time last year.

Crimes in the category of rape have seen the biggest increase from last year going up by 27.3 percent. However the report also brings to light that murders have seen the biggest decrease in number, dropping by 66.7 percent from



Photo by Daniela Beasley

**OFFICER PAUL WHITE**, newly appointed NCO officer, explains and breaks down the new sector maps to a local resident.

this time last year. But what coincided with the crime drop was an increase in the public’s distrust of officers in light of high-profile police shootings across the country. The NYPD, an institution where a portion of its history involves brutality towards the public, is banking on the NCO program to work more than a stopgap.

Robert Gibbons, a professor of criminal justice at the Monroe College School of Criminal Justice professor and retired NYPD lieutenant said “the time to extend the handshakes” should’ve begun two to three years ago when the community first saw crime plummet. With a more fraught relationship between communities and the NYPD, it’s forced the Police Department’s hand in introducing the

program under this climate.

“Because of the tensions, they’re forced to do this,” said Gibbons.

Those tensions have created pockets of weariness in some communities.

“I think it’s strained, definitely it’s strained. I think on both sides—they want that relationship,” said a Norwood resident who went by Rudolph. For now she believes that there’s a long way to go before the police establish that positive connection.

Other residents offered a more optimistic outlook on what this program could do and look forward to seeing consistent officers in their area to listen to their concerns.

“You don’t see anyone around here no more,” said Augie Santana, local

business owner, referring to the police presence in the area. He looks forward to the start of the program “just to know that you have someone always around your neighborhood.”

Pranav Gaglani, an Oval Pharmacy employee, thinks that becoming familiar with a set of officers “should be good.” “They should stop by the store if they ever need any information or want to put things up,” he said.

“That would be a miracle if they do something like that,” Grisell Roman, a Norwood resident, happily replied after hearing about the program. “Especially in the summer,” commented Roman, happy with the timing of the program launch, “because in the winter nothing happens, but in the summer you always see crowds out here.”



## EAST 233RD STREET & WHITE PLAINS ROAD MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

- 1 Do you want to improve your business?
- 2 Do you want to increase your customer base?
- 3 Do you want White Plains Road and East 233rd Street to become a safer, cleaner and more attractive commercial corridor?
- 4 Do you want to have a voice in what happens along White Plains Road and East 233rd Street?

White Plains Road and East 233rd Street Merchants Association was formed in 2013 by a group of committed business and local organizations to improve the general quality of life for members and businesses within the commercial corridor.

**Our mission is to promote the general welfare of the businesses located in the East 233rd Street and White Plains Road commercial corridor of the Northeast section of the Bronx, and to work to improve sanitation, security and beautification.**

We have worked with our local Community Board, public officials and local organizations

to raise and secure funds for the corridor. We promote our district through numerous events and provide opportunity for merchants to improve their business and sales through marketing assistance, workshops and networking opportunities.

We also represent our merchants interests with local officials and liaise on your behalf with municipal agencies.

**Join us and be part of this effort!** The larger our membership at The East 233rd St & White Plains Road Merchant's Association, the louder, and more powerful our voice and abilities are to advocate, support and promote our business members and our community.

