



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 35, No 2 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 9, 2022

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORWOODNEWS.ORG

FOR THE LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, BENGALI, SPANISH, ARABIC, FRENCH AND CHINESE.

BIRTHDAY VIGIL HELD FOR BABY CATHERINE



Photo by David Greene

MAYOR ERIC ADAMS addresses a crowd of various Bronx elected officials, and community organizations and members, along with the NYPD and religious leaders, on Friday, January 21, 2022, at Valentine Avenue and East 198th Street in Bedford Park during a prayer vigil for Baby Catherine, an 11-month-old infant, who was shot at the same location on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

by **DAVID GREENE & SILE MOLONEY**

A host of local, elected officials stood together with Mayor Eric Adams and local clergy members, violence interrupters, the NYPD, and Bedford Park residents for a prayer vigil at

the Bedford Park site where now one-year-old Baby Catherine was shot in the face, while sitting in a parked car with the mother at Valentine Avenue and East 198th Street, on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

The vigil, held on Friday, Jan. 21, the infant's first birth-

day, took place outside the East 198th Street Grocery and was hosted by Pastor Jay Gooding who was joined in prayer by Adams, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark,

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), District 15 City Councilman Oswald Feliz, Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia (A.D. 86) and State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36).

Representatives of several, anti-violence disrupter groups

(continued on page 27)



Freezing Weather Driving Coat Theft?
pg 2



Lehman Mourns Student Sera Jannah
pg 5



CB7 on Trash, Fire Safety & Housing
pg 8

KRAMER & POLLACK LLP
INJURY ATTORNEYS



Larry J. Kramer



Joshua Pollack

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP



Keep us with you wherever you go

No Fee Unless You Win
Hablamos Español
Free Consultation

(212) ANSWERS
(212) 267-9377

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AND VIEW OUR TESTMONIALS

WWW.212ANSWERS.COM



NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 35, No. 2

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
Web.: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Executive Director of MPC

Jennifer Tausig

Editor-In-Chief, Norwood News

Sile Moloney

smoloney@norwoodnews.org

Interns

Julian Nazar

Regular Contributors

David Greene, José A. Giralt,
Miriam Quiñones, Sarah Huffman

Contributors

Adi Talwar, Dr. Gifty Ampadu

For Display Advertising

Call Janet Geller at
(646) 581-0399

Support Your

Community Newspaper!

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to: Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a non-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.



Freezing weather causing winter coat theft?

by DAVID GREENE

As temperatures dropped to below freezing on Friday, Jan. 21, police responding to a call about a “shoplifter armed with a knife,” arrested the man for shoplifting a winter coat, and a short time later, were called back and made another arrest at the same Burlington Coat Factory store in Fordham Manor.

The caller told the 911 operator that the suspect had been cutting off the anti-theft devices on the stores’ garments, using a knife. Half a dozen patrol units from the 52nd precinct arrived at the scene, quickly apprehended the man, and recovered the winter coat, still on its hanger.

According to NYPD spokeswoman,



Photo by David Greene

POLICE REPORTED TWO separate shoplifting arrests at the Burlington Coat Factory located at 2543 Webster Avenue in Fordham Manor on Friday, January 21, 2022.



Photo by David Greene

A HALF DOZEN police cars quickly responded to a report of a shoplifter armed with a knife at Burlington Coat Factory on Friday, January 21, 2022.

Detective Annette Shelton, police were first called to the Burlington Coat Factory, located on Webster Avenue near East Fordham Road, at 3 p.m. Shelton said of the incident, “A loss prevention officer observed 34-year-old Carlos Taveras remove a massage gun,

socks and coat and attempted to exit the store without paying for the items.”

A massage gun is a small handheld device that looks and sounds like a drill, according to Wikipedia. Most massage guns have a variety of pieces and speeds that can be utilized to help with muscle pain. Shelton had no available address on Taveras, who was charged with petit larceny.

Shelton also told *Norwood News*, “On the same day, 47-year-old, Frank Agovino, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief after being observed by a loss prevention officer cutting sensors off of the items in the store valued at \$150.” Shelton did not have an address for Agovino either. One witness reported seeing police grabbing a “bald,

another call on Saturday, Jan. 22, at 3:15 p.m., also at the Burlington Coat Factory. Officers were looking for “a white male” who fled towards East Fordham Road with pairs of blue jeans. When questioned about the radio alert, Shelton said she had no complaint on file for the incident that matched the time, date, and location provided.

An unidentified manager at the Burlington Coat Factory store in question was asked by *Norwood News* about the three incidents. He said he had not been to work on those days. When asked if shoplifting was a regular occurrence at the store, the manager replied, “I’m not sure I’m allowed to comment on that.”

Meanwhile, Heather, a media relations specialist at the Burlington store, committed to looking into the recent incidents, saying Burlington would see, “if there’s anything we could share, or if this is an ongoing investigation.”

New York City Department of Homeless Services regularly issues “Code Blue” notices when tem-

peratures drop below freezing and ask residents that if they see anyone at risk, especially those living on the street, to call 311. During a #CodeBlue alert, shelter is available, systemwide, for anyone brought to a shelter by outreach teams. Accommodations are also available for walk-ins.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story*



Photo by David Greene

A POLICE OFFICER from the 52nd precinct returns a stolen coat to Burlington Coat Factory, after officers arrested a shoplifter for stealing it, on Friday, January 21, 2022.

white male” on the street and taking him into custody.

Meanwhile, officers on the police radio band were heard responding to

Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



Our GUARANTEE

There is NO FEE Unless We Win

Our firm has recovered over

Three Hundred Million Dollars

in verdicts and settlements
for our satisfied clients

FREE COUNSULTATION

Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week

Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients

Construction Accident - \$19,500,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000
Car Accident - \$1,600,000 • Slip & Fall Accident - \$2,650,000

If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You

Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience

www.raskrem.com

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY
Bronx Office - by appointment only

718-878-4858

212-587-3434

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers their thoughts on the announcement on Jan. 18, by the New York State Attorney General's Office that its ongoing investigation into the Trump Organization has preliminarily determined that the organization used fraudulent and misleading asset valuations to obtain economic benefits.



"He should go to jail. I think [former President Donald J.] Trump should be brought up on charges of fraud and tax evasion, or whatever claims the attorney general finds, because he's not above the law. He's just as guilty as anybody else who breaks the law. I've seen enough evidence [of] what happened at the Capitol. I don't see how he got away with that. It was blatant disrespect of American democracy and as president, he was investigated twice, and they let him go. That says a lot to the American people. It's very disgusting."

Diane Davis,
Wakefield



"It looks pretty bad. I mean, if he's done something wrong, it needs to be investigated, and he should be in prison if he's done something wrong. If not, then they should leave him alone. If they don't want to answer questions, then that means they're hiding something, so that means they need to investigate more, and send out more subpoenas. Yes, there will be justice."

Brian Jenkins,
Van Cortlandt Park South



"I'll be honest with you; I never liked Donald [J.] Trump from day one. Oh yes, Letitia James is a good lady, and I hope they hang him. Yes, he's guilty. He caused too many problems. It's the first time in history I ever see people storm the Capitol. I've been alive 63 years, and I never saw that. How did that happen? Everything bad that happened was because of him and he could not accept the fact that he lost. He had a fit when Joe Biden beat him."

Darel Williams,
Van Nest



"I think it's going to be hard to go after him because you have the Republican Party and for some reason, they fear this guy with a passion. I mean even through the insurrection, they refused to throw this guy under the bus, man. I mean he's a disgrace to democracy. He's a disgrace to everything America stands for. I mean I've never seen a president that held a country hostage. What is this – a dictatorship? Basically, the guy lost an election, and he says he's not leaving, and he held the country hostage, and you have half of America that voted for him, so he's still the second most-voted for president, and I fear him and his family."

Jerry Johnson,
Belmont



"For how long did he do this? Many years? So, why now? Why didn't they investigate sooner? I don't support him, but the thing is, there's too many questions. He did this for years, but only now they see it? It's their fault. If he did something wrong, it's their fault. They see it now....now, because he's a politician? When he was just a businessman, nobody touched him. Nobody followed what he was doing or not doing. But now, he's a politician; that's what politics is all about."

Felito Perez,
Bedford Park

Editor's Note: The OAG's investigation into the Trump Organization is ongoing. Norwood News reached out to both the Trump Organization and their lawyers for comment. We did not receive an immediate response. The Wall Street Journal reports that former president Donald J. Trump has previously described the separate investigation by Manhattan D.A., Cy Vance, into the Trump Organization's business dealings, a "witch hunt."



347-529-7772
347-529-7773
EMPHILL.COM
337 GUN HILL RD
BRONX NY 10467

OUR COMMITMENT IS BRINGING TO
YOU THE BEST SPANISH FOOD
IN NORWOOD.



FREE DELIVERY



1616 MAHAN AVE, BRONX, NY 10461

Serving The Bronx
and Westchester County for
Over 20 Years

Residential and Commerical
Sales/Rentals.

Market Evaluations
available upon request.

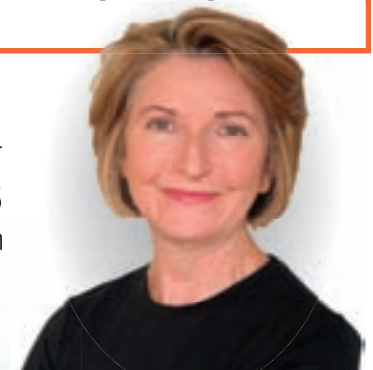
Maura Finnegan

Real Estate Broker/HUD Broker

Ph: 646-244-2598

maura@bronxchesterrealty.com

www.bronxchesterrealty.com



Lehman Mourns Student & Twin Parks Fire Victim, Sera Janneh

By SARAH HUFFMAN

Lehman College student, Sera Janneh, 27, was among the 17 victims of the Twin Parks North West residential building fire which broke out on Sunday, Jan. 9, in the Fordham Heights section of the Bronx. Janneh was a sophomore at Lehman and was majoring in psychology and minoring in early childhood education.

As reported by The New York Post, Janneh's father, Tijan Janneh, said his daughter got separated from the family, as they tried to escape the burning building. Firefighters later told him that his daughter had died.

Lehman College released a statement on Thursday, Jan. 13, addressing the loss of their student. "Lehman College is saddened to confirm that one of our students, Sera Janneh, a sophomore majoring in psychology, perished as a result of the fire at the Twin Parks North West apartment building on Jan. 9," it read. "Our deepest condolences to the Janneh family and all of those who have lost friends and loved ones in Sunday's fire. Our hearts are among those mourning in the Bronx today."

Lehman officials said the college was also working to confirm the safety of other students who listed the Twin Parks tower as their address. The College posted a resource page with information about student



Photo courtesy of the Janneh family via Go Fund Me.

SERA JANNEH, 27, a Lehman College student of psychology and early childhood education, was tragically killed in the Twin Parks fire in Fordham Heights on Sunday, January 9, 2022.

emergency grants, other resources available to those affected by the fire, and a list of organizations accepting donations to help affected families.

Anne Rice, an associate professor of Africana Studies at Lehman, said she was "devastated by Sera's needless death," and that the two of them had formed a connection over both being one of seven girls in their respective families. "Sera was

a wise and incandescent soul," Rice said. "I was just watching a video she made for my class in which she talked about her plans to become a child psychologist." She added, "She spoke of wanting to share her learning with her siblings and the other children she would meet in the classroom."

Rice said Janneh was also a music fan who loved "Parliament Funkadelic," an American funk music collective of rotating musicians headed by George Clinton, and primarily consisting of the bands Parliament and Funkadelic, both active since the 1960s.

Describing Janneh as an "old soul," Rice said she was also a fan of Janis Joplin.

"She loved music, art, poetry, and African American history," said Rice. "Sera approached the topics we studied in African literature with compassion and practicality, and I thought of her as a very special student, someone who I would hear from and about in the coming years," she added.

She said the Lehman student also loved art by Jean-Paul Basquiat and poetry by Ntzoze Shange, including the theatrical piece, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf."

Janneh's passion for working with children showed through her work for the nonprofit organization, *Serious Fun After School*, which offers after-school arts enrichment classes to kids at various New York City public schools. Janneh started working for them in November 2021 as a site supervisor at P.S. 76 in Alherton. *Serious Fun After School* released a statement following confirmation of Janneh's untimely death.

"It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our newest team member, Sera Janneh. Her joy and commitment to the work of *Serious Fun* was evident to all who met her," they wrote. "We wish strength and peace to the Janneh family and all those impacted by the Twin Parks fire." Janneh's older sister, Maream Janneh, has set-up a Go Fund Me page to help the family during this most difficult of times. According to the page, Janneh's younger sister, Aisha Janneh, remains in the hospital following injuries from the fire.

Lehman's resource page is at: <https://www.lehman.edu/twin-parks/>. The Janneh family Go Fund Me page is at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/janneh-family-emergency-relief>. Visit *Serious Fun After School* at: <https://seriousfunnyc.org/>.

LA ATENCIÓN MÉDICA ASEQUIBLE ESTÁ A SU ALCANCE



Llegó una nueva financiación federal para ayudarlo a ahorrar más en su seguro médico. Es posible que encuentre un plan de bajo costo y alta calidad y que pueda calificar para obtener ayuda económica, incluso si no era elegible antes.

Encuentre un plan de salud hoy mismo:

- atención preventiva gratis
- sin primas o con primas bajas
- gastos de bolsillo bajos

NY State of Health está aquí para ayudarlo a encontrar un plan asequible que se ajuste a sus necesidades y a su presupuesto.

No espere más. Inscríbase hoy y obtenga cobertura para 2022.

Llame o visite nuestro sitio web para obtener ayuda local gratis para solicitar y obtener cobertura hoy.



Llame al 1-855-355-5777
TTY: 1-800-662-1220



Visite: nystateofhealth.ny.gov

NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

FEMA Webinar on Fire Safety

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) held a webinar on

Wednesday, Jan. 26, entitled "Residential Fire Life Saving Strategies 2022." Details of the webinar were shared by Bronx Community Board 7 ahead of time and the event featured subject matter experts from the U.S. Fire Administration and the American Red Cross who discussed how families can prevent a home fire, and steps that can be taken to increase a family's ability (and that of their loved ones) to survive.

Motor Vehicle Accident on Webster

On Thursday, Jan. 13, at approximately 7.15 p.m., police responded to a 911 call of a motor vehicle collision in front of 3560 Webster Avenue, located in the 47th precinct. Upon arrival, officers observed a collision between a Jeep SUV and two Ford SUVs. A 71-year-old male driver of the Jeep was transported to a local hospital for observation. No injuries were reported at the scene but there were reports from locals that one of the cars had flipped over amid the course of the collision.

New York Health Act Analysis

Northwest Bronx Indivisible held a Town Hall on the newly proposed landmark legislation, the New York Health Act, on Sunday, Jan. 23, via Zoom, to discuss the merits of the new plan and how it might impact regular Bronxites access to both physical and mental health care. State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (S.D. 34), Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), and State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) all participated in the Town Hall and support its passage. Around 100 participants took part and were encouraged to contact their local representatives to ask them to pass the law which would provide universal free health care for all New Yorkers. Further events are planned on the topic in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Campaign for Child Care

Empire State Campaign for Child Care, which represents more than 80 organizations statewide, including provider networks, parent groups, unions, and child care policy and advocacy groups,

Woman Dies, 7 More Injured in Explosion & Building Collapse



Photo by Síle Moloney

FIREFIGHTERS, NYPD, DOB and EMS respond to a gas explosion and fire that broke out at 869 Fox Avenue in the Longwood section of the Bronx on Tuesday morning, Jan. 18, 2022.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 77-year-old woman died and seven people were injured following a morning explosion, fire and building collapse at a home in the Longwood neighborhood. On Tuesday, Jan. 18, at approximately 10.54 a.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding a residential fire at 869 Fox Avenue. Upon arrival police discovered three injured victims.

An 82-year-old woman and a 68-year-old woman were removed to Jacobi Hospital, both in stable condition. A third victim, a 77-year-old woman, was also transported to Jacobi Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. Five police officers were also taken to area hospitals in stable condition.

together with

23 legislative leaders are calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul to include transformative child care proposals and bold investments in the 2022-2023 Executive Budget. The campaign calls for the expansion of access to child care subsidies for infant to school age children, irrespective of employment and immigration status, raise child care workforce compensation and increase child care provider reimbursement rates to reflect true cost.

Join a Webinar with the

Local State Assembly Member Kenny Burgos (A.D. 85) issued the following statement on Tuesday evening in response to the incident. "This morning, a residential gas explosion occurred on Fox Street in the Longwood section of my Bronx district," he said. "So far, eight people are injured, and sadly, one succumbed to her injuries. My deepest condolences go out to the victim's loved ones, and those affected are in my thoughts."

Burgos added, "Additionally, I extend my greatest appreciation to our first responders, including the FDNY and NYPD who rushed to the scene and risked their lives. I will continue to work in conjunction with the Mayor's office and my fellow officials in the area and ensure that our constituents

have the necessary resources during this difficult time."

The investigation into the cause of the explosion is ongoing, but Norwood News spoke to some residents who said they heard a loud explosion similar to a bomb. A bodycam video apparently from one NYPD police officer shows NYPD officers responding to the collapsed building. The deceased was identified as Martha Dagbasta, 77, of 869 Fox Street in The Bronx.

City workers were seen checking the gas lines under the street in the area close to the collapsed building in a sealed off area at around noon on the day of the explosion, and it was later confirmed by the City officials that Con Ed were also at the scene, assist-

(continued on page 14)

Governor on the NYS Budget

The Third Avenue Business Improvement District is hosting a webinar on Jan. 27, at 10 a.m., together with the Gov. Kathy Hochul, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, and others to discuss and learn about the 2022-2023 Executive Budget process, which will include a presentation. The link to register is bit.ly/32lrNVX.

Recruiting Apprentices

The State Labor department, in conjunction with the Joint Apprenticeship and

Training Committee for Operating Engineers Local 30, has officially announced the dates for the recruitment of apprentices. Applications can be obtained at the Local 30 offices in Whitestone, NY, beginning Jan. 24 until Feb. 4, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. All applicants must bring valid identification to receive an application. Please contact the Apprenticeship and Training Department at (718) 847-8484 Ext. 239 for more information.

Rise in Anti-Semitism Discussion

District 11 Councilmember Eric Dinowitz and Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) held a virtual discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 26, on the disturbing rise in anti-Semitism, together with support organizations, Stand with US, and the American Jewish Committee New York. So far, this year, hate crimes of all kinds are up 7.1 percent, citywide, and in the Bronx, they are up by 50 percent compared to the same period last year, according to data by the NYPD.



The Finest Latin & Italian Cuisine

Catering For All Occasions • Salon Par Eventos Especiales



Bronx

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
1660 E. Gun Hill Rd.
Bronx, NY 10469
Phone: 718-862-3939



Yonkers

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
187 S. Broadway,
Yonkers, NY 10701
Phone: 914-375-9777



New Rochelle

Caridad & Louie's
Restaurant
241 North Ave.
New Rochelle, NY, 10801
Phone: 914-336-27763

Delivery Available • Free Parking

Van Assembly of God Nest

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS • A CARING CONGREGATION

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY...AND OTHER WORSHIP DAYS?

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

PRAYER-FILLED, PRAYER GUIDED • SPECIAL MINISTRIES FOR ALL AGES
A VIBRANT, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

A multi-cultural, multi-generational evangelistic church with five services every Sunday, and various ministry programs and activities throughout the week. Several churches have been planted in the Bronx from Van Nest, including the African Assemblies of God Fellowship, which is now a network of African AG churches throughout the USA.

Rev. David Hernquist, Pastor
T. 718-824-4067 • F. 718-904-8193 • davidhernquist@aol.com
Rev. Rosemarie Brown, Assistant Pastor • Mark and Kaylee Alicia, Youth Pastor

www.vannestassembly.org

VAN NEST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
755 Rhinelander Avenue
Bronx, NY 10462
Corner of Holland
2 blocks from White Plains Road

SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY:
8:30am Morning Service
10:00am Morning Service
11:30am Morning Service
4:00pm Afternoon Service

TUESDAY:
12:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:
7:30pm Prayer Meeting

FRIDAY NIGHT:
7:30pm Family Night
(Groups for all ages)
11:00pm Prayer Meeting

...plus special services for high holy days — and other celebrations.

MANY KINDS OF GROUPS AND MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- MINISTRIES**
- Children
 - Youth Group
 - Young Adult Ministries
 - Adult Ministries
 - Outreach
 - NY District School of Ministry
 - Berean School Of The Bible
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Music Ministry

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Van Nest Assembly of God is a body of Believers empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to worship God in Spirit and Truth, to walk in the light of the Word of God in all aspects of life, and to be witnesses of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, through word and deed, to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit has clearly shown us that we are called to be a church led not by a program or a personality, but by the presence of the Lord. This is really why God's hand of blessing and increase has been upon us all these years. As we look to the future, we know that His presence will lead us in a continuous increase of souls and expansion of facilities; for our true desire is to glorify Jesus Christ.

NEW HEIGHTS CONSTRUCTION LLC WINTER SPECIALS!

KITCHEN & BATH

Complete Renovation
And Remodeling,
Expert Tile, Grant
And Quartz

SIDING, ROOFING & WINDOWS

Waterproofing • Gutters
Sot & Fascia Repair, and more!

MASONRY WORK

Concrete Sidewalk Violations
Porches • Brick and Granite Steps
Paver Stones • Brick Pointing
Stucco, etc.

INTERIOR FLOORING & PAINTING

Call Now for FREE Estimates

John Miller 917-642-0195
800-525-5102 • 718-767-0044

NEWHEIGHTSCONSTRUCTIONLLC.com

NYC Lic# 1191201

Galaxy
Coffee Shop, Inc.

FREE
1.5 LITER OF SODA
WITH A \$25
PURCHASE

FREE DELIVERY - OPEN 7 DAYS - MIN. \$8
MONDAY - SATURDAY 6AM - 5PM
SUNDAYS 7AM - 4PM

3150 Bainbridge & 206 St., Bx., NY 10467
Tel. 718-231-1700

Trash, Fire Safety & Housing - Local Concerns of New Year

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Concerns over growing piles of trash, suggestions for tenant education around fire safety, and the end of the eviction and foreclosure moratorium drew much of the attention at various community meetings held locally in January.

Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA) addressed four sanitation issues that continue to plague the area at their latest meeting on Jan. 5. The underpass on Webster Avenue by the 52nd precinct in Norwood, at the Bedford Park border, has been used for years as an ad hoc parking lot for cars, wrecked in vehicle collisions, which await further investigation by precinct officers.

Meanwhile, there are alternate side parking (ASP) signs on the west side of the street, but some residents have observed that the cars never move, and the street sweepers are, therefore, denied access to clean that section of the street. Barbara Stronczer, president of BMCA, said she sees a side effect of this inaction. "I'm talking now about Webster [Avenue] from Mosholu Parkway South to Bedford Park Boulevard," she said. "The merchants don't move the cars, they don't sweep in the street, nothing seems to be enforced and I'm sure the situation is the same on many of our side streets."

Stronczer put the issue directly before Joe Ottomaneli, community affairs liaison at NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), who attended the Zoom meeting. "We have field officers going out along that stretch ticketing vehicles that aren't moving [in response to street cleaning regulations]," he said. "But as you alluded to, there's only so much that we can do... because a lot of these people [are] getting ticketed, but the price of moving the car versus getting ticketed.... there seems to be a disparity on that front."

The fine for not moving a car while alternate side parking street cleaning rules are in effect is \$65. Both Stronczer and Ottomaneli acknowledge that the reduction of ASP regulations to just one day a week, in place since the pandemic started, further hampers the work of sanitation officers to clean streets and ticket violators.

The best solution offered by Ottomaneli was for neighbors to remind the vehicle owners of the problems they're causing by not moving their cars. "Reiterate to local constituents of their responsibility to move these vehicles because that will amplify our efforts to improve the conditions," he said.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, during a roundtable discussion, chaired by Mayor Eric Adams, with various elected officials and crisis management teams, including gun violence interrupter groups, at



Photo by José A. Giral

AFTER THE SHOOTING of an 11-month-old baby girl on the corner of Valentine Avenue and East 198th Street in Bedford Park on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, Mayor Eric Adams listens to the concerns of residents. On Saturday, the mayor held a roundtable with gun violence interrupters, one of whom informed him that gang members sometimes hide guns behind garbage bags, and this was why they needed the Sanitation Department to ensure trash was collected promptly. The mayor vowed to support the groups by providing a liaison from each City agency, going forward, to support them in their work.

Bedford Park's P.S. 46 Edgar Allan Poe, the topic of trash was also raised, but from a safety and security perspective.

The impromptu event was held in the wake of the tragic shooting in the local neighborhood of an 11-month-old baby called Catherine, on Wednesday, Jan. 19. One female cure violence group member explained that gang members who are selling drugs sometimes hide guns behind garbage bags. She said the cure violence groups are, therefore, used to insisting that the City's Sanitation department collect trash promptly.

"If my Department of Sanitation is not listening to the crisis management team on the ground, who say, 'Hey, I need you to pick up this garbage,' then they are actually in the way of what they're doing on the ground," the mayor said, before vowing to ensure that, going forward, City agencies would provide a special liaison to support such cure violence groups with their work.

The Twin Parks tragic fire which took place at 333 East 181st Street in Fordham Heights on Sunday, Jan. 9, stealing the lives of 17 people, including 8 children, heightened awareness about what residents could and should do to protect themselves in similar circumstances. Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7)'s Housing, Land Use & Economic Development committee considered various options to avert another tragedy at their January 11th meeting.

One suggestion from an attendee who works at 7 World Trade Center was for residential buildings to have drills, similar to the type office buildings have, where employees are informed of safe routes to evacuation in response to a fire. Winifred Campbell, deputy di-

rector of the Bronx planning office for NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) heard the suggestion and thought it was "a great idea," along with other members of CB7. They agreed to pass it on to HPD for follow-up.

Jan. 15 marked the expiration of the latest extension of the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Act, also known as the eviction and foreclosure moratorium, which protected tens of thousands of New Yorkers from losing their homes during the pandemic.

Originally passed into law by the New York State legislature in 2020, when many people were suddenly without work due to the shutdown arising from the pandemic, it suspended eviction and foreclosure proceedings to give renters and homeowners the opportunity to submit a hardship declaration. On Sept. 2, 2021, New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a new State moratorium into law, when the previous one expired, and while the Delta variant of the coronavirus was still causing many to fall ill.

Housing Courts will now begin hearing cases from landlords seeking evictions for non-payment of rent. The main source of financial help for NYC renters comes from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), a federally funded, assistance program administered through the State.

A statement on New York State's ERAP website outlines that "there is currently no federal funding available to assist residents in most areas of the State. Therefore, applications will only be reviewed and considered for funding if additional funds become available." Five

counties, outside of the City, are excluded from the funding limitations and there are still limited amounts of state-funded emergency rental assistance.

One possible alternative source of relief for renters was communicated by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81). In his weekly email update, he reminded renters of one important provision of ERAP. "The Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which recently had its application portal reopened, even though there is not currently any money to fund new applications, includes eviction protections while an application is pending, as well as for one year after the application is approved," he wrote. "This means that you can submit an ERAP application and use that as a defense in an eviction proceeding in order to remain in your home."

For homeowners with financial difficulties, some relief there continues to be available, however. Known as the Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF), the fund helps those living in co-ops and condos. Joshua Stephenson, executive director of West Bronx Housing, said the organization can assist with the process. "We have been helping homeowners with the [State's] HAF application," he said. "It's actually a lot easier and a lot better run, in my opinion, than the original rollout of the ERAP application.... It's a very easy application process."

Lastly, the City has expanded the Right to Counsel, offering free, legal representation in housing court to all qualifying New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. Qualifying factors include the number of people in a household and yearly income. As an example, according to information on NYC Courts.gov, NYC's Housing Court website, a household of three, with a yearly income of \$43,920, would be eligible for a free, legal representation, irrespective of immigration status. Tenants can find more information at:

<https://nycourts.gov/COURTS/nyc/housing/freeLawyerQualify.shtml>.

The next meeting of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2022. The next meeting of Bronx CB7's Housing, Land Use & Economic Development committee is scheduled for Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. and will be held via Zoom.

West Bronx Housing is located at 220 E. 204th Street, Suite A and Joshua Stephenson can be reached at (718) 798-0929 or via email at jstephenson@bjcconline.org.

The Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz is located at 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463. He can be reached at (718) 796-5345 or via email at DinowitzJ@nyassembly.gov.

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

They Think They're Never Wrong

When [former President] Donald Trump slandered Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug dealers, claimed former President Barack Obama was not born here, and claimed the 2020 election was stolen from him, his supporters cheered. Bob Woodward reveals a tape that had Trump admitting he knew how dangerous the coronavirus was but downplayed it to help his re-election chances. That couldn't shake their support. Yet, according to a December 24th, 2021, NY Daily News article, "Trump Urges Even Anti-Vaxxers to Get Shot" by Dave Goldiner, **that** is what gets his supporters mad.

He tells a crowd he got his booster shot, and they boo. "The vaccines work...the ones who get very sick and go to the hospital are the ones who don't get the vaccine." Who said that? Trump! All medical information released so far says, basically, that. Almost everyone who winds up in the hospital, or dead, is not vaccinated. The pandemic would be over if everyone, except those who have a real medical reason not to, would get vaccinated. Trump's supporters tend to believe what they want, and won't admit being wrong, but they're not the only ones who fit this description.

One relative only once admitted to me he was wrong. That was because he recorded the phone conversation we had, and when he played it back, heard that I was right. Such people are not limited to Republicans. Some are even intelligent. An ex-friend with a 130 IQ almost never admitted he was wrong. I ended my friendship with him because I got tired of being shouted down and having him hang up the phone on me. Hypocrisy is common with such people.

He complained about a friend who went from one side to another during the same argument, but when I gave him an example of **him** doing that to **me**, he replied, "Who cares? Confusion to the enemy..." Another time after complaining about that same friend yelling at him, I reminded him of all the times he yelled at me. He yelled, "I don't yell at you!" His hypocrisy extended to politics. He criticized Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush for proposing cuts in welfare but supported President Bill Clinton for **actually** cutting welfare.

Another ex-friend thinks of himself as intelligent because he has a master's degree, but he's not the sharpest tool in the box. When I used facts and logic to rip apart one of his anti-union and anti-worker rants, he had no reply, but he told the other ex-friend I had no argument. Despite being told how dangerous it was, he also repeatedly (when driving) treated yellow lights like red lights. One time he actually stopped in the middle of an intersection when the light turned yellow. After the third time I told him he was in the intersection, he finally decided to stop trying to argue and he moved his car. Now everybody is sometimes guilty of stupidity, including me, but when I'm wrong, I accept it and try to correct it. Some people would rather make the same mistakes forever than admit they make mistakes.

Richard Warren,
Van Cortlandt Park Village



Letters To The Editor

Editor's Note: We reserve the right to edit letters for space, clarity, civility and accuracy.

How Ydanis Rodriguez Can Deliver on Transportation Projects

NYC Mayor Adams has more to do besides appointing term-limited, Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez as the next NYC Department of Transportation commissioner. The mayor gets to appoint four [members] of the fifteen-member MTA Board. It makes sense to also appoint Rodriguez to be one of the four. This would help foster better coordination, more cost-effective transportation, and improved bus, subway, ferry, and commuter rail services.

Any changes to the MTA \$51 billion, 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan must be reviewed and approved by the four-member MTA Capital Program Review Board (CPRB). This four-member committee is composed of one representative appointed by Gov. Kathy Hochul, one by Senate Majority Leader Stewart Cousins, one by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and one by Adams. The mayor's representative can only vote on NYC projects, and he has to ensure the Big Apple is receiving its fair share.

The MTA is counting on several billion dollars more out of the \$1.2 trillion, federal, Build Back Better infrastructure bill. These dollars and projects will have to be adopted and amended into the current MTA Capital Plan. One way to develop a good working relationship with Hochul, Heastie, and Cousins is to appoint Rodriguez to the MTA CPRB.

The federal planning process to access Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding is managed by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. Rodriguez, along with the next NYC Department of Planning director, each has a vote along with represen-

tatives from the MTA, Nassau County, Suffolk County, Putnam County, Rockland County, Westchester County and the State Department of Transportation. NYMTC decides how almost \$2 billion in FTA funding is distributed among the voting members.

Serving as NYC DOT commissioner, along with being a voting member of both the MTA Board, CPRB Board and NYMTC, would provide Rodriguez with the detailed knowledge and leverage necessary to help him deliver all the transportation improvement projects and programs promised by Adams on behalf of taxpayers and commuters.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

Hail to the U.S. Supreme Court

With the continued incompetence of our legislative branch of government, Congress, and the continued blundering of our executive branch, The Office of the President, our only hope to save this nation is the judicial branch, the U.S. Supreme Court. Our prayers were answered by the three great, conservative Republican selections made by former President Donald J Trump. With their placement on the U.S. Supreme Court, we have great hope the infamous Row vs. Wade decision will be thrown out, and placed into the garbage can, where it belongs. I would ask all my fellow Norwoodites to write the U.S. Supreme Court justices and ask them to look for cases where they could also overturn the horrendous DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] decision, which legalized same-sex marriages. That only passed with a 5-4 vote, so now we can move to restore the sanctity of marriage which the great Book, not Facebook, but rather the Holy Bible, states should only be between a man and a woman. God wanted Adam and Eve to be joined together, not Adam and Steve.

Richard Marias,
Norwood



PEOPLES PHARMACY
And Food Mart

3176 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467
Ph: 347-346-7600
Fax: 347-346-7599
peoples3176@gmail.com

E-Prescription • Specialty • Surgical Supply

- Fast and Friendly Service
- Compounding
- HIV Consulting
- Free Patient Counseling
- Free Medication Review And Consultation
- Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Checkup

- Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Checkup
- **10% Senior Discount**
- **Free Delivery**

We now offer both
COVID-19 Testing & COVID-19 Vaccinations
(Moderna and Johnson & Johnson).



Specialty & Surgicals



Vacuna Contra La Influenza Gripe



GRATIS Rx De Recogida Y Entrega



Medicare Aceptado



Copias, Fax, Sellos, Tarjetas Metro



Adheren A La Medicacion Programa

FLU, PNEUMONIA and SHINGLE SHOTS

We Accept Most Insurance Including CVS Cardmark, Medicaid, Medicare, Workers Compensation and All Union Plans



Study: Most P/T Bronx CUNY Students Excluded from Financial Aid

By SILE MOLONEY

A new report published on Monday, Jan. 24, reveals that thousands of Bronx students attending CUNY colleges and community colleges stand to benefit if New York State moves forward with Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposal to extend the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to part-time students.

The study, by the Center for an Urban Future (CUF), based on Fall 2019 enrollment figures [pre-pandemic], shows that more than 12,000 undergraduate students at three CUNY campuses in the Bronx - Hostos Community College, Bronx Community College and Lehman College - attend on a part-time basis. Currently, most part-time students are shut out of the State's main financial aid program.

According to the report, 47.2 percent of students at Hostos attended school part-time, the second highest share of students at any CUNY campus and second most of any community college in the CUNY system. Meanwhile, 38 percent of undergrads at Lehman College attend part-time, which is the highest share of any CUNY senior college.

Overall, 4,936 out of Lehman's total undergraduate population of 13,002 at-

tended on a part-time basis in the fall semester of 2019. Part-timers also accounted for 3,362 out of 7,120 students at Hostos Community College, and 3,849 out of 10,040 at Bronx Community College.

The report shows that nearly 79,000 undergraduate students at CUNY attend school on a part-time basis—amounting to more than 40 percent of CUNY's community college students and nearly one-third of all CUNY students.

According to CUF officials, the center applauds Hochul's proposal to extend TAP to part-time students and urges the legislature to get behind the plan and make it a reality in 2022.

The report shows that part-time students receive little to no State financial aid. Additionally, the center's prior research has shown that fewer than one percent of CUNY's part-time community college students had received TAP awards. It also found that only 1,738 CUNY community college students received funding through the State's separate "Aid for Part-Time Study" program in 2019 - 4.7 percent of part-time students - and awards averaged at just \$743.

Jonathan Bowles, executive direc-



Photo by Sile Moloney

FILE PHOTO (L-R) DEVIN WILLIAMS, A [2019] student at Bronx Community College and Quadir Martin, a future student [as of 2019] at Bronx Community College, take a stroll through the Hall of Fame for Great Americans which is located on the college campus.

tor of the CUF said in the context of the announcement, "It's time to make TAP available to part-time CUNY and SUNY students." He added, "Doing so will help thousands of low-income New Yorkers stay on the path to a college credential. The reality is that tens of thousands of New Yorkers recognize the importance of earning a college credential but can-

not set aside work and family responsibilities to attend college on a full-time basis."

Norwood News reached out to the various local elected officials at State level to ask if they supported the expansion of TAP. We received one response from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) who said, "I fully support the expansion of TAP to all students, including part-time students in all colleges, public or private, and I have been a staunch supporter of this expansion for many years. We should make it as easy as possible for New Yorkers to access higher education, and the TAP program is a critical part of that goal."

The link to view the new report, entitled: "Supporting CUNY's 79,000 Part-time Students," is at the following site: <https://nycfuture.org/research/supporting-cunys-79000-part-time-students>. CUF describes itself as an independent think tank, focused on expanding economic opportunity in New York City. The center has published other reports in the past about the need to boost support for community college students and has previously urged State policymakers to extend TAP to part-time students.



PTSD keeps you away from what matters most.

If you've experienced or witnessed a traumatic event and now have unwanted memories of the event, struggle with fear and anxiety, feel isolated from family and friends; or avoid situations that remind you of the trauma, you may have **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**. Learn more about the CYPRESS research study of an investigational drug for people with PTSD.

To pre-qualify for this study, you must:

- Be 18 to 65 years of age
- Have had PTSD symptoms for at least 6 months prior to this study

All study-related visits, tests, and drugs will be provided at no cost. In addition, reimbursement for study-related travel may be provided.

To learn more about this study, please contact: Fieve Clinical Research, Inc.
Call or text (212) 772-3570



State-of-the-art rehab in the heart of the Bronx

Wayne's new brand is part of our multi-million dollar remodeling, bringing state-of-the-art living and cutting-edge amenities to one of the area's most respected five-star facilities for nursing and rehabilitation.

World-Class Rehab
On-Site Dialysis
Inspire Vent Unit

LVAD Therapies

Hospice Care

Palliative Care

On-Site Specialists

Fulfilling Long Term Care Program

Pulmonary Rehab

Stroke Recovery

OT, PT & Speech

Tracheostomy Care

Five-Star Amenities



CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & NURSING



3530 Wayne Ave, The Bronx, NY 10467

(718) 655-1700 | info@TheWayneCenter.com

www.TheWayneCenter.com

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

**Norwood Multiple Stabbing**

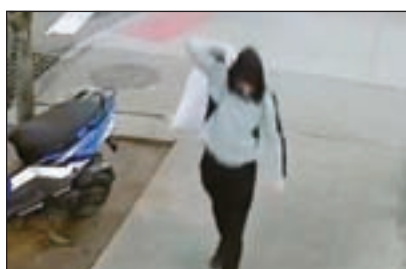
The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the three individuals seen in the above photograph who are sought in connection to an assault that occurred in Norwood. On Sunday, Jan. 9, at around 6.30 p.m., near the intersection of East 204th Street and Decatur Avenue, three male victims were walking in the area when at least four unidentified male assailants exited a dark-colored sedan and approached them. They proceeded to stab the victims with unknown sharp objects. One 20-year-old victim suffered a stab wound to the lower back, and a 21-year-old victim suffered a stab wound to the left arm. Both were transported to Montefiore Medical Center by private means in stable condition. A 16-year-old victim suffered multiple stab wounds to the torso and was transported by EMS to NYC Health and Hospitals/Jacobi in stable condition. The assailants fled eastbound in the dark colored sedan along East 204th Street.

**Bedford Park: Woman Stabbed by Two**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the two individuals seen in the above photo who are sought in connection with an assault that occurred in Bedford Park. On Sunday, Jan. 9, at around 5.33 a.m., in front of 239 East 198th Street, a 28-year-old female victim was approached by the two men. One of them displayed a sharp object and stabbed the victim multiple times to the back and torso, while the second

punched and kicked her. The suspects later fled on foot, eastbound, on East 198th Street. EMS responded to the scene and transported the victim to Saint Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.

The first assailant is described as a man with a light complexion who was last seen wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, a white shirt, dark-colored pants, and white, Adidas sneakers. The second is described as a man with a light complexion who was last seen wearing a dark-colored, plaid shirt, dark-colored pants, and light-colored shoes.

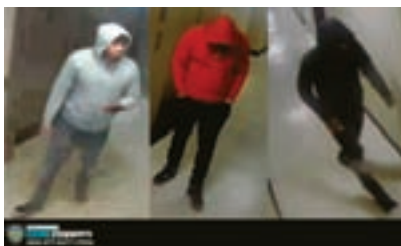
**North Bronx Forcible Touching Incident**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the individual seen in the above photo, who is sought for questioning in connection to a forcible touching incident which occurred at a residential building on Valentine Avenue, in the 52nd precinct. The exact address is not being shared in order to protect the identity of the victim. The 52nd precinct covers Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park and University Heights. On Dec. 26, 2021, at around 5 p.m., the person approached a 24-year-old woman, and grabbed her breasts, crotch and buttocks. He then fled to parts unknown.

**University Heights Armed Robbery of Barber Shop**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the five individuals seen in the above video screenshot, who are sought in connection with a robbery that occurred in

University Heights. On Monday Jan. 3, at around 12.10 p.m., inside 2357 Jerome Avenue (Innovation Barber and Beauty Shop), two of the individuals approached a 26-year-old male victim, brandished handguns, and demanded money from him. Three other individuals stood by and kept watch. The victim complied and gave them approximately \$930 in cash. All five fled the location on foot, southbound, on Jerome Avenue. They are described, collectively, as young men in their 20s, Black, and all wore hooded sweaters and face masks.

**Fordham Manor Armed Robbery**

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the three individuals seen in the above photo who are sought in connection with an armed robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. On Nov. 2, 2021, at around 5.30 a.m., they entered a 69-year-old male victim's livery cab in front of 2686 Bailey Avenue and displayed a firearm. They took \$200 in cash and two cellular phones from the victim before fleeing the location.

Fordham Manor: 66-Year-Old Man Assaulted

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the attached photographs who is sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in the 52nd precinct. It was reported to police that on Friday, Jan. 21, at around 8.20 p.m., inside a building lobby in the vicinity of Kingsbridge Road and Morris Avenue, a 66-year-old male victim was approached by the person, who pushed him against the wall and punched him multiple times.

Wakefield: Police Chase & Fatally Shoot Armed Man

Police confirm a 27-year-old man died following a pursuit, and subsequent police shooting, on Thursday, Jan. 20 in Wakefield. In the wake of the shooting, NYPD Chief Kenneth Corey advised the

investigation was ongoing and only preliminary information was available, after a brief investigation. Corey said at 1.30 p.m. that day, uniformed police officers from the 47th precinct responded to a burglary in progress on the first floor of a building in the vicinity of East 224th Street and Bronx Boulevard. A resident came home and discovered the burglary in progress.

On arrival, police encountered a male, carrying a gun. They said the person refused to comply with the responding officers' requests to drop the firearm. One of the police officers deployed his taser in an effort to disarm him, but the suspect then entered a bedroom, fired two shots, broke a window and fled the location through the window, still with the gun in his hand. A pursuit ensued by responding back-up officers along the street, across a park, winding up next to the Bronx River. Corey said police repeatedly ordered the man to drop his gun.

At that point, he said the man turned towards the police with the gun in his hand, at which point three officers shot him, striking him in the torso and arm. Corey said the suspect then fled into the Bronx River. Police removed the man from the river and began rendering first aid. EMS arrived on the scene, took over medical care and brought the man to Jacobi hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. Officers were also taken to the hospital for a medical evaluation.

Police said a 9 mm pistol was recovered from the Bronx River, in which there were three rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. The investigation continues. Police said the man had three prior arrests in New York City, two for felonies and one for a misdemeanor. The two felonies are still pending in court.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>. NYPD Crime Stoppers or on Twitter @NYPDtips.

All calls are strictly confidential.



BAINBRIDGE

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

**NEWLY
RENOVATED
REHAB
DEPARTMENT**



**Bainbridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
is pleased to offer the following services:**

Tracheostomy Care • Short-Term Rehabilitation PT/OT/Speech 6 days
Joint replacement/Trauma Injury Recovery Program
Specialized Stroke Rehabilitation Program • IV Therapy • Hospice and Palliative Care
Specialized Wound Care Program • Alzheimer's & Memory Care
Therapeutic Activity Program • Social Work Services • Long-Term Skilled Care Services
Psychological Services • Sub-Acute Skilled Services

3518 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 • Tel: 718-655-1991 • www.BainbridgeCares.com



Woman Dies, 7 More Injured in Explosion & Building Collapse

(continued from page 6)

ing with the investigation.

Several fire and emergency trucks were witnessed in the area along Intervale Avenue and on other nearby streets, and there was still a smell of smoke in the air at around noon. The FDNY categorized a fire which broke out at the same address as a 2-alarm fire, and though there were no visible flames to be seen (at least from a distance) by around noon, the area/situation was not confirmed as being under control by FDNY officials until approximately 4 p.m.

FDNY officials confirmed later that day that they were on site within 4 minutes of being alerted, and that about 200 personnel were deployed to respond to the incident. Residents who were evacuated from nearby homes were brought to a local church which had opened its doors to temporarily take people in and offer assistance, before they were housed elsewhere.

Another fire was also reported earlier on Tuesday morning at around 12.54 a.m. on the first floor of a private home at 815 E 221st Street in Williamsbridge, which was brought under control at around 1.19 a.m. *Norwood News* has reached out to the FDNY for an update on the cause of the fire and any reported injuries. We did not receive an immediate response.

We spoke to some residents in the area around 869 Fox Avenue in Longwood following the explosion. One Spanish-speaking, pregnant woman, who preferred not to disclose her name



Photo courtesy of FDNY

Firefighters response to an apparent gas explosion and fire that broke out at 869 Fox Avenue in the Longwood section of the Bronx on Tuesday morning, Jan. 18, 2022.

said she was alone in her home when she heard the explosion and became worried and frightened. She called her sister-in-law and eventually made her way to her sister-in-law's house in order not to be alone. Other witnesses said the air was musty for a few minutes after the explosion and that it was difficult to see the street below. Yet another witness said that the vibration of the explosion was felt at a building on an adjacent street to the one where the explosion happened.

At a press conference at the site of the explosion, Mayor Eric Adams also thanked the emergency services and said that the City must not wait for disasters to happen to be ready, but must always be ready to react to crises. He paid tribute and thanked the police officers and all those who responded to the incident.

He also confirmed that gas had been turned off on the entire block in the immediate aftermath of the explosion but added that it was important that the

many local seniors living in the area were given access to gas, once again, as soon as possible.

District 17 City Council Rafael Salamanca Jr. who represents the area, also paid tribute to the first responders who he said risked their lives to save some of the victims. "I thank you for really taking care of us in the South Bronx," he said in part. The FDNY confirmed that officers had arrived on the scene in 4 minutes and had entered the buildings which had not collapsed to search for and rescue any victims. They said they removed two victims and the police had removed one. They added that the cause of the incident was still under investigation.

During his remarks at the site, and referring to the multitude of crisis incidents that have occurred in recent weeks across the City, Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin said, "You've sure had a busy time, Mr. Mayor."

EMS representative, Christine Farrell, said the victims had been given food and water, and that emergency housing was being arranged in local hotels. She said teams were also looking for any pets that may have been left in nearby evacuated buildings.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson also paid tribute to the first responders and residents. "We want to lift up those families who are impacted by this fire. We want to lift up our men and women of the NYPD and FDNY, who are in hospital," she said. "We are all in this together and through our pain, we will continue to find purpose."

Bronx DA: Bronx Man Charged for Fatal Hit and Run Incident in Fordham Manor

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced on Tuesday, Jan. 18, that a Bronx man has been charged with criminally negligent homicide and other charges, following a deadly crash on East Fordham Road last summer.

In the context of the announcement, Clark said, "The defendant's alleged reckless actions led to the death of a woman and injuring of a second woman. Instead of staying on scene to help and take responsibility for his actions, the defendant allegedly fled and then falsely claimed his car was stolen to obtain financial compensation."

Clark said the defendant, Demoy Adams, 35, of Spencer Avenue in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, was

arraigned on Tuesday on charges of leaving the scene of an incident without reporting, third-degree insurance fraud, criminally negligent homicide, fourth-degree insurance fraud, third degree grand larceny, two charges of first-degree offering a false instrument for filing, two counts of second-degree offering a false instrument for filing, third-degree assault, reckless driving, and fifth-degree insurance fraud before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Marsha Michael.

According to the investigation, and as reported, on Aug. 28, 2021, at approximately 8:42 p.m. Adams was driving his BMW 5 Series on East Fordham Road near Morris Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of the Bronx. Video surveillance showed

his vehicle weaving through traffic, recklessly, and overtaking the curb before striking Murielle Gousse, who was standing on a sidewalk. She was killed in the crash. A pedestrian who was standing near Gousse was struck by debris and was injured.

Adams was captured on surveillance video near his home hours after the crash. His car was tracked to New Jersey auto repair shop and recovered. The investigation then found the defendant reported his vehicle stolen to the NYPD and his insurance company, despite it being recovered and in NYPD custody.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Katerina Kurteva of trial bureau 70, under the supervision of Jeffrey Kimelman, chief of the vehicular crimes unit,

and Jessica Lupo, deputy chief of trial bureau 70, under the overall supervision of James Brennan, deputy chief of the trial division, and Theresa Gottlieb, chief of the trial division.

Clark thanked Jamece Hill, trial preparation assistant of the vehicular crimes unit for assistance in the investigation, as well as Peter Kennedy, chief of the technical investigation bureau, Selena Ley and Oladimeji Gbolade of the technical investigation bureau, and Gregory Gianacopulos from the NYPD highway district collision investigation squad.

A person arrested and accused of a crime is innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

The defendant is due back in court on March 8, 2022.

Mental Health Services Needed, Staffing Problems Persist at Fordham Village

By JULIAN NAZAR

At the first Veterans Affairs committee meeting of Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) of 2022, one of the main goals of the meeting was to find out if the issues raised by Fordham Village residents at previous meetings had been addressed. As reported, residents at Fordham village, had complained about a lack of cleanliness, a lack of heat and hot water on a consistent basis, an out-of-service elevator, high staff turnover, and loss of veteran staff over time.

Located at 355 East 194th Street in Fordham Manor, Fordham Village was the first veterans' community residence of its kind in New York City when it opened in 2011, housing 55 homeless or at-risk veterans in individual studio apartments. The project is co-funded by New York City Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD), federal and State aid, and private donors. It is managed through Manhattan-based nonprofit, the Jericho Project.

Tyrone Matthews, a resident at Fordham Village, said during the meeting, held via Zoom on Jan. 19, that everything was "great," but acknowledged that residents were still working on some in-house issues. In response, Chad Royer, Veterans Affairs committee chair, asked what fixes *had* been put in place since the last meeting was held with Tori Lyons, CEO of Jericho.

Matthews said the elevators hadn't been out of order for a long time. However, he stressed the need to bring the whole community together. "We just can't get together in life and just deal with these things," he said, opening up about his own personal struggles. "I deal with a lot of depression and anxiety," he said. "It hurts. We just need help."

Amjad Mujaahid, another Fordham Village resident, added that since the last meeting with Lyons, Jericho hired one new social worker to work with the veterans. "They don't have a proper staff in order to deal with the volume of veterans who are in need of services," he said. "They have not yet reinstituted programming, in terms of one-on-one counseling or group sessions for those veterans who might need that support."

Mujaahid said the reason nothing had materialized yet, was due to the latest wave of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, which was limiting gatherings in person. He said the issue needs to be addressed by not only facilitating virtual opportunities to meet, but also by organizing in-person counseling sessions in well-ventilated areas. He concluded his remarks by succinctly summarizing the problems that remained. "What Mr. Tyrone is speaking about are some of the challenges many veterans are still experiencing due to lack of services on site," he said.

Norwood News reached out to Lyon for comment on progress on the issues raised by the Fordham Village veterans. She responded, saying, "We were actu-

ally planning to start up an art therapy group and a yoga group in January. We put those on hold because of Omicron. We haven't had a lot of interest in the virtual events, but we can work on that. We want to talk with tenants more to see what kind of virtual events they would like."

Regarding the staffing issues raised, she said, "We have a staff of about a dozen people. There is somebody there 24/7. We just recently hired a second maintenance person. He started last week. We have a veteran peer mentor [program] that we are recruiting for. We used to have it, but now we are bringing it back, because the veterans asked for it. He will be split between Fordham Village and Kingsbridge Terrace."

Jean Hill, another committee member on CB7, asked Mujaahid if his building had reached out to District 11 City Councilman Eric Dinowitz to get some more help in terms of social workers and people who could help veterans deal with PTSD. Mujaahid responded, saying they *had* reached out to his office, adding that their goal was to schedule a meeting with the councilman, who serves on the City Council's Veterans committee, to talk specifically about what is happening at Fordham Village, as well as at similar veterans' residential locations at 2701 Kingsbridge Terrace in Kingsbridge Heights, and 2065 Walton Avenue in Fordham Heights. *Norwood News* is following up on this issue with the councilman.

In terms of other topics, discussed at the meeting, Royer briefly talked about the recent changes to the laws regarding the application process for disabled veterans' mobile food vending permits, admitting that he wasn't sure what had prompted the law change. "We can try to reach out to someone who can clarify the meaning of this recent change," he said. "I am interested in finding out."

In fact, veteran applicants now **no longer** need to *also* hold a currently valid general vendor license from the City's Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), now the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. The change was made to make the permit requirements for disabled veterans the same as those for general food vendors who are not veterans.

Following this discussion, Royer introduced Ashton Stewart, the manager of the SAGEVets program, as a guest speaker. According to the SAGE website, Stewart "entered the U.S. Navy through the Delayed Entry Program and served during the First Gulf War." He started his presentation sharing that he had been with SAGE since May 2018, and that this was the first veterans' job he has had.

SAGE is the nation's oldest advocacy group for older LGBTQ+ adults. In 2014, the group started a program specific to veterans. "There's a lot of trauma from those individuals that doesn't fit in the

same box as the other veterans and the trauma that they have experienced," Stewart said. "This is due, of course, to the anti-LGBT policy that existed. Even during, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' we were starting to break away from those anti-LGBT policies. It was hard for a lot of people," he added.

Stewart said the purpose of SAGEVets was to find those individuals and try to bring them into the veteran space. He said the group talks to such veterans about getting access to compensation and benefits, as well as providing them with legal support. "It's tough finding veterans who aren't in the space," he said. "It's tough, especially now with the mental trauma that we are all experiencing on top of just trying to live our lives. Mental health, housing, and home healthcare have been the hardest things for us to navigate right now."

Another thing SAGEVets does is share the stories of their members, with their permission. "A lot of these stories are very powerful," he said. "Some of these individuals haven't talked or even thought much about their experience for over 30 years. We just try to help them heal." One of the ways they do that is through the Restoration of Honor Act, which was signed into law in New York State in 2019.

The legislation is designed to help veterans who may have been discharged for reasons relating to their mental health, sexual orientation, or gender identity and allows for appeals to the State of New York to get them an upgrade to an honorable discharge. Veterans who receive an honorable discharge are eligible for health and other benefits. "We have helped several veterans get meritorious applications through," Stewart said. "The healing that comes along with that is just incredible."

He wrapped up his presentation by mentioning one of SAGEVet's upcoming events. On Feb. 28, the group is partnering with Volunteers of Legal Services (VOLS), a pro-bono legal service that helps New York City's underserved communities. Their attorneys will help veterans prepare advanced directives. These are written statements of a person's wishes regarding medical treatments, often including a living will, and are made to ensure the person's wishes are carried out should the person be unable to communicate them to a doctor. "Having these documents in place is super helpful for your loved ones," Stewart said.

Following Stewart's presentation, Jimmy Santiago, a resident at Kingsbridge Terrace Veterans' Residence, spoke about the issues there. He shared that they have only one case manager and super, and that Adrianna Rodriguez-Baptiste, CPO at Jericho, comes to the residence once every two weeks to check on the building. "During my meeting with Tori Lyons, I let her know that we can't keep throwing band-aids on

something and saying it's fixed," Santiago said.

He then proposed they ask veterans in the building who were combat engineers if they knew anyone in the business who would and could carry out the structural repairs that were needed. "A lot has to do with them [Jericho] not spending the money when needed," he said. "When it [is] needed to fix the problem properly, they would rather do a patch job."

Royer asked Santiago if his building was experiencing lack of heat or elevator shutdowns during the winter. He said it was not only a lack of heat. In some cases, he said there was no heat. In response, Royer suggested making some 311 calls. He also indicated that he would be willing to visit the building.

Again, Norwood News asked Jericho for their comments on the structural and other problems Kingsbridge Terrace. Lyon said the building had a lot of problems since it opened and had been poorly constructed. "Although it is one of our newer buildings, that building has more maintenance issues than our older buildings," she said. "We have had chronic maintenance issues there. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars fixing it. We are very frustrated as well. I have so much sympathy for the folks that have to live there."

In terms of heating, she acknowledged the tenants did sometimes complain to Jericho or to HPD about it. "HPD has come out a few times, and we haven't gotten any violations around heat in the past year," Lyon said. "That said, sometimes the building may be legally heated, but that doesn't mean it is hot enough for you. Some people want their rooms to be very warm. The standard may be that it has to be one temperature, and people want it at a higher temperature. That's one of the things we are looking into, seeing how we can boost the heat."

In the wake of the Twin Parks North West fire tragedy on Jan. 9, caused by a space heater, in which 17 people were killed, including 8 children, new city council legislation is expected to raise the minimum heating requirements for buildings in New York City from 62 degrees to 69 degrees, during the winter season, as announced by District 15 City Councilman Oswald Feliz.

Meanwhile, regarding 311 complaints by Kingsbridge Terrace residents, Lyon said it was better for tenants to contact Jericho first to allow them to address the complaints more quickly. "If they are not getting the repair done, or somebody to react to it, it is a valid next step [thereafter] to call 311," she said. "We want to hold ourselves accountable to make sure that it is a pleasant place to live, safe, and comfortable."

The meeting concluded with Royer sharing that he doesn't have any additional information on the proposal to restore the World War I monument on Moshulu Parkway.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Join Elizabeth Cooney, Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy's coordinator of educational programming for **Woodlawn's Lovers Trolley tour** of the cemetery, located at 4199 Webster Ave, Bronx, NY 10470, on Sunday, Feb. 13, the day before St Valentine's Day, at 2 p.m., at the Jerome Avenue entrance, and visit the sites of Woodlawn's notable lovers. Tour stops include Irene and Vernon Castle, Ida and Isidor Straus, and Celia Cruz and Pedro Knight. Adults \$25 and Students/Seniors \$20. All guests are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations and will be asked to wear a mask on the trolley. For tickets, go to: <https://www.woodlawn.org/conservancy/tours-events/>, and search for Lover's Trolley tour.

Neighborhood Stories is a storytelling initiative by the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) to gather and preserve the stories of New York City's neighborhoods. Learn more about the project, and how to share memories of your neighborhood and community here: <https://www.archives.nyc.gov/neighborhoodstories>.

MUSIC

Bronx Arts Ensemble (BAE) is proud to announce **"Reflections,"** a free

concert event on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 3 p.m., at Bronx House Community Center, 990 Pelham Pkwy S, Bronx, NY 10461. BAE presents Markel Reed, baritone, and the program will include classic pieces from Johannes Brahms, Ben Moore, and Margaret Bonds. It will also feature an aria fresh from the Metropolitan Opera's presentation of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* by Terence Blanchard. Admission with prior registration is free. Go to eventbrite.com and search for "Reflections: BAE Presents Markel Reed, baritone."

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, will perform at The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m. The company's US tour in Fall 2018 was a coast-to-coast success, packing out houses across the country and receiving an enthusiastic response from audience members new and old. Founded in 1952 by dancer and choreographer Amalia Hernández, Ballet Folklórico brings together the music, dance and costume of Mexican folklore from pre-Colombian civilizations through the modern era. For tickets, go to: https://mpv.tickets.com/?agency=LEHV_PL_MPV&orgid=54429&pid=8975819#/event/8975819.

ART

West Chelsea Contemporary, located at 231 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10011 is honored to announce **New York Artists for The Bronx**. This pop-up exhibition curated by Elisse Geberth features artwork donated by over two dozen local artists. 100 percent of proceeds will be donated to **Bronx Fire Relief Fund** through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and directly support those most affected by the devastating Bronx apartment fire. Artworks will be on view and available for acquisition beginning Jan. 29, 2022. Go to eventbrite.com and search for "New York Artists for the Bronx," for more information.

On Sunday, Jan. 23, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., **Gallery 505**, located at 505 W 236th St Bronx, NY 10463, will be opening its first exhibition of the year. The gallery is pleased to be sharing the work of Bronx artist, Doris Cordero. The event is free. Go to KRVCD.org/events for more information. At the online opening, Cordero will be discussing her process and the gallery will look at each of her pieces in detail. The gallery will be open beginning Jan. 24 to view the exhibit live, by appointment. Email LindaKRVCD@gmail.com to arrange a viewing.

KIDS

Each Monday, from Jan. 3 to March 31, from 6 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., **Ballet for Kids** classes will take place Norwood's Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. More information is available at: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2022/01/31/ballet>.

SPOKEN WORD

NYC Veterans launched the Veteran

Voices Project to record the stories of NYC's veterans and preserve their legacy. Learn more at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/veterans/initiatives/veteran-voices-project.page>.

DANCE

The New York International Salsa Congress (NYISC) announces its 20th Anniversary return, September 1-5, 2022. The premiere Latin culture, dance, and music festival will shine with a dynamic slate of immersive programming starring vibrant dancers, instructors, and musicians, from around the world. For more information, visit www.newyorksalsacongress.com.

MOVEMENT

Each Saturday evening, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., children and youth, aged 11 to 18, will be able to enjoy an array of indoor sports, including basketball, soccer, volleyball, dance, martial arts and more during the **"Saturday Night Lights"** which continues, at least until July 2022. 100 gyms across the City are open for free, high-quality sports programs for kids on Saturday nights, ensuring no indoor gyms will be closed on these nights – the time when they are most needed by kids in city communities. A key component of the program is bringing cops and kids together. Teams of Youth Coordination Officers from NYPD precincts will be at each of the 100 gymnasiums every Saturday night, helping to coach, and participating with members of various Community Based Organizations to interact with young people and help make a lasting and positive impact in their lives. The Fordham Heights location is at 2255 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457. For a list of all venues, go to: <https://bit.ly/33eeXZQ>.

Lionsgate Studios Debuts 500,000 Sq Ft Production Facility in Downtown Yonkers

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Lionsgate Studios has officially opened a 500,000 sq ft film and television, production studio in downtown Yonkers, located just 5.8 miles from Norwood, The Bronx, as reported by property website, YIMBY. The property is located on the shores of the Hudson River and is the latest component of an expanding production campus that will soon be the largest of its kind in the Northeast region, according to YIMBY.

The builder and manager of the \$500 million campus is Great Point Studios, an investment and development group led by Hallmark Channel founder, Robert Halimi, and media investment banker, Fehmi Zeko.

Today, the property includes three sound stages, dozens of dressing rooms and makeup stations, dedicated office space for writers and administrative staff, set design and construction facilities, screen-

ing rooms, dining areas, and hundreds of parking spaces.

When complete, the entire campus will span roughly 1 million square feet across nearly 15 acres. Facilities will include 11 sound stages, parking for 750 vehicles and 100 trucks, and more.

Lionsgate, the confirmed anchor tenant, will occupy seven stages on a long-term lease. Mediapro, a global communications and production company based in Barcelona, has also signed on for a long-term lease of available stages.

Lionsgate CEO, Jon Feltheimer, said that with demand for new content greater than ever and prime studio space at a premium, the production company was pleased to partner with Great Point on the opportunity to become an anchor tenant of the Yonkers Studios. "They will give our television and film productions state-of-the-art East Coast sound stages

with great proximity to New York City, and we look forward to them becoming an important hub for our global production activities," he said.

The campus is expected to be complete by December 2023. Great Point has also announced plans to break ground on a second campus with eight additional sound stages.

According to its website, Lionsgate movies have grossed more than \$10 billion worldwide in the past six years and has produced films, many award-winning, such as *Knives Out*, *La La Land*, *Saw*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Monster's Ball*, *Now You See Me*, *John Wick*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Twilight Saga*.

Norwood News has reached out to both Lionsgate and Great Point Media directly to ask about potential job openings / internships at the new site and will update this story upon receipt of any feedback we receive.

Congressman Jamaal Bowman Released After Arrest in D.C. Amid Protests Over Voting Rights

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D (NY-16) who represents parts of the Bronx and Westchester counties, has been released following his arrest on Thursday, Jan. 20, at the U.S. Capitol, in Washington D.C., his communications' team confirmed to *Norwood News*. Bowman's office staff said the congressman was arrested, alongside at least 20 others, including faith leaders and youth who had been hunger striking "to protect the country's democracy," amid the ongoing debate in Congress over the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

The congressman released the following statement on Friday, Jan. 21. "Throughout the last year, my first year in Congress, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how we, as a people, can defend ourselves from the insidious steps elected officials across this country are taking to deny us our right to not only the ballot box, but to a better, safer, and more equitable future," he said.

"I've thought about our elders, whose sacrifices and determination, fuel me. I've thought about our ancestors, whose blood runs through me. I've thought about everything Black people, generation after generation, have already put on the line for our freedoms and rights. I've asked myself what would Fannie Lou Hamer say and do in this moment if she were still with us. What about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or John Lewis or



Photo courtesy of Congressman Jamaal Bowman via Twitter.

CONGRESSMAN JAMAAL BOWMAN (NY-16) on the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C. on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2022, holding copies of 33 bills passed in 19 states throughout 2021 that restrict voting rights. The congressman was arrested the next day, along with others who participated in an ongoing protest to protect the right to vote. He was later released.

Claudette Colvin?"

He continued, "More than anything, they'd want legislation passed and signed into law. Short of that, they'd want actions, sit-ins, and marches. They'd be proud to see activists from groups such as Un-PAC, Until Freedom, Our Black Party, The Workers Circle, and Black Voters Matter giving this fight their all.

They'd also want to disrupt the coun-

try until our cries are heard. I honor their legacies and their work—the thousands of steps they've marched on tired feet and the countless times they put their lives on the line so that their sons and daughters could live to fight another day."

Bowman added, "Without them, there is no me — the first Black Congressperson to represent my district in

American history. So, one thing must be made clear: I will not stand by, and I will not stay quiet while the fate of our democracy continues to hang loosely by a thread that the Senate is hellbent on tearing apart."

The congressman said with everything that had already been fought over and for, there should be no reason why people have to take to the streets, go on hunger strikes, or plead with the government to act in their best interest. "But that isn't the case," he said. "The House did its part to pass critical voting rights legislation and legislation like the 'Build Back Better Act' that would completely transform every community in America, particularly communities of color that have been historically left behind."

He added, "Still, there are 52 members in the Senate who are a direct threat to our democracy and are standing in the way of progress. I had no choice but to join people and activists outside the Senate this week who are also tired and frustrated with our government. On Wednesday, ahead of the Senate's shameful decision to leave our democracy in peril, we stood in the cold for hours trying to talk to any Senator who'd listen, and we read over the bills that have been enacted across the country to make voting harder."

Bowman concluded, "Yesterday, I was arrested alongside over 20 people, (continued on page 26)

EVITA USA IS HIRING SALES ASSOCIATES Part-Time & Full-Time Positions

Requirements:

- Bilingual English & Spanish
- Great Customer Service
- Organized
- Prior Retail Experience



Please call Gila at 718-316-3362 to
learn more and apply



**Shop local
and Save !**

Small businesses and big
savings await at the
Jerome Gun Hill BID.

jeromegunhillbid.org
BID hotline 718-324-4946

@jeromegunhillbid
 @jghbid



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585
www.langsamproperty.com

Classifieds

Professional Directory

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Repair

Computer Repair Upgrade, troubleshooting, lap-top overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings are usually held on the **third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.**, sometimes virtually and sometimes in person. The January meeting has been cancelled. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at 718-220-5824 to be added to the email list.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The next full Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.** Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings have been held via ZOOM. The meetings are usually held on the **first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.** The last meeting was held on Jan. 5. For further details, contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

Gunman sought in broad daylight Gun Hill Road Shooting

by DAVID GREENE

Police are looking for the gunman who opened fire and shot a man in broad daylight on a busy Norwood street.

According to police spokeswoman, Detective Annette Shelton, the incident took place in front of the Dunkin' Donuts, located at 47 East Gun Hill Road at Dekalb Avenue, at 2:47 p.m. on Saturday, January 22.

Shelton said of the incident, "A 21-year-old male was shot in the back and was transported to Montefiore Hospital by private means," and the unidentified victim remains in stable condition.

Shelton could not provide a description of the suspect. She added that there had been no arrests, and the in-

vestigation remains "ongoing."

A post by a Citizen's App user referred to two male suspects who had been involved in a shooting on the same date. The post referred to one suspect who had fled northbound on Dekalb, and another who had jumped into a blue Honda Accord with TLC plates, and then traveled eastbound on East Gun Hill Road.

Anyone with information in regard to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/> or on Twitter @dcNYPDtips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

**TO REPORT A STORY TO THENORWOOD NEWS,
CALL US AT 718-324-4998**

START THE PLANNING CONVERSATION

What You Need to Know

ABOUT CREMATION & BURIAL OPTIONS

FREE TROLLEY TOURS

IN GROUND BURIAL
OPTIONS

JOIN US FOR A FREE
TROLLEY TOUR



If you've ever been part of the end-of-life planning process for a loved one who has died, you know how stressful it can become. So many decisions, so many options...and it's rare for the family to agree on what's best.

This is why many individuals and families come to us to put their own cremation or burial preferences in writing. You can express your wishes while preventing your loved ones from experiencing the financial and emotional stress of making decisions on your behalf.

NOW, YOU CAN EVEN JOIN US FOR A FREE INFORMATIONAL TROLLEY TOUR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNING AHEAD:

- How to start the conversation with your loved ones
- The differences between planning at the funeral home and the cemetery
- Understanding your options and asking any questions you may have

As a complimentary gift, you'll also receive a Living Will Kit and Personal Planning Organizer, easy-to-use resources for gathering information and putting your wishes in writing in one place.

These trolley tours are our no-obligation service to the community. We want to help you, however we can, to make a difficult time a little easier! Won't you join us?



CHECK OUR SCHEDULE FOR THESE TOURS AND REGISTER ONLINE BY VISITING
WWW.WOODLAWNPREPLAN.ORG

(718) 920-0500 • WWW.WOODLAWN.ORG • EMAIL: INFO@WOODLAWN.ORG

The Twin Parks Tragedy: What's Next?

By **MONICA RICHARDSON & SILE MOLONEY**

It has been almost two weeks since the deadly Twin Parks North West fire broke out in the Fordham Heights section of the Bronx, tragically taking the lives of 17 people, including 8 children, mostly of Gambian descent. Since then, Bronxites have mobilized to mourn and honor the victims, support the survivors, all while facing more tragedy in the form of gun violence across the borough.

The NYPD confirmed 63 people were injured in the blaze, which, according to The New York Times, was the deadliest since the Bronx's Happy Land Social Club tragedy, which resulted in the death of 87 people in 1990. That fire was caused by arsonist, Julio Gonzalez, and the impacted, unlicensed establishment where the fire broke out did not, reportedly, have working fire alarms, sprinklers, or fire exits.

Meanwhile, reminders of the January 9th inferno remain at the Twin Parks high-rise building, located at 333, East 181st Street. Windows were seen, boarded up with plywood, in the days that followed the blaze, the mood among tenants was solemn, and there was a growing memorial of cards, photos and floral tributes dedicated to the victims. Sadness and fear hung in the air, and begged the question, "How could such a disaster be prevented from happening again?"

District 15 City Councilman Oswald Feliz, in whose district Twin Parks North West is located, said at a press conference, on Jan. 17, in response to the tragedy, "We are working on a large packet of fire safety legislation which includes strengthening housing laws, and the enforcement of those laws."

Feliz is a former tenant lawyer who has represented Bronx residents in housing court for required apartment repairs. On Jan. 18, in the company of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and District 15 Congressman Ritchie Torres, in whose congressional district the tragedy occurred, the councilman outlined the new measures.

They include requiring inspections of violations, mandating re-inspections of violations identified and communicated to landlords, decreasing the amount of time landlords are given to action such violations, and increasing fines for failures to correct violations.

Feliz said laws currently exist, for example, requiring buildings to have self-closing doors, but the new City laws strengthen those existing laws



Photo by David Greene

A MEMORIAL SITE made-up of photos, hand-written message, the American, Gambian and other flags, balloons and flowers, dedicated to the 17 victims of the Twin Parks North West fire tragedy is seen in an area located near the building, located at 333, East 181st Street in Fordham Heights, on Friday, January 14, 2022, as the tower looms overhead.

which he hopes will better protect tenants. We asked if compliance with the new laws can be tracked by tenants, via 311, once a complaint is raised. "Absolutely," he said.

The new laws also include increasing minimum heating temperatures in apartments from 62 degrees to 68 degrees, so that families will not feel the need to use space heaters. The latter point had been suggested by Bronx Community Board 7 Parks chair, Barbara Stronczer, at the board's public safety meeting on Jan. 13, and *Norwood News* had raised it with local City

Council Members for consideration.

We also raised the point about Jashawn's Law, a State law passed in December 2020, led by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) in response to another fire tragedy in 2002, which killed then 8-year-old Jashawn Parker. That law established deadlines for landlords to make court-ordered repairs to buildings.

At the time of the 2002 fire, the building had over 350 building code violations, and its owner had been ordered to make repairs by a housing court judge, but those repairs were

never made. We asked the councilman if, taking into account that existing laws are already in place, and new laws are being proposed, he viewed the legal process as being more holistic now, or a continuation of incremental legislation that would eventually require additional tweaking again in the future.

Feliz said that City, State & federal legislators had been in discussions, following the tragedy and had formed a task force. He added that the federal government, obviously, had a lot more power over federally funded programs like Section 8 housing, and key agencies like the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to get things done, and that each level of government was tackling different issues at the appropriate level, within their respective remit.

He later told the *Norwood News*, "We need to create a system that truly protects our families, and truly protects our tenants." He said, collectively, the legislation aims to ensure the future of the Bronx is not mired by similar tragedies.

Meanwhile, also at the federal level, on Jan. 20, Bronx Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) introduced The Heating and Cooling Relief Act, which, among other things, reduces barriers to funding relief for tenants, and makes it more difficult for utility firms to shut off heating. In addition, on Monday, Jan. 24, Torres, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced more proposed federal legislation in the form of the "4-Point Federal Fire Safety Package," strengthening laws relating to sprinklers, emergency doors, portable heaters, and the powers of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Aside from passing legislation, fire officials have also been diligently promoting safety measures at various community meetings throughout the borough and City. On the City's fire safety website, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/education/fire-and-life-safety/fire-life-safety.page>, there are helpful tools to help educate the public on how to prevent a fire, and increase one's chances of escaping in case of fire.

Community programs such as Fire Safety Education, Youth Firesetters Intervention, and CPR are free of cost. The courses were created to eliminate the risk of fire deaths, and children can also participate and learn the dangers of playing with matches or lighters.

Richard Velez, EMT at FDNY joined the Bronx Community Board 7

public safety meeting on Jan. 13 and gave a fire safety update. He asked everyone to go home and immediately check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. "Those alarms should be checked twice at least every month," he said. "Press the button and make sure that the alarms are functioning."

Velez also warned residents to be careful with any items that use lithium-ion batteries. "Make sure you're using the proper battery in charging the device that the item came with," he said. "We know that a lot of folks, when those batteries run, they buy off-the-market devices and chargers, and we've been having problems with that, as you can well imagine."

He added, "If you're going to charge these devices, whatever you have, make sure it's in an open area where they can vent. Don't charge your phone under the pillow or between the pillow and the mattress. These items should be charged in an area where there's no flammable... anything that can catch fire. If you notice or you see smoke or they're overheating, please stop using them. Get rid of them if you can. Dispose of them properly. On the City's website, <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/promotional-materials/harmful-products-brochure-06310-f.pdf>, there's ways you can dispose of these batteries properly."

Velez also recommended that residents try to recognize and know what type of building they are living in, fireproof or non-fireproof. "It's very important," he said. "If you're in a fireproof building, and there's a fire, you don't need to leave your apartment and you should wait for our instructions to follow directions on what to do," he said. "If the fire is in your apartment, please leave and make sure you shut the door so that heat and smoke don't go into the hallway... we know what the results of that were in that fire in the Bronx. We're trying to avoid that. It's not the first time but we need to remind everyone. Please shut the door if there is a fire in your apartment."

Velez said FDNY/EMS is offering safety and CPR training sessions, both in-person and virtually. Anyone interested in availing of such training, perhaps for all residents of a specific building, can contact him at richard.velez@fdny.gov or (718) 999-1436. "It's very important that we spread the word so that we can avoid another major disaster, like what we had a couple of days ago."

Meanwhile, donation sites and organizations, too numerous to list, continue to receive enormous amounts of much-needed items to assist the fire survivors with clothes, food, cosmetics, bed linen, and many other things needed to regain a sense of normalcy.

Norwood News tried to speak with



Photo courtesy of John McCarten, New York City Council media unit

(L RO R) BRONX Borough President Vanessa Gibson, District 15 City Councilman Oswald Feliz, and Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) speak at a press conference at the site of the deadly Twin Parks North West fire tragedy, located at 333, East 181st Street in Fordham Heights, on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, to discuss new federal and City fire safety and other legislation to protect tenants.

some of the Gambian Youth Organization (GYO) volunteers based at 214 East 181st Street, on Jan. 17, about the number of donations received. However, they preferred not to disclose their names or speak on the record. Some mentioned they were also too overwhelmed, trying to figure out how to distribute and direct donations to stop and talk. They did say they were no longer accepting aid because they didn't have any more space to take it. Their contact phone number is (646) 470-6330.

Similarly, a security guard at Monroe College, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue, a site set-up by City officials to help fire survivors, said they were no longer accepting contributions there either when we visited on Jan. 17. The security team were unable to comment on the relief efforts underway at the college, and we were unable to enter to see the donations or speak to anyone. The contact number at Monroe College is (718) 933-6700.

Meanwhile, the Verizon Foundation recently confirmed that it had made a \$10,000 donation to the Bronx Chamber of Commerce Foundation, with local Verizon employees donating money and goods to surviving community members. A Verizon representative said that when Verizon network-operations manager, Elizabeth Vasquez, learned of the tragedy at the Twin Parks apartment building, she helped collect money, diapers, detergent, and personal hygiene products for its residents.

On the other hand, recognizing the cultural sensitivity and needs of the mostly Muslim Gambian community members, April Horton, manager for Verizon's state & local government affairs team, helped collect prayer mats, abayas and veils to help displaced residents feel more comfortable in local



Photo by David Greene

A MEMORIAL SITE made-up of photos, hand-written message, the American, Gambian and other flags, balloons and flowers, dedicated to the 17 victims of the Twin Parks North West fire tragedy is seen in an area near the building, located at 333, East 181st Street in Fordham Heights, on Friday, January 14, 2022.

shelters. For survivors of the fire, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, <https://www.bronxchamber.org/foundation>, is working to distribute and offer goods and services, including burial, apartment cleaning and school supplies.

There are also some other sites that continue to accept aid. Some of these are The Riverdale Jewish Center at 3700 Independence Avenue Bronx, NY 10463, SAR Academy at 655 West 254th Street Bronx, NY 10471, and NYC Department of Education, 1230 Zerega Avenue Bronx, NY 10462.

On Tuesday, Jan. 25, Pix11 News reported that in the two weeks since the Twin Parks fire, despite all the money raised by public and local businesses, survivors said none of the money had made it to them yet, and "many residents of the Twin Parks Towers are also still living in area hotels and are frustrated

about how long it's taking for housing and financial assistance to come."

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson spoke with PIX11 Morning news on Tuesday, Jan. 25, to share the latest updates on the issue and provide some answers and clarity. Gibson said, "The mayor's fund has already started with its first disbursement. Each household will receive a little bit over \$2,200." She said other organizations based at the Monroe College service center were also providing gift cards valued at \$500. In addition, she said the City was also able to join Bronx businesses which, collectively, were able to raise over \$100,000, and were also disbursing \$500 gift cards for each affected household.

Gibson added that they were also working with the Gambian Youth Organization, whose GoFundMe campaign reached over \$1 million in a short time, to help them disburse the funds, and since their campaign has since closed for donations. She also clarified that the money would not only be used to help the Gambian community but all those affected by the Twin Parks tragedy.

Feliz later spoke to *Norwood News* also about the various, collective efforts by the Bronx community, in general, in responding to the tragedy, saying, "The Bronx has been plagued with many tragedies, including fire tragedies. We're very thankful for everyone in our entire City and in our entire nation, thankful for reaching out and offering help, and thankful for everyone who has been there for the affected families." He said one of the most successful donation funds had been the mayor's fund which had raised approximately \$2 million, which would be going to the affected families.

Asked what the difficulties had been in responding to the crisis, the councilman said, "Last Sunday's tragedy was an unimaginable devastating tragedy and no words can explain how our community felt, and no words can ever bring back the lives that were lost, but we had a very strong team, a dedicated team on the ground assisting the families every second of the way, in every way, with temporary housing, but getting them on the path of permanent housing again."

Feliz added that the necessary repairs were quickly made but many families did not want to return to the same building to relive the tragedy, so they were able to contact CBR Section 8 to transfer those affected to alternative housing, elsewhere.

Asked, outside of the City appointed officials and employees from the councilman's and other elected officials' offices, how many volunteers had been involved in the fire relief efforts, he said, "well over a thousand" gave their time to help. "We have a community that's been very thankful for all the efforts that have been made to help them," Feliz said.

Man Shot in Jacobi Hospital ER – Two Men Flee the Scene

By SÍLE MOLONEY &
DAVID GREENE

Police confirmed a man was shot inside Jacobi Medical Center, part of the NYC Health+Hospitals public hospital system, on Tuesday, Jan. 25. The NYPD was alerted to the incident, which took place in the emergency room of the hospital, located at 1400 Pelham Parkway South in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, at around 12.34 p.m. Upon arrival, they found a 35-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the arm. The victim was treated immediately by medical staff at the scene.

A preliminary investigation found that while in the ER, the man had gotten into a verbal dispute with two unidentified men who discharged several rounds hitting the victim in the arm. They subsequently fled on foot to parts unknown. The investigation is ongoing, and the victim is expected to recover from his injuries.

A prayer vigil for police officers, organized by Pastor Jay Gooding and Joe Thompson, president of the 49th Precinct Community Council, was held on the same day at 3 p.m. at the 49th precinct, located just five minutes from the hospital, before the daily roll call, after which about two dozen police officers began their evening shift.

During the vigil, it was announced that 27-year-old Police Officer Wilbert Mora, the second police officer who was shot while responding to a domestic violence incident in Harlem on Friday, Jan. 21, had died. His partner, 22-year-old, Police Officer Jason Rivera, had already died on Friday, after succumbing to his injuries. Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell confirmed in a tweet on Tuesday that Mora had donated his organs on his passing.

The shooting at Jacobi Medical Center was also mentioned at the vigil. Other attendees included the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, District 13 City Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, District Leader Irene Estrada (A.D. 80) and Sheikh Musa Drammeh, one of the coordinators of the recent Twin Parks North West fire tragedy, who presided over the funeral service for 15 of the 17 victims who lost their lives on Sunday, Jan. 9, as [reported](#).

The shooting comes a day after the mayor released his blueprint to curb gun violence in New York City.



Photos by David Greene

POLICE ARE SEEN at Jacobi Hospital on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, where at around 12.34 p.m., a man was shot inside the ER by two unknown men, who then fled the location.

(RIGHT) A PRAYER vigil is held at the 49th precinct, located at 2121 Eastchester Road in Morris Park, a five-minute walk from Jacobi Medical Center, on Tuesday, Jan. 25, ahead of the daily roll call, after which about two dozen officers started their evening shift. Earlier that day, a man was shot in the ER of Jacobi Hospital.



His office announced that the mayor was expected to visit the hospital at 4.45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Norwood News spoke to one source on the day, who declined to be identified, and who said that the shooting was allegedly in retaliation to a separate shooting which had reportedly occurred earlier on Tuesday. However, *Norwood News* is unable to confirm this currently. When we asked the NYPD if there was a metal detector and police presence on site at Jacobi to protect against such incidents, we were referred to Jacobi Medical Center. We reached out to the hospital and will update this story upon receipt of any further information we receive.

On entering the hospital, we can confirm that visitors' temperatures are usually taken by security staff. John Doyle, a spokesperson for NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi, later released a statement on the incident, saying, "Earlier this afternoon, an individual walked into the NYC Health + Hospital/Jacobi emergency department and shot another individual who was in the waiting room."

He added, "This was a cowardly act in a space where New Yorkers

come for healing and care. Our health care heroes swiftly took care of the shooting victim and took actions to protect the other patients in the waiting room. Our immediate focus is on caring for the patient and ensuring the safety of our staff. We are working closely with the NYPD as they conduct their investigation."

The hospital confirmed that no NYC Health+Hospitals employees were hurt during the incident, the patient who was shot was in the operating room at the time of the press release, and the assailant was no longer on campus.

As previously reported by *Norwood News*, in 2017, police confirmed that a former employee, Dr. Henry Bello, of Claremont's Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, part of the Bronx Care Health system, went on a shooting rampage, killing one doctor and wounding six others before turning the gun on himself.

On June 30, 2017, police said Bello snuck an AM-15 rifle into the hospital under a white lab coat. He then went up to the 16th floor, and opened fire, killing a female doctor identified as Dr. Tracy Tam, 32, an attending physician who was covering for a col-

league that day.

He shot six others, seriously wounding five, while shooting a sixth victim in the leg. Bello then made his way to the 17th floor, setting himself on fire, and triggering the fire alarm system. He later died by suicide. He had purchased the firearm at Upstate Guns and Ammo, a weapons store in Schenectady, New York ten days before the shooting. It was unclear whether the victims were the intended targets.

Norwood News reported at the time that it was unclear what type of

security standards were in place at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, a nonprofit hospital that sees 1.1 million patients, and 140,000 emergency room patients, yearly. Former Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who stood next to former Mayor Bill de Blasio at the news conference in the aftermath of the shooting, said at the time, "After the investigation, we need to see how this can be prevented in the future." He described the shooting as something "straight out of a movie."

Year-to-date shooting incidents in the Bronx, as of Jan. 16, were up 20 percent compared to the same period in 2021. In the 49th precinct, in which Jacobi Hospital is located, year-to-date shooting incidents were up 100 percent as of the same date, compared to the same period last year.

Anyone with information in regard to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the CrimeStoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/> or on Twitter @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

COVID-19 Updates

While the highly transmissible, omicron coronavirus variant overtook Delta as the dominant strain in the U.S. in December 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), as of Jan. 24, citywide COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are all on the decline, according to NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

However, infection rates are still *comparatively high*, when compared to other stages of the pandemic. Locally, they are not as high as in some other parts of the Bronx. As of Jan. 24, the 7-day percentage positive rate in ZIP code 10468, covering Fordham / Kingsbridge / University Heights, was 10.23 percent, according to DOHMH. In ZIP code 10467, covering Allerton / Norwood / Pelham Parkway / Williamsbridge, it was 12.37 percent. In ZIP code 10458, covering Belmont / Fordham University / Kingsbridge, it was 9.68 percent, and in ZIP code 10465, covering Country Club/Throggs Neck, it was highest at 15.07 percent.

In terms of COVID-19, full vaccination rates across the City, as of Jan. 24, the Bronx ranked second-lowest out of the five boroughs, at 69 percent, just above Brooklyn at 68 percent. Meanwhile, the citywide average is 74 percent.

New York State DOH issued a special pediatric COVID-19 report on Jan. 14, and among other findings, officials found that from Dec. 5 to Jan. 8, hospital admissions increased 16-fold for those under or 18 years of age, and increased 8-fold for all age groups in NYC. Notably, among children admitted to the hospital for or with COVID-19 during the week of January 3-9, 4 percent of 5 to 11-year-olds were vaccinated, and 90 percent were unvaccinated, 31 percent of 12 to 17-year-olds were vaccinated, and 61 percent were unvaccinated.

DOHMH officials say New Yorkers who don't feel well should stay home, masks should be worn in public, indoor spaces, and hands should be washed regularly. They say the latest winter surge is impacting everyone, including people who are vaccinated, and those who were previously infected. They say everyone is at risk of infection, but unvaccinated people are significantly more likely to have *severe* illness from COVID-19, including from omicron.

NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi said in a recent social media post, "New data from NYC DOHMH: Unvaccinated NYC adults who previously had #COVID19 were *more than twice as likely* to get reinfected, experience illness, and be hospitalized than people who were vaccinated after infection," and provided the following link: <https://www.medrxiv.org/con.../>

10.1101/2021.12.09.21267203v1.

Health officials said New Yorkers should call 911 immediately if they develop:

trouble breathing, a persistent pain or pressure in their chest, confusion, an inability to stay awake, bluish lips or face, or any other emergency condition.

They said residents should NOT call 911 if it's NOT an emergency or if they are looking for a COVID-19 test.

NYS Department of Health (DOH) advises all New Yorkers aged 5 and older to get fully vaccinated, and all eligible New Yorkers to get a booster vaccine. New Yorkers aged 12 and older who were fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least five months ago, are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.

New Yorkers aged 18 and older who were fully vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine at least five months ago, or fully vaccinated with the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago, are eligible for a booster dose. Children aged 5 to 11 with certain immunocompromising conditions who were fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least 28 days ago, are eligible for an additional dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Dosages vary for different groups.

State Health officials said a booster dose helps maximize protection, prolongs the vaccine's durability, and continues to safeguard communities against the virus. Booster and additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are free and widely available, statewide, irrespective of immigration status. For New Yorkers aged 18 and older, State health officials say Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (COVID-19 mRNA vaccines) are preferred. New Yorkers may get the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine in some situations. For more information on this, go to the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>.

NYC health officials say it has never been easier to get a COVID-19 vaccination, and they are required for many public indoor activities in the City. City residents of 65 and older can get free transportation to and from a vaccination appointment. This service is also available for those with disabilities who have no other way to get to a vaccination site. To schedule free transport by either ambulette or taxi (including wheelchair accessible vehicles), call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). If you are younger than 18, you must have your parent or guardian call to book the trip on your behalf.

You can also sign up online for an in-home vaccination, or by calling

877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). Anyone 12 or older is eligible for in-home vaccination. Generally, find out how and where to get vaccinated here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>. State Officials said all New Yorkers 6 months and older should also get a flu shot.

Health officials say New Yorkers should get tested after traveling, before seeing family, and if they have symptoms or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19. All travelers, domestic and international should continue to follow all CDC travel requirements. NYC Health + Hospitals testing sites and mobile clinics offer free testing, including some sites that will test children 2 years old and younger. For more information, go to: <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-testing-sites/>. To find a COVID-19 testing site near you, visit nyc.gov/covidtest or text "COVID TEST" to 855-48. Additional Citywide sites can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>.

The federal government announced in December that every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free, at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days and residents are encouraged to order their tests now so they have them when they need them, at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. The federal government is distributing 400 million free N95 masks to pharmacies and community health centers effective Jan. 24.

Effective Dec. 13, 2021, NYS Medicaid will cover COVID-19 diagnostic and screening tests with "at home" sample collection for reimbursement with no member cost sharing. Coverage will be provided for Over-the-Counter (OTC) FDA-authorized COVID-19 test kits, that are used in accordance with CDC recommendations, for antigen detection. This policy applies to both Medicaid fee for service (FFS) and Medicaid Managed Care (MMC).

If you test positive after taking a home self-test, call your provider or 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319) to be linked to care. For more information about when to get tested, the types of COVID-19 tests available and how to interpret test results, including what to do if you test positive or negative, go to <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-testing.page>. When you go for a test, you will NOT be asked about immigration status.

The FDA recently authorized two antiviral pills, paxlovid and molnupiravir, to treat those who are severely ill with COVID-19. Due to limited supply, the antiviral pills are currently only available to people who have

tested positive and are at the highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you think you have symptoms, or if you have tested positive, talk to your health care provider, or call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319). If you are a health care provider, get information about eligibility, prioritizations, and distributions of the oral antiviral pill treatments here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-providers-treatments.page#oral>.

Most people who have COVID-19 completely recover, but some have lasting symptoms and health problems. Post-acute COVID-19 syndrome, also called long COVID or chronic COVID, refers to a wide range of symptoms that develop during or after COVID-19 illness and continue for several weeks or months. Symptoms include fatigue, breathing problems and muscle pain. For more information on the symptoms of long COVID and available care options in NYC, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-long-covid-faq.pdf>.

For information on COVID-19 business regulations, go to:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines-keytonyc.page>

Open Enrollment for NYS Health Insurance

The NY State of Health Open Enrollment Period for coverage in a 2022 Qualified Health Plan ends on January 31, 2022. Enrollment in Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan is available year-round. If you need help choosing a plan, talk to a registration advisor for free. Call 311, text the word "SafeNYC" to 877-877 or visit <https://on.nyc.gov/3hEl8Jl>.

NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program Alert

The NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program has resumed accepting applications, effective Jan. 11. Assistance is not guaranteed. Go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/> for more information.

New Rights for Delivery Workers in NYC

As of Jan. 24, delivery workers have new rights:

1. Apps must tell you how much the customer tips for each delivery.
2. Apps must tell you your total pay and tips for the previous day.
3. You may have better access to restaurant bathrooms when you pick up orders.

Goto: <http://on.nyc.gov/33BL6el> for more information.

Thousands of Bronxites Mourn 15 of Twin

by DAVID GREENE

Hundreds of Muslim worshippers packed the Islamic Cultural Center, located on Clay Avenue in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, on Sunday, Jan. 16, and thousands more stood shoulder to shoulder, wearing traditional Muslim clothing and facemasks, to pay their respects to 15 of the 17 victims killed in the horrific Twin Parks North West fire tragedy on Jan. 9. As mourners jammed into several blocks along East 166th Street, the funeral and prayer service was attended by many high-ranking, City and State elected officials, including Mayor Eric Adams.

Despite the frigid temperatures that hovered around 20 degrees, a large crowd of New Yorkers from all backgrounds turned out for the service, most remaining silent as they watched the service from several large television screens set up under various large tents, lining East 166th Street.

Highbridge resident, Ebrahaim Endure, showed up to the service carrying a sign dangling from a rope which was fastened around the neck of his winter coat. The sign wording disputed official reports that a space heater and defective self-closing doors caused the tragedy. Endure blamed building mismanagement and lack of timely repairs to the building for the blaze.

Recalling past visits he had paid to several residents of the building, Endure fumed, "The building was dysfunctional!" He continued, "No heat! No hot water! The elevators aren't running, and the building is filthy!" He concluded, "The presidents of NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) come and go and they did nothing. You could stand there for over a half hour to get an elevator to go up."

In the aftermath of the fire, *Norwood News* reviewed the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) complaint records for the building in question and found there were nine complaints recorded, with two still active as of Jan. 10. Of the two active complaints, one related to a "24 Hr Follow-Up Compliance Inspection for Vac X 04/2022," and one related to an elevator audit. When contacted, DOB said of the first complaint that after the fire, DOB issued a Partial Vacate Order for the entire 3rd floor (14 apartments in total).

"It is standard protocol at DOB that following the issuance of a Vacate Order, our inspectors will return to the location within 24 hours to confirm that the



Photo by David Greene

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022, Highbridge resident, Ebrahaim Endure, carries a sign to the prayer service held at the Islamic Cultural Center, located at East 166th Street and Clay Avenue in Morrisania, for 15 of the 17 victims of the January 9th Twin Parks North West fire.

Vacate Order is being complied with. This follow-up inspection is noted in BIS for record-keeping purposes," a DOB official said. "In this case, our investigators have been on scene all day, and we can confirm that the order was being complied with."

Regarding the elevator complaint, the DOB official told *Norwood News*, "DOB performed an inspection of the two elevators inside of the building following the fire. We found that they were not damaged by the fire, and at the time of inspection, they were in safe operable condition." [Elevators should not be used in the event of a fire.]

Meanwhile, back at the funeral, a second mourner, Isatou Jallow, a fire safety director at another building, said, "A lot of NYCHA buildings are not working. People call me and complain to me that they put the oven on, or when there's no heat, they put a heater on because if there was enough heat, the people would not have to put on a [space] heater."

Moments after a scuffle broke out in front of the Islamic Cultural Center, Norwood resident, Alina Dowe, said of the mourners, "They're starting to cause chaos because a lot of elected officials are being allowed to go in. However, some of the families that come to the mosque on a continuous basis that are sincerely here to pray and mourn with the families, they're not able to get in."

Dowe, whose mother-in-law teaches at the school down the block from the Twin Parks North West building, offered, "We do need to have better (building) code enforcement. However, we also need to make sure that people stop breaking the doors. They have to stop breaking the fire alarms. They have to stop breaking the lights in the staircase." She added, "A lot of small landlords are also dealing with the same thing, where they make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in, but the people that are smoking

weed, they turn them off, so they're no longer working."

Standing along East 166th Street with the mourners, Assemblyman José Rivera (A.D. 78) told *Norwood News*, "My goodness, one tragedy after another. We barely remember that we had a terrible tragedy back in 1990 called the Happy Land tragedy, [and] here we are today. We lost 87 people that day in that tragedy. Here we are....we lost so many children and my question is we have a law that heat in apartments should never go below 68 [degrees], so what's going on? If we have to increase it to 78, let's do so, so people don't have to buy heaters. Electric heaters are dangerous."

In the aftermath of the fire, the City took steps to introduce legislation to improve housing fire safety. At a press conference on Jan. 18, District 15 Councilman Oswald Feliz and Congress Member Ritchie Torres (NY-15), in whose respective districts the fire occurred, along with Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson outlined the new regulations. They include requiring inspections of fire safety violations by landlords, mandating re-inspections of violations that are placed, decreasing the amount of time landlords have to correct violations, and increasing fines for failure to correct such violations, as well as raising minimum heat requirements from 62 degrees to 68 degrees, so that residents will not feel the need to use space heaters.

Meanwhile, Rivera added of the tragedy, "My heart goes out to all the families... In today's New York Post, a lady, one of the victims who survived (the Twin Parks fire) she lost two brothers in Happy Land. Now, isn't that a tragedy?"

Outside the Islamic Cultural Center, Feliz said, "It's going to be a long process, specifically the issue related to housing. Many of the apartments have been repaired, but many of the families do not want to return, due to the fact that they don't want to relive the tragedy. So, we're working with all of the families to get them apartments elsewhere." The councilman added that many residents had CVR Section 8 vouchers to allow them to live in "specific buildings" but the City was working with the federal government to get survivors alternative vouchers to allow them to live in *any* housing complex.

Volunteers from ICNA Relief, Community Change, Inc., and Muslims Giving Back were on hand at the funeral

Parks Fire Victims at Funeral Service

service, dispensing Danish pastries and hot chocolate, as well as face-masks and hand sanitizer. One group even handed out winter caps, scarfs, and gloves to keep folks warm. At least one man, according to family members, was being treated by EMS for hypothermia.

As the memorial service came to an end, one by one the bodies of the 15 victims were brought out and placed on gurneys and rolled to one of the 15 hearses from Paak Funeral Home that had lined up along the entire block of Clay Avenue. From inside the mosque, a woman was heard screaming, "We need an ambulance, someone's having a heart attack!" A man outside then yelled, "We need medical!" Half a dozen police officers from the NYPD's Community Affairs division entered the building as a child's casket was being brought out onto the street. The officers returned minutes later carrying a woman, one of two women who had fainted.

Norwood News later followed up with the emergency services on the reported incidents on the day and they confirmed receiving reports at 11.49 a.m. at 371 East 166th Street in Morrisania, of a medical incident and that two civilian patients were transported to Bronx Lebanon. As to the nature of the incident, they said EMS/FDNY did not have or provide protected patient health information as per federal law, HIPAA.

On Monday, Jan. 17, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Sheikh Musa Drammeh who oversaw the prayer service and was a coordinator for the fire victims, reiterated a comment he had made at the funeral service, directed at the local elected officials in attendance. Drammeh said, "I said we are holding the funeral service here for these 15 Bronxites, because they lived in the Bronx. Had they lived in Midtown Manhattan, like in ZIP codes 10012, they would have not died. They died because they lived in the Bronx... If nothing is done, we're going to continue to have funeral services for people who live in the Bronx."

According to Drammeh, a funeral service had previously been held in Harlem for the two additional fire victims.



Photos by David Greene

(TOP) ON SUNDAY, January 16, 2022, thousands of Bronxites jam several blocks of East 166th Street in Morrisania, in frigid temperatures, to pay their respects to 15 of the 17 victims of the January 9th Twin Parks North West fire tragedy.

A WOMAN IDENTIFIED by The New York Times as Cira Ba is consoled after breaking down on seeing 15 caskets of victims of the January 9th Twin Parks North West fire tragedy, as they are taken out of the Islamic Cultural Center, located on East 166th Street in Morrisania, during a funeral service on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Of the 15, whose services were held at the Islamic Cultural Center, 11 were buried in New Jersey and four were flown back to Gambia. Drammeh said that, initially, all the victims were believed to have been from Gambia, but later, it was found that 14 victims were from Gambia, two were from Mali and one from Guinea, all countries located in West Africa.

Referring to the crowd size at the funeral, Drammeh remarked, "I'm not surprised by the turnout, but we are extremely grateful for what New Yorkers have done. As a matter of fact, two of the

most affected families, they told me they wanted to express how grateful they are for all the services from our City agencies and organizations who donated."

Drammeh continued, "And the Jewish community from the Tri-State area took the tragedy as their own. They raised so much money. They provided every service, and they continue to say, 'Whatever is needed, let us know.' He added that the UJA Federation had donated \$25,000 to the victims and survivors.

Of the two victims who had been removed from the building during the

funeral service, Drammeh said, "That happened right after the service as people were overwhelmed with emotion; what [help] they needed was immediately provided."

The Bronx has indeed experienced some of the deadliest fires in New York City, such as the referenced Happy Land fire at the Southern Boulevard nightclub in West Farms on March 25, 1990, when an arsonist chained an exit and poured accelerant in the venue, killing 87 people.

The deadly fire along Woodcrest Avenue on March 7, 2007, killed ten people, including nine children from two families. A delayed installation of a sprinkler system, as well as missing smoke detectors and an overheated cord in a space heater were labeled the causes of the fire.

More recently, on Dec. 29, 2017, 13 people died in an apartment fire on Prospect Avenue in Belmont. Fire investigators determined that a child playing with the burners of an oven caused the blaze. The child's mother grabbed the child and fled the apartment, reportedly leaving the apartment door open which allowed the fire to spread throughout the building.

The names of the 17 Twin Parks North West fire victims are: Fatoumata Drammeh, 50, Foutmala Drammeh, 21, Muhammed Drammeh, 12, Nyumaisha Drammeh, 19, Fatoumata Dukureh, 5, Haji Dukary, 49, Haja Dukureh, 37, Mariam Dukureh, 11, Mustapha Dukureh, 12, Isatou Jabbie, 31, Omar Jambang, 6, Sera Janneh, 27, Hagi Jawara, 47, Ousmane Konteh, 2, Haouwa Mahamadou, 5, Seydou Toure, 12 and Fatoumata Tunkara, 43.

Drammeh concluded, "But out of the worst tragedy in 30 years comes the best manifestation of who New Yorkers are. You know, sometimes we focus so much on race, about religion, about ethnicity, about politics; all these types of divisive nonsense, but last week really highlighted what needed to be highlighted, which is we are one New York family, and I could not be more proud."

**Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

Congressman Jamaal Bowman Released After Arrest in D.C. Amid Protests Over Voting Rights

(continued from page 17)

including youth hunger striking for our democracy. And I will do it again and again and again. I will keep doing everything in my power to bring attention to the crisis we are in and ensure our democracy functions in a manner that represents the people. Voting rights are on the line along with everything else we stand for. Our failure to act and save our democracy will have a devastating impact on every generation from here on out. I intend to do my part to prevent that from happening. The Senate's vote is not the end of this battle. If we all don't stand up right now and fight for our democracy, we might lose it forever. Now is the time to put it all on the line. And not just for a season. For the rest of our lives!"

Marcus Frias, director of communication for Bowman, had previously issued the following statement on his behalf on Thursday evening after his release, writing, "Rep. Bowman has been released and is now home with his family. He was proud to stand alongside activists this morning at the Capitol in support of voting rights and will continue doing everything he can to amplify the urgent need to protect our democracy."

In an earlier, issued statement, Frias had written, "Today, Congressman Jamaal Bowman joined a voting rights non-violent direct action at the North

Barricade of the U.S. Capitol Building and was arrested by the U.S. Capitol Police."

The US Capitol Police posted a Tweet the same day, writing, "Just before 12 p.m., demonstrators started blocking one side of the North Barricade outside the U.S. Capitol. We have already issued them three warnings. The demonstrators refused to move out of the doorway, so we are making arrests." By 12:55 p.m. the Capitol Police reported making "a total of 27 arrests for Crowding, Obstructing or Incommoding."

The congressman's arrest came a day after two Democrats (Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona) sided with the Senate GOP in rejecting the filibuster rule change, a tactic under which Republicans and two Democratic senators oppose voting rights legislation, thereby blocking the passage of the all-important and hotly debated John Lewis Voting Rights Act in the Senate.

At least one protest had been held in New York City in the days surrounding the 48-52 vote shortfall. According to media reports, including CNN, the demonstration was organized to bring more attention to the precarious situation regarding the country's democracy and the failure to pass the proposed legislation.

Norwood News has reached out to the congressman's office to ask if he

anticipated getting arrested when he joined the protestors. We did not receive an immediate response apart from his later statement, outlined above.

Bowman, a former teacher, who holds his seat for about a year now, had just announced, earlier on Thursday, the introduction of the Heating & Cooling Relief Act, saying, "The Heating and Cooling Relief Act introduced today by me and @SenMarkey will end energy poverty, clear utility debt, promote energy & climate justice and even save lives. We need this bill passed now so that people can save on utility costs and maintain their energy use."

It comes amid a swathe of new legislation around fire safety at every level of government, in the wake of the tragic Twin Parks North West fire disaster in Fordham Heights which killed 17 people including 8 children on Sunday, Jan. 9. A day earlier, Bowman had announced that, together with Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, they had secured \$88 million in funding for constructing the Mamaroneck Flood Mitigation Project which it is hoped will reduce flood risk for the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake River Basins in the Village of Mamaroneck, New York.

Also on Wednesday, Jan. 19, the congressman announced the passing of his amendment to the Micro Act, saying "My amendment to the Micro Act

passed in @HouseScience. Microelectronics are in almost every electronic device, yet the industry is mostly white. This amendment will not only expand research programs, but it will also work to grow and diversify the microelectronics workforce."

As reported, the congressman hosted U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris at the state-of-the-art, Edenwald YMCA center in the Northeast Bronx during her visit to the borough, at his invitation, on Friday, October 22, 2021. The vice president was in the Bronx to promote the Biden administration's Build Back Better agenda and was accompanied on the trip by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra. Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), who represents parts of the Bronx and Manhattan, said, during a roundtable discussion on how to end gun violence, held at a Bedford Park public school on Saturday, Jan. 22, in the presence of New York City Mayor Eric Adams and others, that the blocking of the passage of the Build Back Better Act by mostly Republicans and some Democrats means millions of federal dollars allotted for gun violence initiatives in New York State have been blocked. This is despite cries from all corners of the City and State, especially in the Bronx, to address the ever-growing threat that gun violence poses to the safety of New Yorkers.

new settlement community center

MUSIC
SOCCER
SWIMMING
DANCE
YOGA
ART
SAMBA
FITNESS CLASSES
RUN CLUB
ESL CLASSES
GYMNASTICS
SPACE FOR RENT
BLUE SEALS SWIM TEAM
MARLINS ADULT SWIM TEAM
TECH CREW (STEAM)

WE'RE BACK AND REOPENING!

LEARN MORE BY CALLING (718) 758- 5901
1501 JEROME AVENUE
(ON THE CORNER OF W 172ND ST.)
BRONX, NY 10452
NEWSETTLEMENTCOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG

SCAN ME

Bronx Birthday Vigil for Baby Catherine

(continued from page 1)

were also in attendance, including Stand Up to Violence (SUV), Save Our Streets (SOS), Guns Down, Life Up, and Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (BRAG).

Pastor Gooding told the crowd, “Today we’ve come, and gathered our clergy along with our elected officials, along with our cure violence sites, that are with us today to let the community know, to let this county know, we don’t stand by, but we stand up to the violence that’s plaguing our streets.”

The pastor continued, “Today we’ve called a prayer vigil. We’re praying right now for Baby Catherine, today, as she celebrates her first birthday.” Gooding later added that the child’s family had planned on attending the prayer vigil, but Catherine had been transferred to Cornell Hospital in Manhattan and on that evening she was to undergo emergency surgery.

The gathering was held just 10 days after a separate vigil had been held for the 17 victims, including 8 children, killed in the Twin Parks fire tragedy in Fordham Heights on Sunday, Jan. 9, and just five days after their funeral and prayer service was held for the victims on Sunday, Jan. 16.

Speaking of the child’s parents, Adams said, “I remember the night of the shooting when they just walked into the room to speak with me and all they said was, ‘Can we just hold hands together in a circle and pray?’”

Adams continued, “But we’re going to match that prayer with action, and to be here with the cure violence team, these young people who are here, are just amazing.” He continued, “Historically, we have not had the coordination that I believe we should have [had] with the men and women in law enforcement, community, working with these men and women who are on the streets, that... understand some of the issues that people are going through, and we want to coordinate with them.”

The vigil culminated a week for a borough and a community that was still reeling, yet responding with continued relief efforts, from the Twin Parks fire tragedy, while simultaneously coping with a residential explosion and fire that killed one 77-year-old woman and injured seven more in Longwood, the shooting of a police officer in Belmont amid a gang-related shootout, and the fatal shooting of a 27-year-old man by police in Wakefield, following a dramatic police pursuit, among other highly charged events, all of which took place amid ever freezing temperatures.

Meanwhile, as reported, Bedford Park was also the location of a savage stabbing, caught on video, of a 28-year-old woman by two unknown men in the early hours of Jan. 9, the same day as the Twin Parks fire, and during stalking awareness month.

The NYPD had circulated fliers regarding a reward of up to \$3,500 for anyone with information regarding the shooting of Baby Catherine. That reward would later be increased to \$10,000.



Photo by David Greene

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY Darcel D. Clark (at podium) joins various, elected leaders, including the mayor, along with members of the clergy, NYPD, violence interrupter groups, community leaders and members at Valentine Avenue and East 198th Street in Bedford Park, for a prayer vigil on Friday, January 21, 2022, for Baby Catherine, an 11-month-old infant, who had been shot at the same location on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

During her remarks at the vigil, Gibson later offered, “This violence is unacceptable. Our children don’t feel safe. Our people don’t feel safe, and we have a problem with that and so we are here tonight to not only stand in unison with one collective voice, standing against violence but we are declaring war on those who choose to engage in violence in this borough.”

For his part, Espaillat told the crowd, “We must all work together to ensure that violence stops in the City of New York... today we’re here because an 11-month-old baby was shot in the face... we will continue until this neighborhood is safe. The neighbors of this neighborhood deserve that.”

In addressing the crowd, Rivera said, “Why do things like this continue to happen? We must, we must, we must make sure that this does not happen. Our borough president said it, let’s make sure we provide the resources so that young people do not see it as an option to come out shooting in these streets without caring for families or communities.”

On Saturday, the mayor was back in Bedford Park once again, holding a round table at P.S. 46 about gun violence prevention, together with some of the same elected officials, including Espaillat, Gibson, Feliz, and Rivera along with various cure violence groups, and even some hospital emergency workers.

Looking at all angles of the issue, Rivera committed to supporting a bill proposed by Brooklyn State Sen. Zellnor Myrie to hold gun holders accountable for their weapons. For her part, Gibson insisted that youth education about gun violence, as early as at elementary level, was important as well as looking at the issues facing such youth not just in the schools but when they are physically on their paths to the schools, to protect them.

Meanwhile, the mayor committed to providing a government liaison from each City agency to work with the violence interrupters and support them on the ground, after one female cure violence

group member explained that gang members who are selling drugs sometimes hide guns behind garbage bags. She said the cure violence groups are, therefore, used to insisting that the City’s Sanitation department collect trash promptly.

“If my Department of Sanitation is not listening to the crisis management team on the ground, who say, ‘Hey, I need you to pick up this garbage,’ then they are actually in the way of what they’re doing on the ground,” the mayor said on Saturday.

Back at the vigil and reacting to Baby Catherine’s shooting, Feliz, still reeling from the Twin Parks fire tragedy of Jan. 9, and dealing with the ongoing relief efforts for the victims of the fire which was also in his district, said, “That an 11-month-old... already traumatized by the gun violence plaguing the Bronx...our communities deserve safety. No one should have to worry about whether they’ll make it back home when they’re going to the grocery store.”

The councilman added, “As councilmember of this district, I have one message for the constituents that I represent. I feel your pain, and I am listening to you, and I am going to be working with all of my colleagues to build a system that does not allow anybody to threaten your safety.”

Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, then told residents, “As president of the council, I feel that my obligation is to make sure the community is involved, and I need them to be involved. As of tonight, we’ve got a campaign going on here, a campaign of stopping the violence in the community, not only in this one but in everybody’s community.” She ended by urging residents to attend the 52nd precinct community council meetings.

For Tapia, who represents the area further south of the area in which the shooting took place, she said, “I’m here because I feel for Baby Catherine as a parent, because having four sons, I know

how difficult it is to raise a family here in the Bronx. We, as elected officials, are going to continue fighting to stop this violence. We’re going to do whatever is in our hands, walk with the community, so we can stop this violence.”

During the roundtable on Saturday, the mayor also addressed the concerns over funding by the various violence interrupter nonprofit organizations who highlighted that it was very difficult to carry out the type of work they did, which required them to spend money upfront and get reimbursed later, often when they did not have the money upfront, to do so.

Espaillat responded to that point, saying he understood their predicament and said that system was better suited to larger organizations who had those funds available and could wait for the reimbursement while nonprofits often could not.

“You spend your money first, and then you have to wait a whole year,” he said, agreeing that smaller groups couldn’t work like that yet their work was vital. He said it reminded him of something his mother used to say. “The big expensive broom may sweep better, but it can’t get into the corner. We can get into the corner.”

The mayor committed to addressing this point, among others, in his plan of action to curb gun violence. “Why are there so many guns in our community?” Adams asked. “Why are we allowing the southern parts of this country to continue to ship guns into the inner cities? We have to answer that question,” he said. “I want to be loud and clear...I want to be on the front lines.” He then called on the federal government for help curb the flow of illegal guns to the City.

On Monday, the mayor later released his “Blueprint to End Gun Violence in New York City,” which broadly covers supporting the NYPD with their work working with other levels of the State and federal government to curb the flow of guns into the City, supporting the crisis management system and violence interrupters working on the ground with offenders, expanding summer youth programs and other community and social programs, like health care, including support for mental illness, having the courts remove violent offenders from the streets, and harnessing the power of the business and religious communities to help address the issue.

Back at the vigil, the final speaker was Bailey, who said, “We’re grateful that Catherine is okay, but one centimeter to the left or to the right, it could have been a different story. I just continue to pray for her family, and I pray for us, in hope that we get to gather together in positivity, as opposed to the circumstance. But you can count on us to continue to work, and to work together, to find any solution that we can” at ending the gun violence issue.”

Visit Our Website
WWW.212ANSWERS.COM
And Watch Our Client Testimonials

KRAMER & POLLACK^{LLP}

INJURY ATTORNEYS



Larry J. Kramer



Joshua Pollack

Free Consultation
(212) ANSWERS
(212) 267-9377

No Fee Unless You Win
Hablamos Español

KRAMER & POLLACK, LLP
25 ROSLYN ROAD, 2ND FLOOR
MINEOLA, NY 11501
(516) 742-8897

KRAMER & POLLACK, LLP
15 MAIDEN LANE, SUITE 1400
NEW YORK, NY 10038
(212) 267-9377

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Have us with you wherever you go.
It's like having us on retainer for FREE.

The app walks you through what to do if you are in an accident. The sooner we are involved the better. It's a direct line to our help.



Kramer & Pollack, LLP is a team of tough, dedicated lawyers committed to obtaining the best settlements for our clients. We serve as trial counsel to the profession by whom we are highly esteemed. We PERSONALLY handle each and every case unlike others you may see advertising on TV.

Verdicts/Settlements

\$28,500,000.00 **\$16,687,615.91** **\$16,000,000.00** **\$15,000,000.00** **\$4,000,000.00** **\$3,700,000.00**

Placental Abruption

Brain-Damage Baby

Pedestrian Hit By Bus

Construction Accident

Construction Accident

Construction Accident

PAST RESULTS ARE NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS

Kramer & Pollack, LLP Practice Areas:

- Accidents
- Animal & Dog Bites
- Automobile Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Bicycle Accidents
- Birth Injuries
- Boating Accidents
- Brain Injuries
- Burn Injuries
- Bus Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Injuries to Minors & Children
- Medical Malpractice
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Nursing Home & Assisted Living Abuse
- Pedestrian Accidents
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Slip, Trip & Fall Accidents
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Truck Accidents
- Wrongful Death

