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LOCAL MAN SHOT BY POLICE LAID TO REST

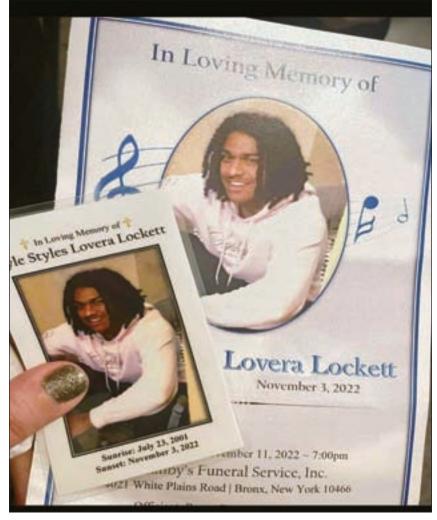


Photo courtesy of Jessica Lugo via Facebook

A FUNERAL NOTICE for Kyle Lockett, 21, provides details of his funeral and wake on Friday, November 11, 2022, in Wakefield. The young man grew up in Norwood and had attended both P.S. 94 and M.S. 20.

by SILE MOLONEY, UFON UMANAH & DAVID GREENE

Dozens of friends and family members came together to mourn the loss of Kyle Styles Lovera Lockett, 21, at Granby's Funeral Service, Inc. in Wakefield on Friday, Nov. 11. The young man was fatally shot when police intervened in an altercation between Lockett and a 29-year-old man, later named as Ajamu Demmerle, on the corner of Gun Hill Road and Hull Avenue in Norwood on Thursday, Nov. 3.

A police vehicle was observed parked on the opposite side of 4021 White Plains Road, where the wake was being held. One mourner, who identified himself as Lockett's uncle, told *Norwood News* that the family wished to keep the service private, and the service was soon closed to everyone waiting, after reaching capacity.

According to police, who gave a press conference at the scene of the shooting on Thursday, Nov. 3, at 11.20 a.m., members of the Queens Warrant Squad were in an unmarked police vehicle in front of 330 Gun Hill Road, a bodega, grocery store.

Police said, "They were investigating an unrelated incident. At 11.30 a.m. a 29-year-old male [later confirmed as Ajamu Demmerle] doubleparked a white Lexus at the southeast corner of Hull Avenue and East Gun Hill Road. He entered the bodega where he engaged in a violent struggle with a 21-year-old male [Kyle Lockett] who was already in the deli."

Police continued, "This struggle is caught on surveillance video tape. It appears the 21year-old who was in the deli prior had a gun, and the 29-year-old who entered is stabbing him with *(continued on page 15)*



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NORWOOD NEWS

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Yahaira Arias Elected as New Bronx CB7 Chair

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) secretary, Yahaira Arias, was elected as the board's new chairperson at the November general meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Arias succeeds Emmanuel Martinez, who stepped down last summer from the role. Parks chair, Barbara Stronczer, had been acting as interim board chair until the board's election took place.

Arias told *Norwood News* that at age 5, her parents moved to The Bronx to 196th Street and Morris Avenue. She attended the P.S. 86 Annex, and later, P.S. 86. At 12, her family moved to the South Bronx where she lived until the age of 23. She later moved back north to 198th Street and Morris Avenue and later, to 192nd Street and Grand Concourse. She currently lives at Fordham Hill Cooperatives, in Fordham Manor.

Arias is an honors graduate of Fashion Industries High School, SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology, and of CUNY College of Technology. She earned degrees in applied sciences and holds a Bachelors in paralegal/law studies, which she said took her on the path to becoming a paralegal, a career she said she loves, and has worked in for the last 25 years.

"In 2017, I became a (CB7) board member, and in 2019, I was elected as the board's secretary," she said. "In this role, she said she came to learn, understand, and appreciate the daily work carried out by the staff, members, and elected officials to enhance and enrich the community. "As secretary, you are a part of every committee, and work with every chair to ensure accurate information is properly posted and shared," she said.

Addressing those present at Tuesday night's meeting, prior to the vote, Arias referred to a written vision of what she wanted the board to be, which she had sent to members beforehand. "I want to make sure that we keep building on the foundation that has already been established, and I want us to work as a team," she said in part, later adding that she wanted the team to be strong and cohesive.

"I know that a lot of things have gone up and down, especially with COVID and with us, at some point, seeing each other personally in meetings," she added. "So, my vision is to continue to create transparency in everything that we do. I want us to have great teamwork, and assure this board that we can do everything that we set out to do, and we can look to a better future, not just for ourselves, but for the generations that are coming after us."

Describing herself as a team player, a paralegal, bilingual, and someone



Photo courtesy of Asher Bar Lev and David B.

Rheingold YAHAIRA ARIAS IS the new chair of Bronx Community Board 7, following an election on Nov. 15, 2022.

who was upfront about her views, Arias said she wanted the board to work hard at implementing goals, and to have good morale among members. "I can get around as good as anyone in this district," she said. "I bring everything that I want forward."

Later, directly addressing Chad Royer, chair of the Veterans committee and second vice chair of the board, who was ran for the position of chair, Arias said she would continue to work constructively with him whatever the outcome. "May the best-qualified person win here tonight. Win or lose, I am very proud to be a part of this board."

In his pitch to members, Royer said he was a resident of the district for over 40 years, had children, and had been a board member since 2017. "I was the former health committee chair, the current veterans chair, and the second vice chair," he said.

"I'm also a founding member of Bronx Parent Autism Support Circle, which is a parent support group going on strong for nine plus years," he added. Royer said he was running to see how the board, which he described as the best in The Bronx, could get some of the items on the capital expense budget funded, in other ways, in addition to working with elected officials. He cited some successful advocacy that was carried out on the upgrading of basketball and handball courts in St. James Park, and how this renovation was later successfully funded.

"I also want to work with our committees and members to address the issues like quorum participation, engagement, and bringing content forward to the community so that we can tackle those issues at hand, together....a little bit of what I've done in the past," he said, citing his work on an early intervention forum at Lehman, a disabilities awareness forum at Lehman, veterans' roundtables on mental health, tenants' rights, and curbing illegal fireworks.

"One success I'm really proud of is the fact that I've been able to chair two committees on our board for the course of four years," he said, adding that he also wanted to help new members become more knowledgeable to better advocate for the community. "I listened to a lot of your feedback, and I'm ready to work, ready, willing, and able to help you," he said. "I will not waste your time."

Ahead of the election, as both nominees already held elected positions on the board, Stronczer informed attendees that, in accordance with the bylaws, nominations would be accepted at the next month's general meeting for whichever position would be left vacant following the election of the new chair.

The candidates took a few questions from members. Both said they were generally open to the possibility of retaining a hybrid (in person and virtual) meeting model in the future, if allowed by law. Asked what was the first thing they would do, if elected as chair, Arias said she would hold a meeting with all members to discuss pros and cons in order to evaluate how to move forward, knowing that some people were not happy with certain things as they stood. Royer agreed, saying it was important to gauge the members' commitment, and their goals for the board in order to put them on the right committees.

It was the last board meeting for resigning district manager, Ischia Bravo, who said she was taking vacation before taking up her new position in January as Bronx county clerk at the Supreme Court and therefore, would not be attending the December meeting. Bravo was widely thanked for her many years of service, as was Stronczer, for acting as interim chair, and Royer for putting himself forward as a candidate for chair.

After the results of the election were announced, many members and attendees offered their congratulations to Arias, including District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz, who said, "I've known you for 10 years. You're dedicated. You're a team player, and I know you're going to do a great job of continuing to lead this board."

CB7 serves the neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Norwood, Fordham, Jerome Park, Kingsbridge Heights, Mosholu Parkway and University Heights. "I am honored to have been elected as chair of BXCB7, and as chair, I will continue to provide representation, assistance and advocacy for all residents within our district," Arias said.

Kingsbridge: 6th Annual Cranksgiving Part Bike Ride, Part Food Drive & Part Scavanger Hunt a Success

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The 6th Annual Bronx Cranksgiving brought together cyclists from all over the City to deliver packaged food and produce to families in need at Broadway Plaza in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx, among other locations, on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Jessica Altagracia Woolford, Kingsbridge Unidos founder, and based on the results to date, likely runner-up candidate for the Working Families Party in the recent Nov. 8 general election for Assembly District 81, joined the event along with other colleagues.

Bronx Cranksgiving partnered with Kingsbridge Unidos and cyclists from across the city to deliver purchased food products to families experiencing homelessness in the Kingsbridge area.

The event consisted of a food drive on two wheels, part bike ride, part food drive, and part scavenger hunt, and kicked off at 11 a.m. at Brook Park Community Garden, located at 494 E 149th Street in Mott Haven.

Altagracia Woolford said Cranksgiving has been held annually in New York City since 1999 and spin off events have since taken place in other cities around the globe. In 2016, it was held in The Bronx for the first time, and has reportedly supported numerous local organizations since then.

Bronx Cranksgiving goes beyond the traditional food drive by actively connecting cyclists with the community and borough. Participants ride through various neighborhoods in search of specific supermarkets, purchasing canned goods and produce listed on a manifest.

This year, Bronx Cranksgiving organizers partnered with Kingsbridge Unidos which, according to its founders, is a volunteer-run mutual aid group rooted in service and care for the community, to deliver the purchased food items to the families at a transitional housing facility in Kingsbridge.

Altagracia Woolford told *Norwood News* that food items went to Broadway Family Plaza, located at 5731 Broadway, in Kingsbridge. "Some of the generous donations from Whisps (a cheese crisps company) also went to the Friendly Fridge, located at 5977 Broadway (242nd Street and Broadway), RNH Fridge, and Mt St Vincent's Fridge as well," she said.

Kingsbridge Unidos recently organized a back-toschool supplies and food giveaway on Aug. 12, in conjunction with Cash Cow NYC.

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC), located at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace, Summit Place, Bronx 10463, operates a regular food pantry from 11 a.m. to noon for older adults, and from noon to 2.30 p.m.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

(L TO R) ED MUNDO, ORGANIZER, Andrew White, biker from Brooklyn, and Vince Costello from Inwood distribute food to families in need during the 6th Annual Bronx Cranksgiving, organized by Cranksgiving NYC in conjunction with Kingsbridge Unidos, bringing together cyclists for a part giveaway, part bike ride, and part scavanger hunt across The Bronx on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022. Cyclists delivered packaged foods and produce to families in need at Broadway Plaza in the Kingsbridge section of the borough, among other locations. for the general public on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Margaret Della, chief executive officer, said, "The center fights for funding to address and eradicate long term food instability in The Bronx. Members of the public can visit info@khcc-nyc.org for general information."

KHCC also collaborates with the Northwest Bronx Food Justice Project to share information with the public on where community members can access food as well as nutrition education. The Northwest Bronx Food Justice Project – Emergency Food Resources operates at KHCC weekly on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 2.30 p.m. For more information, go to: https://www.khcc-nyc.org/program/food-pantry, or email Will Littleton at wlittleton@khcc-nyc.org. Other food options are Bailey Fridge at 3016 Bailey Avenue, and the Friendly Fridge at 5977 Broadway (242nd Street and Broadway). Contact: thefriendly-fridgebx@gmail.com. For more information on the NW Bronx Food Justice project, contact foodjusticebronx@gmail.com.

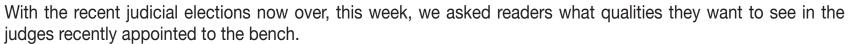
Norwood News previously reported on the concept of neighborhood fridges to help people experiencing homeless, and which appeared to gain more traction amid the pandemic.

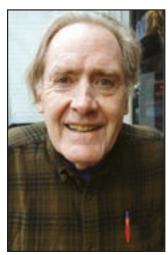
In recent months, we have also seen evidence of seemingly regular people leaving pre-packaged sandwiches on park benches for those who need them in the Bedford Park neighborhood.



INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE





"I personally would like to see stricter enforcement, a more punitive enforcement of laws, which affect people who are battered on the subway, muggings and things like that. This whole thing with cashless bail...I know, statistically, they all tell us the data shows it's not a problem, but perception-wise, we see on the television every night. We see a mugging, a mugging, a mugging, and then you hear the next day that the guy got off or something like that. So, I want to see judges take a much more proactive, a more punitive approach towards justice for the victims, as opposed to the criminals. We need less compassion for the criminals, more compassion for the victims."



"They need to have fairness in their decisions; they shouldn't have an ideology from the judges chair, and they need to be honest."

Paul Kittas, Bedford Park



"For the most part, judges need to be a little stern because you can't play when you're making these decisions with someone's life. Orime is hectic now. It's not good so judges have to be stern; they can't be lenient, as the cops do their investigation. When it comes to the judge, and the judge has to judge you, they can't be lenient. They can't."

Shayna Freeman, Norwood



"When it comes to those who ignore our laws, who injure or kill any of our community members, our judges should provide both harsher sentences for those responsible, as well as greater support for those who've been victimized."

Jeff Conan Vargon, Belmont



"What we need is judges to be fair with respect to the bail reform laws, but they must also understand that it's the victim who counts. Also, under the current laws, the victims are being neglected. We need judges that are going to fight to keep guns off the streets and out of the hands of repeat offenders, without being in fear of being criticized or labeled as being tough on crime when, in reality, what he or she is doing is protecting the residents of New York City."

Darney K. Born Rivers, Fordham

Francis Leo Hogan, Fordham Manor

Photos 1 to 3 by David Greene. Photos 4 and 5 by Jeff Conan Vargon, and Darney K Born Rivers, respectively.

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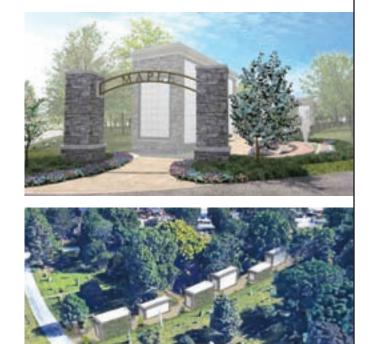
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By SÍLE MOLONEY New Law Keep Guns from Abusive Partners

Five new laws were passed on Oct. 18 to protect the rights of domestic violence survivors and reduce the access abusive partners have to firearms, used in around a third domestic violence homicides in New York State. Law S.6363-A/A.8102 requires courts to order the seizure of firearms, rifles, and shotguns when an abusive partner willfully refuses to surrender them in defiance of a court order issued in connection with an order of protection.

Law S.6443-B/A. of 8105-B requires criminal and family court judges inquire whether an individual they are subjecting to an order of protection possesses a firearm. While existing laws required these individuals to have their firearm license revoked or suspended, they did not require judges to pose this question.

Law S.3855/A.7748-A allows sexual violence survivors to apply to the State Board of Elections to have their voter registration information sealed from public view. Law S.7157-A/A.6207-B expands the existing requirement of utility, wireless, cable, satellite, and telecommunication companies to allow individuals under shared contracts and survivors of domestic violence to opt-out of such contract without fee, penalty, or charge.

Finally, Law S.7263-A/A.2519-A requires health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide domestic violence survivors with the option of providing alternative contact information so they may access their claims information and benefits in a manner that shields and protects them from their abuser.

Fire at Birthplace of Hip Hop

The FDNY responded to a fire on Nov. 8, at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in Morris Heights, the site known as the birthplace of Hip Hop, owing to a 1973 party at which DJ Kool Herc, regarded as the founding father of hip-hop, first created the music genre. FDNY officials said all hands were asked to respond to the blaze which broke out in the multiple dwelling in Apt 7F at around 7.29 a.m. on Election Day. Norwood News contacted the department for more specifics on the cause, reported injuries, and timing of the fire but did not receive a response as of press date. According to the department's Twitter account, the eventual 2-alarm fire was brought under control at around 8.39 a.m. CBS News reported one firefighter incurred a minor injury and that the cause was still under investigation.

NCB Volunteers Treat Asylum Seekers throughout November Asylum seeking families in The

Neighbors Mourn Passing of Mrs. Grace Siemer

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA), the 52nd Precinct Community Council, neighbors and friends mourn the recent passing of Mrs. Grace Siemer, wife of the late Ed Siemer, both stalwarts in their local Bedford Park community. Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the council, said Grace was an active council member since the '90s and became treasurer in 2000, while Ed had been an active and honorary council member, helping out where necessary over the years.

Grace was also very active with BMCA. She died on Sunday, Nov. 6, her wake took place on Nov. 11 at John Fox & Son Funeral Home, 203 E. 201st. Street, and her funeral service was held on Nov. 12 at St. Philip Neri Church, 3021 Grand Concourse in Bedford Park.

An obituary posted to the John Fox & Son Funeral Home website, reads as follows:

"Grace (Gracinda) Simoes Siemer died peacefully on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at United Hebrew of New Rochelle with family by her side. She was 92 years old. Born on October 23, 1930, in Anciao, Portugal, daughter of the late Teresa De Piedade Simoes and Mateus Simoes, Grace arrived in the United States, via Rhode Island, at six months old.

Grace lived in many different places as a young child. Her family finally settled in the Bronx, and she was a graduate of Walton High School. On February 2, 1952, she married the love

Bronx received a wide range of medical check-ups on Saturday, Nov. 5, through a humanitarian, volunteer-based initiative coordinated by North Central Bronx Hospital, Metro Plus, and Bronx Works. The Norwood hospital, part of NYC Health + Hospitals public hospital system, the insurance provider, and community organization are helping 100+ asylum seeking families improve their social well-being, offering a range of pediatric primary care services over the course of three Saturdays in November.

Services include vaccination, lab work, early intervention assessment, fluoride treatment, and other services provided by the dental department. According to NCB, physicians, nurses, ancillary and administrative staff are volunteering their time for what was described as a critical outreach initiative, providing registration and the necessarv documents to help connect kids aged 2-4 with "Head Start" programs, through which they get nutritious meals and health screenings, and families get support in accessing the health services they need.



Photo courtesy of the 52nd Precinct Community Council

BELOVED BEDFORD PARK community member, Mrs Grace Siemer, died on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022.

of her life, Edward Siemer, at Christ the King Church, Bronx N.Y. She was wed to her EDDIE for sixty-nine and [a] half years.

Grace grew through many companies in the business world. She ran onewoman offices for Jewelry Street and Bellitte, became a royalty clerk for AS-CAP, then an office assistant for Encyclopedia Britannica. She found her true calling employed by Avon Products. Grace started as a District Manager. She became known for her ability to successfully train people from all walks of life and for her colorful, inspiring, and fun-filled, monthly training classes. Grace's efforts were rewarded when she was promoted to Avon Trendsetter. She and her team presented and tracked results for new Avon Products. Grace was in the Top Ten Trendsetters, nationally, several times. As with all the companies she worked for, Grace has remained good friends with many of her coworkers. The same is true of many of her Walton classmates.

In her retirement, she was an active volunteer with the Pioneers, the Bedford Mosholu Community Association, and the 52nd Precinct [Community] Council where she was treasurer for nine years. Grace did not have a favorite thing! Her energy and love of life involved her in many, participating in community and church events, plants, reading, cooking, and baking, crossword puzzles, traveling and all NYC cultural events. While Grace loved her Bronx community deeply, she loved her immediate and extended family most of all. Her eyes always shone when they shared their life experiences with her.

Mrs. Siemer is predeceased by her loving husband, Edward, her parents, Teresa and Mateus Simoes, her brother, Glen Simoes, and her sisters-in-law, Mary and Martha. She is survived by her daughter, Karen, and her husband, Thomas Roach, her grandsons, Thomas and John, with his wife, Taleen, and great granddaughter, Olivia Leila, [as well as] her nieces and nephews, Steven, Christine, Susan and Peter, and great nephew, Kalkin, his wife, Nikki, and children, Sage and Kali."

Fire Safety Hearing on E-Bikes Held

The City Council Committee on Fire and Emergency Management Oversight held a hearing on e-bikes and lithium-ion battery fire safety on Monday, Nov. 14. The committee also discussed the requirement of the FDNY to develop an informational campaign to educate the public on fire risks posed by powered, mobility devices, and prohibiting the sale of storage batteries for powered, mobility devices.

District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz said the sharp rise in fires caused by e-bike batteries was alarming, citing 180 fires across the city caused by lithium-ion batteries this year, including a recent fire in a Manhattan highrise in which 43 people were injured, despite spectacular rescue efforts by firefighters 20 floors above ground. Another fire, which took place earlier this year on the same day as the Twin Parks blaze, at 2230 Grand Concourse at 2.24 a.m., in a multiple dwelling, was also caused by a lithiumion battery from an e-bike/escooter. Feliz introduced a bill which would require, among other things, lithium-ion batteries in products sold in New York City to be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Stanley Manne Institute Unveiled at Bronx Science Campus

The new Stanley Manne Institute building was unveiled at Bronx High School of Science campus on Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the presence of various elected officials. The new state-of-the-art, scientific, research facility, made possible by an historic donation of \$22 million from former alum, Stanley Manne, will serve students of Bronx Science, as well as four other surrounding schools.

Another alum, Assembly Member Kenny Burgos (A.D. 85), said he was delighted to be back at the school ten years later for the occasion, saying Manne's donation showed how important it was to give back to institutions that invested in students, and added that such actions don't always have to be financial in nature. Another alum, State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), also said it felt great to be back on campus, thanked Manne for funding the new center, and said Bronx

Science shaped him into the person the senator is today. "Looking forward to seeing all of the future scientists and leaders that will benefit from this facility!" Bailey said.

NYC Celebrates 50 Years of Hip Hop

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced on Monday, Nov. 14, that 2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop. To mark the occasion, he and deputy mayor for strategic initiatives, Sheena Wright, announced that 50 different celebratory events will be held throughout 2023 across New York City in conjunction with the Universal Hip Hop Museum, which is still under construction in the South Bronx, part of the \$349 million Bronx Point development. Last year, Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer announced that the Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating Aug. 11 as "Hip Hop Celebration Day." August 2021 as "Hip Hop Recognition Month," and November 2021 as "Hip Hop History Month."

Fordham Manor: Woman, 21, Reported Missing Twice in a Week

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Following an inquiry on Saturday evening, Nov. 12, by Norwood News on the status of previously reported missing person, Michelle Morales, 21, of Fordham Manor, after the 21-year-old woman had been reported missing earlier that week and later located on Nov. 9, the NYPD informed us the same day that Morales was reported missing for a second time.

We had, earlier, that evening been contacted by a member of the public and had been informed that Morales was missing for a second time, which was our reason for checking with the NYPD.

A police spokesperson responded to our request on Nov. 12, writing, "There is a missing report on file for 21-year-old Michelle Morales of 2605 Grand Concourse within the confines of the 52 Precinct." The spokesperson added, "The missing was last seen inside of 111 East 210 Street, Montefiore Hospital on 11-10-2022, 1200 hours. She was reported missing on 11-11-2022."

The police said Morales, of 2605 Grand Concourse, is described as a white, Hispanic female, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 170 pounds, and has blue eyes, and blonde hair. When we previously received Morales' photo from the NYPD (attached), it showed her with dark eyes and dark hair, and therefore, we double-checked the latest description provided by the police. We were informed



Photo courtesy of the NYPD **MICHELLE MORALES HAS** been reported missing for a second time in one week.

the description was accurate and to use the previous photos provided.

On Monday, Nov. 14, the NYPD issued a renewed appeal to find Morales once again, describing her in the latest alert as female, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighing 170 pounds, and last seen wearing a black jacket, black jeans, and Croc sandals. There was no mention this time of blonde hair or blue eyes. Norwood News therefore queried the point again with the NYPD. We did not receive a reply.

When Morales was first reported missing on Nov. 7, police officers from the 52nd Precinct said it was reported to them at that time that she had last been seen on Monday, Nov. 7, at 11.47 a.m. in the vicinity of 4422 Third Avenue in the Belmont section of the borough.

At that time, Morales was described as female, Hispanic, 5 feet, 4 inches tall, with brown hair and at that time, had last been seen wearing a purple tank top and gray and white striped pants.

Anyone with information regarding this missing person 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 Crime Stoppers website at https:// crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/, or on Twitter @NYPD-Tips. All calls are strictly confidential.



Bilingual Programs

CONTACT US: Gilda Morales-Aleman & Alexander Martinez Phone: 718-993-7700 ext. 915 & 924 Email: gmoralesaleman@cmcs.org & AlexanderMartinez@cmcs.org



• Fatherhood Support





BMCA Pushes for Expansion of 52nd Precinct

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

At the latest meeting of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association (BMCA) held on Nov. 2, members and attendees heard about the pressing need of the 52nd Precinct for more space to accommodate its growing number of officers.

Barbara Stronczer, president of BMCA, made a pitch for expanding the precinct, located at 3016 Webster Avenue in Norwood, to a nearby building that has been vacant for some time. She said she remembered a time when the precinct was much less crowded. "When I first came into this neighborhood, you had a little less than 100 police [officers] there," Stronczer said. "They used to call the 52^{nd} 'the country club'."

Looking straight at the two neighborhood coordination officers (NCOs) present at the meeting, PO Christopher Boland and PO Shirley Arias, Stronczer asked if the current number was 200. They responded, "Over 200."

The BMCA president later described seeing a cluttered precinct whenever she visits. "Very often, I go to the back building where the community affairs people are which was, at one time, a stable or something that they converted, and there are so many lockers there, and it's really awful; absolutely overcrowded," Stronczer said.

In efforts to increase awareness of the limited space woes of the precinct staff, BMCA is joining forces with another local group with intimate knowledge of the situation, the 52^{nd} Precinct Community Council. Together, they hope to push City officials and local lawmakers for more space.

Brenda Caldwell-Paris is president of the council. Referring to a conversation she had with local District 11 city council member, Eric Dinowitz, she said, "At the 52nd Precinct Halloween [event], I did mention it."

The residents' plan is to meet with the precinct's commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, for more specifics on space requirements, find specific officials within the NYPD who are in charge of precinct expansion, and in Stronczer's words, get the City to purchase "a satellite office for the police."

The two groups even have a building in mind that is nearby the precinct, vacated, and in their opinion, could be repurposed: the former Sam's Floor Covering, located at 3041 Webster Avenue in Norwood. The two-story building, located across from P.S. / M.S. 20, still has the distinctive, blue-and-white paint color scheme and awning from the time customers could walk through its storefront, and see a variety of linoleum, tile, wood, and other flooring options for sale. The building has been closed for years. As previously reported by *Norwood News*, at one point it was the target of some residents' wrath when it was being considered by City officials as a possible location for a homeless shelter.

The building even includes a parking space on the second floor, which could alleviate some of the parking complaints residents have raised about officers' cars obstructing Mosholu Parkway sidewalk. The parking lot designated for the precinct is bound by a chain-link fence but is routinely full.

The precinct is currently located within New York's 80th Assembly District and on the border of the 78th Assembly District, the borders of which may both change after redistricting in 2024. At the meeting, Caldwell-Paris informed Democratic nominee and frontrunner to win the A.D. 78 general election, held on Nov. 8, George Alvarez, that her coalition with BMCA and local activist, Sirio Guerino, would be looking for help on the matter from his office, if elected.

"We would like [for] you to be a part of that push," she said. "They [the 52nd Precinct] deserve it." For his part, Alvarez said they could count on his support once the group organizes with their agenda for expansion. "I support whatever the community is in favor [of]," he said.

The group were joined later that evening by outgoing assembly member, Nathalia Fernandez, (A.D. 80), who recently declared victory in the Nov. 8 general election in Senate District 34, and Democratic nominee and frontrunner in the Nov. 8, A.D. 80 general election, John Zaccaro Jr.

Norwood News reached out to the NYPD for details on how personnel needs at the 52 have changed over the years. We did not receive an immediate response on the matter nor on any plans they may have to expand the space at the precinct.

Meanwhile, in assessing how she sees the officers' working at the current precinct, Stronczer was succinct, saying, "It is not fair how they have to conduct business with the room they have right now."



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

Qatar Hosting the Soccer World Cup

I am very impressed with the Saudi country of Qatar and their strict moral codes that they are not changing to fit the woke culture demands of today's world as they prepare to host the World Cup Soccer tournament beginning this November 21, 2022.

Under Sharia law, homosexuality is punishable by death, a fact that contributed to the spread of misinformation and exaggerated fears as the World Cup neared. In reality, there is no evidence that the punishment has ever been levied in Qatar. But the Qatari penal code does punish any extramarital sex, including gay sex, with up to seven years in prison; and "leading, instigating, or seducing a male to commit sodomy or dissipation" with 1-3 years.

The old saying - "if you give them an inch - they go for a yard" certainly applies to the gay community here in America. When we gave them the right to marry - we now have bakeries in trouble when they refuse to make a wedding cake for them. We now have to have human resource offices set up in companies to listen to any sissy complaints that they may have in the workplace. It's out of control and what we need here in America is some of the common sense laws of Qatar!

Richard Marias Norwood

Editor's Note: In the 20th edition of the Reporters without Borders Annual World Press Freedom Index, which examines freedom of the press in 180 nations and territories, Qatar ranked 119 out of 180. It is, therefore, possible that reports of violence against the LGBTQ+ community are suppressed.

Human Rights Watch report dated October 24th, 2022, entitled, "Qatar: Security Forces Arrest, Abuse

LGBT People" alleges systemic police brutality against LGBTQ+ people in Qatar, based on eyewitness reports from 2019-2022.

According to a November 2019 Forbes article, Qatar ranks as the second most dangerous country in the world for LGBTQ+ travelers.

The Cornell Daily Sun reported in 2022 that in 1995 an American citizen in Qatar was sentenced to receive 90 lashes during a 6-month prison term for "homosexual activity," according to the U.S. Department of State's report on human rights practices for 1996. In October 1997, 36 gay Filipino workers were deported, according to the Manila daily newspaper, Today.

The Guardian reported in May 2022 that FIFA warned hotels on the tournament's official list of recommended accommodation that they are required to welcome guests in a non-discriminatory manner, amid reports that the LGBTQ+ community was being denied hotel bookings or otherwise advised to keep hotel room bookings made by same-sex couples under wraps.

Meanwhile, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Volunteer Program was officially launched in March 2022, and includes specific human rights volunteers. FIFA is partnering on the program with the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, a global organization promoting human rights in sports.

ESPN has reported in recent months that rainbow flags will be allowed in stadiums at the 2022 World Cup after Qatari officials said they would comply with FIFA rules promoting tolerance and inclusion at matches despite the Arab country's strict anti-LGBTQ laws.

The Guardian has also recently reported that the Football Association has sought, and believes it has assurances, that LGBT+ couples who hold hands in Qatar during the World Cup will not face prosecution.

Slow Democrats, Dictator Republicans

My letter to the editor published in the *Norwood News*, November 3-16 edition cites the February "Hightower Lowdown" about the four, monopolistic meat companies which are financially squeezing ranchers by underpaying for their product, and then charging higher prices to stores who then have to raise their prices. It criticizes U.S. President Joe Biden's justice department for not using antitrust and anti-price-fixing laws against these companies. The editor's note cites an article from the August 4th National Law Review on the Biden administration's efforts in this area, "Threats of Antitrust Enforcement in the Supply Chain." "Threats" is a perfect word for the headline. While there is mention of announcements and investigations, there is no mention of actual actions. Attorney General Merrick Garland seems about as eager to prosecute in this case as he is to prosecute Donald Trump for treason, even though there appears to be much evidence to take action on that front as well.

Getting Democrats to move at anything more than a slow path seems to be futile. Maybe their next presidential ticket should consist of Flo and Eddie, who were the leaders of The Turtles. On a statewide level, we are still waiting for them to license legal marijuana sales. Perhaps they will get that done in time for Willie Nelson's 100th birthday. But at least no Democrat is trying to make him or herself a dictator, while many Republicans still support [former U.S. President] Donald Trump.

This brings me to the Larry Penner letter from the same issue. Unlike many Penner letters, this one ignores relevant facts. While the former president was not running for governor, a congressman who voted against certifying his election loss was. This [Republican/Conservative] candidate, Lee Zeldin, also sounded like a dictator. He vowed to declare a "State of Emergency" in response to crime and suspend laws he did not like. Dictator, rather than governor, was the position he was seeking.

Richard Warren Van Cortlandt Village

To ensure sufficient time for review of all letters to the editor, please send them to <u>norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org</u> or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, **by the Friday before each publication day.** If sent by email, please mark them as "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words and, ideally, in response to published articles. Thank you.

Elections 2022: Nov. 8 Unofficial Results & Reaction

By SÍLE MOLONEY

After the polls closed on Tuesday, Nov. 8, the New York City Board of Elections released the initial, unofficial results of the general elections, based on a percentage of returned poll site scanners. These initial results cover both early votes and election day votes. Absentee and overseas ballots still have to be counted, as do the remaining scanners.

Below is a summary of the unofficial results to date of some of the North Bronx races.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 33, which will encompass, effective Jan. 1, 2023, some or all of the neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham Manor, Fordham Heights, Pelham Parkway, Belmont, Tremont, Morris Park, Van Nest, Allerton, Pelham Parkway, Spuyten Duyvil, Fieldston, Riverdale and North Riverdale, Woodlawn Cemetery and Van Cortlandt Park, Democratic Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33), who also ran on the Working Families Party ticket, ran unopposed, winning 90.4 percent of votes from Democrats, and 8.68 percent from Working Family Party voters as of poll closure on Election Night.

By 10.55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Rivera had won 29,182 (99.19 percent) of all votes.

The senator had been campaigning for Gov. Kathy Hochul in the lead up to Election Day, despite not having received the formal backing of the Bronx Democratic Party during primary season, a factor that overshadowed much of the primary election season, writing in part, "Out with the fabulous Bronx @NYWFP (New York Working Families Party) reminding people to get out the vote in this critical election for @KathyHochul on Row D, and to #VOTEWFP."

As reported, Rivera has served in the current Senate District 33 for 11 years, since he beat former Sen. Pedro Espada, who was previously convicted of fraud. Rivera won his Democratic primary campaign over challenger, Miguelina Camilo.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 34,



Photo by Julian Roberts-Grmela

VOTERS CAST THEIR ballots on Election Day, Nov. 8, 2022, at P.S. 15 Institute for Environmental Learning, located at 2195 Andrews Avenue North in the University Heights section of The Bronx.

which, effective Jan. 1, 2023, will cover the neighborhoods of Westchester Square, City Island, Ferry Point, Pelham Bay, Parkchester, Clason Point, Throggs Neck, Country Club, Castle Hill, Soundview and parts of Morris Park, Pelham Parkway and Eastchester, Democratic Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (A.D. 80) led with 70.7 percent of the vote on Election Night after poll closure, and is poised to succeed incumbent, State Sen. Alessandra Biaggi, who will finish her term at the end of the vear.

Republican Party and Conservative Party candidate, Samantha Zherka, won 27.10 percent as of poll closure on Election Night. By 10.55 p.m., with the majority of scanners reported, Fernandez's lead had dropped to 64.74 percent of the vote to Zherkin's 35.16 percent. Fernandez later declared victory in the race.

"I'm proud to share this victory for the people of The Bronx and Westchester with our community," she said. "I'm proud of the incredible work our campaign has accomplished to elevate the voices of the people of the 34th District, and I promise to keep the people of District 34 at the focus of everything I do in the State Senate."

She went on to say that the victory was an achievement, not just for her, but for the Latino

community of Westchester. "I'm proud to be the first Latina, and person of color, to represent State Senate District 34, and to lead in a way that reflects the incredibly diverse fabric of this district."

Fernandez previously worked as the Bronx regional representative for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and with former assemblyman and city councilman, Mark Gjonaj.

A "farewell party" and protest was held outside the assemblywoman's office on Williamsbridge Road in Morris Park on Monday, Nov. 7, the day before Election Day. It was attended by Republicans and other residents opposed to the building of a facility on the grounds of Jacobi Medical Center, located 1900 Seminole Avenue in Morris Park, with the aim of treating ill Rikers Island inmates.

Those in attendance, including Northwest Bronx Democrats founder, Anthony Rivieccio, who addressed the crowd during the rally, had wanted Fernandez to come out in opposition to the facility. She addressed the matter during an Aug. 8 debate before the Democratic primary, saying she stood with the community in terms of addressing the real concerns that residents had about the project, adding that it had drawn a lot of emotion.

Asked if, by not proceeding with the project, it would cre-

ate worse problems for the community, Fernandez said, "Well, that's the point of this project. There is a crisis in New York City with homelessness, with individuals that may be getting released from prison and do not have the stability of housing, of family, of seeking healthcare. Then they become the homeless individuals that we see on our streets." She said the aim of the project was to help them on a path to stability and safety.

She continued, in part, saying, "Our campaign made fighting for climate resiliency, stronger local business and improved transit access a priority." Fernandez said that Election Night was about so much more than one campaign, or winning one seat. "It's about keeping responsive leadership in Albany to fight for State Senate District 34. I've been proud to work towards that over the course of this year, and I will continue that transparent and responsive leadership as your next State Senator. This victory belongs to all of us."

As reported, Fernandez decided to run for Senate when Biaggi announced her bid for New York's 17th congressional district seat, running against Democrat, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents New York's current 18th congressional district. Maloney won the Democratic congressional primary in NY-17 in August, and Biaggi later campaigned with him ahead of the general election.

The congressman has since conceded the general election race to his Republican opponent, Mike Lawlor, adding to Democrats' woes over losing control of Congress. As of Nov. 16, the Associated Press reported that Republicans had reached the required 218 seats, while Democrats held 210, with some races still pending.

Biaggi has since launched a campaign to replace Jay S. Jacobs as the State Democratic Party chair, the inference being that he and others in senior positions within the party did not do enough from a leadership standpoint to prevent some of the losses incurred by NY Democrats in the latest general election.

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 31, which, effective Jan. 1, 2023, will encompass most of northern Manhattan, including Inwood, Hudson Heights, Fort George and Washington Heights, as well as the Bronx neighborhoods of Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, and Morris Heights, Democratic Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) led on Election Night as of poll closure with 89.14 percent of the vote over Republican candidate, Donald Skinner's 10.59 percent.

By 10.55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Jackson's lead had stretched to 85.04 percent of the vote to Skinner's 14.77 percent.

Reacting to the results, Jackson said, "I am grateful to all who[m] came out to vote and helped deliver Democratic leadership to NYS. I am especially excited to represent a district that keeps Northern Manhattan and now includes parts of the west Bronx. Whether it's constituent services or good policy, I plan to show up for all constituents in every pocket of the 31st Senate District."

He added, "During the campaign, I heard about the many issues top of mind for New Yorkers: education, affordable housing, quality of life issues, access

CRIME FILE

Norwood: Fentanyl/ Heroin Seizure

A Bronx man was arrested in connection with the seizure of approximately 23 kilograms (50 pounds) of fentanyl/heroin, with an estimated street value of \$7 million from a Norwood apartment located at 3535 Dekalb Avenue, Apt. 5B.

City, State, and federal law enforcement officials announced on Nov. 10 that Samuel Rojas-Camacho, 59, was arrested on Nov. 7, arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court on Nov. 8, and was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first and third degrees, and criminally using drug paraphernalia in the second degree.

According to the prosecution, law enforcement officials stopped a green Jaguar sedan, in which Rojas-Camacho was a passenger, at the southwest corner of Jerome Avenue and East 233rd Street in Van Cortlandt Park at around 9 p.m. on Nov. 7. The investigation revealed he had allegedly travelled out of state the same day and had been seen frequenting the 3535 Dekalb Avenue apartment before that.

At the arraignment, the judge set bail at \$100,000 cash/\$100,000 bond/\$200,000 partially secured bond. A person arrested and charged with a crime is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



University Heights: Woman, 70, Robbed at Home

The NYPD is searching for the man and woman seen in the accompanying photo who are sought for questioning about a robbery that occurred in University Heights. Police said that on Saturday, Oct. 29, at around 2.40 p.m., the couple approached a woman, 70, engaged her in conversation, walking with her for two blocks and later entering her apartment building and apartment, located in the vicinity of West 183rd Street and Loring Place North.

Once inside, the couple allegedly stole \$30,000 in cash, as well as the victim's purse, containing her cellphone and assorted credit/debit cards, police said. The two later fled the location on foot. No physical injuries were reported following the incident, police said. Both suspects were described as having a light complexion.

Girl Sexually Abused by Man Carrying Knife

The NYPD is asking for the public's help locating the person depicted in the accompanying police sketch who is sought regarding a sexual assault that occurred on the subway in the Concourse neighborhood. Police said that on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at around 3.27 p.m., as a girl, 11, was traveling northbound on the 4 train, approaching the East 149th Street and Grand Concourse station, she was approached by a man who displayed a knife and, in Spanish, told the victim to "be quiet."

Police said he caressed the victim's leg, waist, and buttocks before exiting at 161st Street–Yankee Stadium, later fleeing to parts unknown. The victim did not sustain any physical injuries. The assailant is described as a male in his 40s, who is around 5 feet tall.



Fordham Manor Shooting The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying a person sought in connection

to a Fordham Manor shooting and seen in the accompanying photo taken from the incident location. Police said on Friday, Nov. 4, at around 9.28 p.m. at the corner of Valentine Avenue and East 194th Street, the male suspect fired several shots, striking two unoccupied, parked cars before fleeing the location. No injuries were reported, police said.

Kingsbridge Heights: Man Robbed

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating the people seen in the accompanying photo who are sought in connection to a robbery that occurred at Kingsbridge Road subway station in Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that on Thursday, Nov. 3, at around 9.20 p.m., inside the station, a man, 32, was riding on a northbound 4 train when he was approached by another person who grabbed his cellphone, while another two people approached him and threatened to stab him if he did not relinquish his property. The group allegedly stole the victim's blue iPhone 12, before fleeing the location, police said. No physical injuries were reported following the incident.



Bedford Park: Woman Sexually Assaulted

The NYPD is seeking the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo, obtained from transit authorities, who is sought for questioning in relation to a sexual assault allegation. Police said that on Wednesday, Oct. 26,

BY SÍLE MOLONEY

at around 8.22 p.m., the victim, backpack. a woman, 59, was climbing the stairs of Bedford Park Boulevard subway station, serving

the B and D lines, when a man approached her from behind and pressed his head against her buttocks.

He reportedly then fled on foot. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The assailant is described as a man in his 20s who was last seen wearing a blue denim jacket, a black shirt with a hood, light colored pants, and black sneakers. He had black hair (Afro) and a dark complexion.



Fordham Manor: Woman Sexually Assaulted on Street

The NYPD is seeking the public's help locating the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought in connection to a sexual assault that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at around 6.14 p.m., a woman, 41, was about to enter 229 East Kingsbridge Road when she was approached by the assailant, who allegedly placed his hands down the victim's pants, and grabbed the victim's buttocks.

He then fled the location on a Citi bike in an unknown direction, police said. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The assailant is described as male, is around 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighs around 200 pounds, has a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a grey, hooded sweatshirt, black pants, black sneakers and was carrying a black



Kingsbridge/Fieldston: Man Flashes Girl, 17, on Subway

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who is sought for exposing himself to a teen on the subway at the Fieldston-Kingsbridge border. Police said that on Monday, Oct. 31, at around 7.55 p.m., inside the 242nd Street subway station, located at the corner of Broadway and West 242nd Street, the female victim, 17, was riding the northbound 1 train when a male passenger exposed his genitals to her.

The victim took a cell phone photo of the man at which point he moved away from her and sat at the opposite end of the car. No physical injuries were reported following the incident. The man is described as being in his 40s, has brown eyes, a medium complexion, a beard, short, dark hair and was last seen wearing a baseball cap, a camouflage jacket, blue jeans, black sneakers, and was carrying a black backpack.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents 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 Crime Stoppers website at <u>https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/</u>, or on Twitter @ NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.



COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

Join Bronx Community Board 7 Veterans committee and other members for the **First Annual Flagging Event** in honor of local veterans at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway between Marion Avenue and Hull Avenue on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Karla Cabrera Carrera on <u>kcabreracarrera@cb.nyc.gov</u> or on (929) 496 0748.

A **Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway** sponsored by various Bronx elected officials will be held at the Northeast Bronx YMCA, 1250 E 229th Street, Bronx, NY 10466, on Monday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. RSVP required while supplies last. For more information, please call (718) 684 5509.

"I'll Go," a solo performance by Willa Bost, presented by Mind Builders, will be given on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. at Mosholu Library, 285 E 205th Street in Norwood. "I'll Go" takes viewers on a short, interactive journey through time, capturing snapshots of the lives of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, two powerful women that helped shape the culture and history of the country during a difficult time in history. For more information, go to www.nypl.org.

Friends of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) will be hosting a **Winterfest on**

Mosholu (Parkway) and Bainbridge Avenue in Bedford Park in the lead-up to the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Dec. 8, hosted by Bronx Community Board 7 and FOMP, at which there will be seasonal refreshments, snacks, and more. Call (347) 371 3085 for more information on the Winterfest.

ART

NYC Cultural Affairs and KRVC Development Corporation present **"Art at Amalgamated, an Exhibition and Sale,"** takes place on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 1 p.m. at Amalgamated Housing / Park Reservoir Housing, Vladeck Hall, 74, Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx NY, featuring a host of Bronx fine artists. There will also be live Jazz piano, featuring Sarah Jane Cion. A shuttle bus will run every hour from KRVC's office at 505 W 236th Street to Vladeck Hall and back, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

MUSIC

Join Bronx Arts Ensemble for its Annual Holiday Concert, featuring Jennifer Jade Ledesna in the Woodlawn Chapel at Woodlawn Conservancy on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3

p.m. For more information, visit <u>www.</u> woodlawn.org.

DANCE

Bronx Arts Ensemble teaching artist, Yahaya Kamate, will lead a **Dance Demonstration** and perform at the Bronx Night Market Satellite Stage, 1 Fordham Plaza, Bronx, NY 10458, on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Van Cortlandt Park Alliance has shared details of an upcoming lecture series with different guest lecturers on bird photography, starting Wednesday, Nov. 16. For more information, visit www. eventbrite.com and search **"Birdwalks** with New York City Audubon."

MOVEMENT

Bronx Nomads running group generally meets at the Williamsbridge Oval track on Mondays and Thursdays at 6.30 p.m. All levels are welcome. BronxWorks and Twin Parks West Older Adult Center, 355 East 183rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458, invites residents to come join some fun classes Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Elections 2022: Bronxites Share their Top Voting Issues

By JOSÉ GIRALT & JULIAN ROBERTS-GRMELA

Norwood News caught up with voters on Election Day, Nov. 8, to get a feel for their top voting issues. We spoke to some voters and one poll site worker at P.S. 15, Institute for Environmental Learning poll site, located at 2195 Andrews Avenue North, in University Heights.

Evelin Bautista, 50, was at the same poll site and said she changed from voting Democrat to Republican, due to crime. "The Bronx now is crazy," she said, in part. "We need change. We need something new. I've been living here for 26 years. I'm Dominican. It's the first time I saw a lot of problems in this community. This community is crazy, a lot of drugs, the teenagers use guns. They don't want to go to the school. you know? Now the city is not safe."

Meanwhile, poll site coordinator, Amelia Rose, said the center had been busy since six o'clock. "I've been at the site a long time, and I've never seen it this busy: old, young, Black, [inaudible], handicap, everyone's coming out to vote." she said.

According to the latest available vote count from NYC Board of Elec-

tions, voter turnout in The Bronx was at least 186,559, compared to 402,824 in Queens, 520,604 in Brooklyn, 136,409 on Staten Island, and 416,059 in Manhattan.

Rose added that early voting was also busy. "I've never seen people really come out to vote on early voting. You normally get maybe two, three people a day, but it's like 50/60 a day," she said.

We also spoke to voters inside Glad Tidings Assembly of God voting center, located at 2 Van Cortlandt Avenue East in Jerome Park. Gary Camuso, 65, from Bedford Park said he registered to vote very early in life and has been voting since he was 18. "I feel voting is very important, and I do it every year, regardless of...it's off-presidential election, and that's why we're here tonight," he said.

Asked if there was one or multiple issues he was concerned about, Camuso said, "I think the most important issue is that right now, election denial is just one of the most important problems that I think we're facing." Asked if he felt the candidates who he voted for will help him, he said, "Absolutely! And I think that if any of them happen to lose that they'll rightfully accept it. That's it! That's the will of the people."

We also asked if Camuso had any words for those who might be on the fence about voting. He said, "It's definitely worthwhile to vote; it's very easy to simply skip out on it but your vote counts. One vote actually counts."

Luis Ortiz, 50, from Bedford Park "on the Grand Concourse" said he felt like he needed to vote. "It seems to be very important," he said. "I hear that things [election races] are close, so I just need to make sure that my voice is heard. That way, I can't say later, 'I don't like what was chosen,' because I put my word in to choose."

Asked if there was one or multiple issues that brought him out to vote, he replied, "Multiple issues. I believe in what Kathy Hochul is doing and I believe in what she wants to do and the direction she wants to go to. So, I'm voting for that."

We asked Ortiz what he saw as the biggest need for himself and his family. "I guess financial control, making sure that things are where they need to be," he said. "Things are getting out of control. Things are

(continued on page 12)



Photo credit: José A. Giralt **AFTER VOTING, BEDFORD** Park resident, Trent Sanders, point to his "I Voted" sticker on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Muggings in Van Cortlandt Park

VCP Alliance officials advised the public in a Nov. 15 social media post that they had learned about a series of muggings that had happened along the southern end of the Putnam Greenway near Van Cortlandt Golf Course in the park. "Please be extra cautious when out in the park, especially as the days get shorter," they wrote.

Space Heater Warning

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene is reminding New Yorkers that while space heaters may keep toes warm, it was important to remember that they are also a fire hazard. They remind residents to be sure to plug such heaters directly into a wall outlet as opposed to into an extension lead, to place it away from flammable items, and never to hang clothes over it. Learn more at <u>https://on.nyc.gov/2RxNRUY</u>.

What is RSV?

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene is also educating New Yorkers on the spread of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), which is a common respiratory virus that often causes mild, cold-like symptoms but may result in severe illness in some people. Anyone can be infected, but RSV can be serious, especially in infants and older adults. Symptoms often include runny rose, sneezing, cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, fever, and decrease in appetite. Learn more at <u>http://on.nyc.gov/rsv</u>.

Code Blue

NYC Department of Homeless Services reminded New Yorkers that Code Blue went into effect on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 8 a.m., when temperatures dropped below freezing. They are encouraging New Yorkers who may see a homeless person outside in frigid temperatures while the Code Blue is in effect, to call 311 to send them assistance.

Scam Alert

The NYPD's 49th Precinct is reminding Bronxites to be aware of phone scams. "While there are many types, the common threads between them are that they all are unexpected, about some sort of problem/ prize, must be handled immediately, and require money to solve," police said. "If you receive such a call, hang up!! \Box "

MPV Updates

A two-dose MPV vaccination is available for those eligible. A Bronx mass vaccination site is open at Lincoln Hospital, 234 E 149th Street. Book an appointment by calling 877-829-4692. Visit: <u>https://www1.nyc.</u> <u>gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/monkeypox.</u> page for more information.

Abortion Access Hub

NYC Department of Heath & Mental Hygiene (DOH) has launched the NYC Abortion Access Hub, which provides confidential support for anyone seeking abortion services, regardless of where they live. To connect to the Abortion Access Hub, call 1-877-NYC-AHUB. Learn more at https://on.nyc.gov/3h2fQvl.

New Affordable Internet Access Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the Affordable Connectivity Program to help connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. Find out how you can im-

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mediately save \$400 per year. Under this new federal program, you may be eligible for a discount on internet access. Visit <u>https://www.fcc.gov/acp</u> for more information.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 322 Grand Concourse in Mott Haven, with a deadline of Dec. 8. An affordable housing lottery launched for units at 740 Brook Avenue in Woodstock, with a deadline of Dec. 27.

For more information, call the Affordable Housing Lottery Helpline on (212) 863-7990 or email: <u>nychousingconnect@hpd.nyc.gov</u>. For information on applying for affordable housing for people with disabilities, call (212) 863-6486 or email: <u>accessibility@hpd.</u> <u>nyc.gov</u>. HPD housing ambassadors can be reached at <u>ambassadors@hpd.nyc.gov</u>.

COVID-19 Updates

An NYC COVID-19 hotline provides residents with COVID-19 updates, including testing sites, advice from medical staff, quarantine information and mental health support. Call 212-COVID19 or (212) 268-4319. Find a vaccine or booster location today at ny.gov/vaxtoschool.

Polio Vaccine

NYS Department of Health officials recommend the following polio vaccine schedule for children, saying immunization has protected New Yorkers against dangerous diseases like polio for decades: Dose 1: 6 weeks to 2 months, Dose 2: 4 months, Dose 3: 6 through 18 months, Dose 4: 4 through 6 years of age. Learn more at health.ny.gov/polio/immunization.

Elections 2022: Bronxites Share their Top Voting Issues

(continued from page 11)

getting very expensive. There's also a lot of taxation going on. One of my biggest things is what our old president [Trump] did, what he did with the taxes. Basically, what he did really affects New Yorkers more than anybody else because we already have high taxes. Some of us pay taxes for our property, and the way he did things, we no longer can get back money for those taxes that we're already paying. He made it so it's hard for us to actually get something back from our taxes. I'm not sure how to explain that."

Asked if he meant he was not getting enough back for what he was paying in, tax-wise, he said, "Right, exactly." Asked what he would say to those who don't vote, he said, "I'd tell them to vote. Every vote does count. I had a friend today who actually said his [was] one versus, like, 54 other people or whatever, but if every other person says, 'I'm not going to vote, because it's not going to count,' that's a lot of people who don't come out to

vote."

Ortiz added, "I think everybody just needs to have a positive view about it and expect that their vote *does* count, and to encourage other people who they might know that may not want to vote, to also vote because all of our voices together do count."

Jeffrey Ewart, 63, said he votes in every election. "And definitely this election, you need to go and vote because we can't lose the Senate or the House," he said, clarifying that by "we" he meant Democrats. "We, America," he said. "It's crazy storming the Capitol, all kind of hate, all kind of Roe v. Wade gone, and even that Roe v. Wade, that's important, but just general stuff...social security and Medicaid, all of that."

He added that he was getting ready to retire soon. "Like anybody else, I'd like to have social security that I worked for. I'd like to have Medicaid, all of that stuff," he said. "So, we need to make sure that we control those two branches." Asked if the voting process had been smooth, Ewart said, "I've been coming here 20 years, and it's always great coming here, in and out."

Asked what he would say to those who are on the fence about voting, he said, "It's a commonsense issue to me. There's no other way to go." He added, "I mean, you want to go with crazy? And stuff that ain't true? And the abortion rights and like I said, Social Security, and all those things, then you really have no choice. You got to come out here because it's going to be a fight to the bitter end."

Treat Sanders, 30, from Bedford Park, "on the Concourse" said he usually votes. "I've voted for the last five years but honestly, after 2016, I felt like I got a lot more politically involved, and I felt this would be a good time to make sure I stay involved," he said. "Out of the options I have, I'd rather I have Kathy Hochul."

Asked if there was one or several issues which were foremost in his mind when casting his ballot, Ewart said, "As far as the gubernatorial race, it was more about the bigger picture."

Asked what local issues drove him to go out and vote, he said, "For Bedford Park, I'm more in favor of affordable housing, so [policies] that allow for more units that makes sense, but we do need more housing. It would alleviate many of the underlying problems we have in the city."

We asked if he felt the candidates who he voted for could keep those priorities in mind, if elected, he said, "I feel they can at least give steps in the right direction because it's a complicated issue. One thing leads into the other, so just building affordable housing won't just automatically solve the problem. There are other issues involved. But I think that affordable housing will help with the homeless problem and the rent issue."

We asked what he would say to those people who do not feel a need to come out and vote. "The way I see it is, if you didn't make an effort to change an outcome, then don't complain about the outcome: simple as that."

Elections 2022: Nov. 8 Unofficial Results & Reaction

(continued from page 9)

to health care, a healthy environment, and reliable and safe transportation. My office looks forward to hearing more when we kick off a series of listening tours in the Bronx in the very near future. I'm fired up and ready to go!"

In the general election for redrawn Senate District 36, which will encompass, effective Jan. 1, 2023, Mount Vernon and the Bronx neighborhoods of Woodlawn, Wakefield, Eastchester, Co-op City, Williamsbridge and Baychester, Bronx Democratic Party chair and State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36) ran unopposed and at poll closure on Election Night had received 99.59 percent (12,882 votes) of all votes. By 10.55 p.m., Bailey had won 34,308 votes (99.5 percent of total votes).

In New York's redrawn 13th Congressional District, which covers a large strip of Northern Manhattan, including Washington Heights and Inwood, and parts or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of University Heights, Morris Heights, Marble Hill, Fordham Manor, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge Heights, incumbent Democrat, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) ran unopposed, and as of poll closure on Election Night, had won 31,954 votes (98.82 percent of the total vote).

By 10.55 p.m. with the majority of scanners reported, Espaillat had won 108,290 votes (98.91 percent of the total votes).

In Assembly District 81, which includes much of the Northwest Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Riverdale, Fieldston, North Riverdale, Kingsbridge, and Van Cortlandt Village, Democratic incumbent, Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), led with 77.43 percent of the vote on Election Night at poll closure over his nearest rival, Working Family Party candidate, Jessica Altagracia Woolford, who won 13.82 percent of the vote.

Republican/Conservative Party candidate, Kevin Pazmino, won 8.58 percent of the vote as of poll closure. By 11 p.m. on Election Night, Dinowitz's lead had stretched to 75.5 percent of the total vote, over the 14.2 percent won by Altagracia Woolford,



BEDFORD PARK RESIDENT, Trent Sanders, fills out his ballot at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

and the 10.14 percent won by Pazmino.

The assemblyman had been campaigning in Norwood on Election Day and had cited the "great energy" in the neighborhood for Hochul as the governor, and for Zaccaro Jr. as the next assembly member for A.D. 80.

Altagracia Woolford tweeted her thanks to her Working Family Party supporters on Wednesday morning, following a slight jump to 3,376 votes from her previous 3,285.

In Assembly District 78, Democrat, George Alvarez, led with 83.69 percent of the vote over the 15.84 percent of votes won by Republican/Conservative, Michael J Dister. By 11 p.m. on Election Night, Alvarez's lead had stretched to 80.37 percent of the total vote, over the 19.33 percent won by Dister.

Alvarez tagged Espaillat in a Tweet ahead of poll closure, writing, "My choice is clear. To keep moving NY forward, let's re-elect my good friend, Kathy Hochul. Kathy has invested unprecedented dollars into our public safety, mental health, and education. Kathy Gets Things Done."

When we asked Alvarez what his priorities were for A.D. 78 before his Democratic Primary last June, he replied, "Improving and expanding access to education for our children, making our streets safer from crime, especially gun violence, raising the quality of life for everyone."

Reacting to the unofficial general election results on Nov. 9, Alvarez told *Norwood News*, "I'm thankful to the voters of the 78th District who trusted me and elected me as their assemblyman." He added, "I'm also thankful for the hundreds of volunteers and supporters who joined me in my journey to the Assembly. I look forward to working every day to amplify the voices of my constituents and helping resolve the issues that affect our communities."

In Assembly District 80, which includes parts of the Norwood, Allerton, Bedford Park, Morris Park, Mosholu Parkway, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens and Van Nest neighborhoods, Democrat, John Zaccaro Jr. led with 67.79 percent of the vote on Election Night at poll closure over Republican, Phyllis "Tiz" Nastasio, who won 32.07 percent of the vote.

By 10.55 p.m. on Election Night, Zaccaro Jr.'s lead had stretched to 68.55 percent of the total vote, over Nastasio's 31.35 percent. On Wednesday morning, with a further increase to 69.28 percent, the Democrat tweeted, "While an official statement is forthcoming, I wanted to take a moment to say — Thank you! I'm feeling a great deal of emotions right now but most of all gratitude and humility for the privilege and honor to serve the community and Borough I've called home. Team JZ — we did it!'

In the election for justice of the Supreme Court 12th Judicial District, Democrats ran unopposed. Based on Election Night unofficial results, Myrna Socorro won 35.48 percent of the vote, Fidel Gomez won 31.89 percent, and Connie Morales won 31.99 percent.

In the election for judge of the Civil Court Bronx County, Democrats topped the polls. Based on unofficial results on Election Night, Michele Davila won 22.82 percent of the vote, Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor won 23.30 percent, Sophia Hershman won 20.11 percent and Cynthia Isales won 19.56 percent.

In the election for Judge of the Civil Court District 1st Municipal Court District Bronx, it was a similar outcome on Election Night with Democrat, Taisha Chambers, winning 76.43 percent of the vote over Republican/Conservative, Lucianna Locorotondo, who won 23.5 percent of the vote.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 1, an amendment to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022, as of 10.50 p.m. on Election Night, 1,145,757 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 2, a question regarding the addition of a statement of values to guide government, as of 10.50 p.m. on Election Night, 996,288 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 3, a question regarding the establishment of a racial equity office, plan and commission, as of 10.50 p.m. on Election Night, 956,962 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

Regarding Ballot Proposal 4, to measure the true cost of liv-

ing, as of 10.50 p.m. on Election Night,1,121,103 voters (the majority) had voted yes to the proposal.

In New York's 14th congressional district, which covers parts of Queens and some or all of the Bronx neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Clason Point, Castle Hill, Pelham Parkway, Baychester, Country Club, Unionport, Schuylerville, Throggs Neck, City Island, Parkchester, Co-Op City and Eastchester, Democratic incumbent, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) led with 76.4 percent of the vote on Election Night as of poll closure, over the 21.41 percent won by Republican, Tina Forte.

By 10.55 p.m. on Election Night, Ocasio-Cortez's lead had dropped to 70.27 percent of the total vote over Forte's 27.61 percent. NBC News declared the incumbent the projected winner on Election Night. On Wednesday, the congresswoman thanked her supporters, writing, "Thank you to all the campaign organizers, volunteers, staff, small dollar donors, grassroots candidates, and voters who worked so hard for a better future last night. Campaigning is relentless, all-encompassing work. None of this happens without you. You are so appreciated."

In New York's redrawn 16th Congressional District general election, which largely covers the Mount Vernon section of Westchester County but incorporates the Bronx neighborhood of Wakefield, Democratic incumbent, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) led with 94.32 percent of the vote on Election Night as of poll closure, in terms of the Wakefield part of the district, over Republican opponent, Miriam Flisser, who won 5.65 percent of the vote.

By 10.55 p.m. on Election Night, Bowman's lead had dropped to 92.26 percent of the vote to Flisser's 7.69 percent. Meanwhile, in terms of the Westchester section of the district, the congressman won 61 percent of the vote over the 39 percent won by his opponent, Republican, Miriam Flisser. By Wednesday morning, Bowman's lead had stretched to 65 percent and various media outlets began calling the race in his favor.





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Public and Community Meetings

The next **52**nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady Refuge Church, 290 East 196th Street in Fordham Manor. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email list. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person meetings.

The date for the December **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7** general board meeting is to be announced. The last general board meeting was held

on Tuesday, **Nov. 15**. Contact <u>KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov</u> to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, until further notice.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Nov. 2 meeting was held in person at 400 E Mosholu Pkwy S, #B1 (lobby floor), The Bronx, NY 10458. For details of future meetings, please contact <u>bedfordmosholu@verizon</u>. net.



Local Man Shot by Police Laid to Rest

(continued from page 1)

a knife."

Police said Demmerle fled with the knife and was pursued by Lockett. "As he [Lockett] exists the bodega, he fires at the male [Demmerle] at point-blank range into the white Lexus. One sergeant and two detectives from the Queens Violence Detectives Squad, in plain clothes, confront the male with the gun [Lockett], and fire numerous times," police said.

Police said Lockett, shot by police, was removed to Jacobi Medical Center and pronounced deceased. "The 29-yearold male fled the scene and was discovered a short time later with a graze wound to his head [in a barber shop]," police added. "He was removed to St. Barnabas Hospital and is in stable condition."

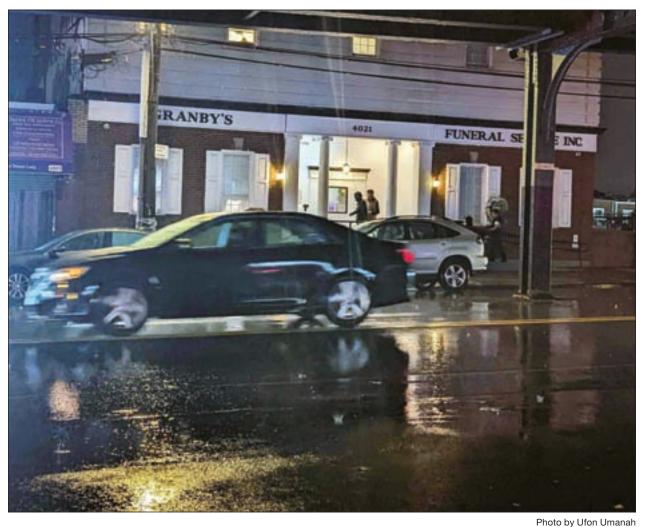
A photo of the gun and the knife recovered at the scene was shared by police during the press conference. Police said a preliminary investigation found that neither civilian had any connection to the bodega. Shattered car window glass was seen beside the white Lexus in a video shot by a Citizens' App user.

According to court records, Demmerle was charged over the summer with resisting arrest, and obstructing government administration, and was released on his own recognizance. He now faces additional charges of attempted murder, assault, and criminal possession of a weapon, police said, and is being held on a \$500,000 bond. He was expected back in court on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and returns to court again on Friday, Nov. 18, to answer the resisting arrest charge.

Quoting an unnamed worker at the barber shop where Demmerle reportedly fled inside from police, The NY Daily News reported that the worker said Demmerle told him, "I don't have no knife, no gun. I'm good. I just want to hide here. Don't call the police. Don't call the cops, please." The worker added that Demmerle pleaded, "I have a baby, please."

Referring to Lockett, Jessica Lugo from Norwood later told *Norwood News* by phone on Nov. 15, "His mom was a hard worker, and he was always a respectful kid." She added, "I mean kids are going to be kids, but growing up he was always a good kid. He was well adjusted, playing in the park with his friends... They all grew up together."

Lugo then recalled how one mourner at the wake, which she attended, had told her how Lockett helped out in the local Norwood community, and that another



DESPITE STORMY WEATHER, a large crowd turned out to pay their respects to Kyle Lockett, 21, at Granby's Funeral parlor on White Plains Road in Wakefield on Friday, November 11, 2022.

person at the wake also told her how Lockett had defended himself against a neighborhood bully.

"From what I know, he was always a good kid," Lugo said. "He was never cursing or disrespectful, hitting people, or getting into violence. He was just a typical kid."

Asked if he had had any hobbies, Lugo said, "He was into music. I definitely know he was into music, writing music, and rhyming, and stuff like that. When we were younger...playing, riding his bike, playing outside."

Lugo posted a video on Facebook that shows dozens of Lockett's friends gathered after the wake along Decatur Avenue and East Gun Hill Road in Norwood recording a rap video in Lockett's honor.

Lugo said, in reference to the video, "That was all of his friends. He was a young kid. Of the wake, she added that the service was huge. "It was packed with people," she said.

She added that Lockett grew up on Hull Avenue and attended P.S. 94 and

M.S. 20. More recently, she said he lived a short distance away from where he was shot in Norwood. She said friends attended the wake on White Plains Road and then later many had dinner at a nearby restaurant not far from where the tribute video was being filmed.

A GoFundMe page posted by Rose Bishop has, so far, raised \$4,039 made up of 105 donations to cover the cost of Lockett's funeral. The goal is to raise \$10,000. The accompanying description read, "Kyle Lockett entered the gates of heaven and gained his wings too soon. He was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. This has been a shock to the family as well as the community."

It continued, "Kyle, only 21 years old, had his whole life ahead of him. Kyle is gone but, in our sadness, we rejoice his life by keeping his memory alive. Since there was no warning [meant] the cost for his burial has weighed heavily on the family."

Bishop wrote that Lockett's mother, in her grief, had asked the community to pull together and donate so that Kyle could be laid to rest properly. On Nov. 10, the New York Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) announced it had opened an investigation into the death of Lockett, who, they said, died following the encounter with members of the NYPD, and

Officials said that pursuant to New York State executive law section 70-b, the Office of Special Investigations assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, may have caused the death of a person, by an act or omission.

Under the law, the officer may be onduty or off-duty, and the deceased may be armed or unarmed. Also, the deceased may or may not be in custody or incarcerated. They said, "If OSI's assessment indicates an officer caused the death, the office will proceed to conduct a full investigation of the incident."

OSI officials added that these were preliminary facts and subject to change. It was confirmed by police on the day of the shooting that the detectives involved were not wearing body-worn cameras.

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