



NORWOOD NEWS

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NORWOOD CO-OP AWAITS AUDIT FINDINGS

Photo by David Greene

TRYON AVENUE COOPERATIVE shareholders led by Alina Dowe (left) confront the cooperative's majority shareholder's attorney, Ronald Sher, (right) during a special meeting requested by shareholders on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

By **DAVID GREENE**

A few dozen shareholders of a private cooperative located in Norwood await the results of a promised audit of the co-op's finances, after they were hit at short notice with what they see as steep maintenance

fee increases, and dispute certain decisions taken in relation to the co-op's finances. The move follows a recent ownership shake-up which has seen a replacement majority co-op shareholder in the mix.

Prior to the promise of an audit, the minority shareholders

had demanded they be granted permission to examine the co-op's accounting records, and alleged they also did not know the names of the officers on the board of directors of the co-op.

During a special meeting of 3520 Tryon Avenue Owners, Inc. held last Jan. 23, shareholders,

which included some seniors, packed the lobby of the co-op building and voted unsuccessfully to remove board president, Sheila Graham. At the time, shareholders were infuriated over a previously announced 6% increase in monthly main-
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Formerly Incarcerated Bronx Singer Releases Album

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The Bronx R&B and Soul singer, who goes by the name, Ms. Seeley, whose legal name is Valerie Seeley, released a captivating and impactful, five-track EP called “SIGS On Seeley St.” on March 19. The album details the artist’s complex life journey, diving into various topics like surviving domestic violence, her 19-year prison sentence, the death of her 26-year-old son, and womanhood.

Seeley, now in her late sixties, is a lifelong Bronxite. She said she grew up all around the east and the west side of borough, but primarily lived on Jessup Avenue in Mt. Eden as a kid and teen. She now lives off the Grand Concourse by 196th Street on the border of Fordham Manor and Bedford Park.

The musician served 18 years in prison for second-degree murder in a domestic violence incident involving her abusive partner. She was pardoned in 2016 by former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. While in prison, her son, Eron, died. The track, “Eron” on her album is dedicated to him. Seeley said Eron was also incarcerated at the time of his death at Napanoch’s Eastern Correctional Facility in Ulster County, NY.

“While I was in there [in prison], I started my healing process,” Seeley told *Norwood News*. “I started writing different things about my life and how I felt, being a victim. Anything I felt, I just wrote it down,” she said.

The singer met Fury Young, founder of FREER Records, while she was incarcerated and began to send him a lot of her written work. FREER Records is a pioneer in the music industry in that it’s the first record label in the country for prison-impacted musicians. The



Photo courtesy of FREER Records.

MS. SEELEY STRIKES a pose.

goal of Young and his colleagues is to elevate their musicians’ careers while also giving them a platform to freely express their work for the world to hear.

“These songs are a way to get my story out, my trials and tribulations, all the stuff that I went through,” said Seeley. “Hopefully when people hear the album they can relate because there’s still a lot of domestic violence going on out here in the world today.”

Seeley said some of the artists who have inspired her sound include Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, and Ray Goodman and Brown. “SIGS On Seeley St.” is produced by the co-executive director of FREER Records and musician, BL Shirelle. Seeley explained that the word “SIGS” in her al-

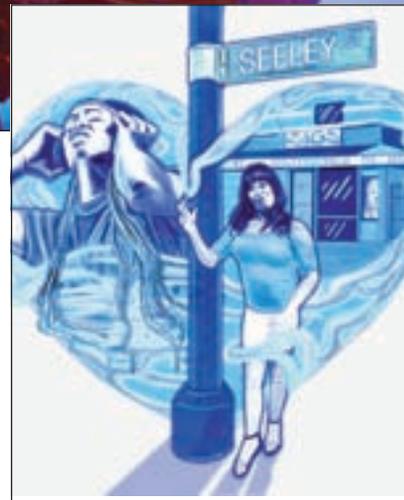


Photo courtesy of FREER Records.

“SIGS ON SEELEY St.” album cover.

bum title is her way of paying homage to BL Shirelle’s first single which had the same name. SIGS is an acronym for “Sh*t I Gotta Say.”

The five tracks on “SIGS On Seeley St.” are “Brownstone,” “Death of an Angel,” “Eron,” “Queen,” and “Winner’s Circle.” The album also features vocals from Dallas the Dove, who can be heard on all five songs and who also brings her own lived experiences to the music as a domestic violence survivor, who also lost a child.

A FREER Records representative said Dallas was living in a shelter for domestic violence survivors while recording the record. They said she also has a surviving daughter who is around 5 years old, and she dedicates her work on the album to her daughter.

“SIGS On Seeley St.” was funded by the New York City Women’s Fund. Seeley has also been featured on numerous other FREER Records songs. “When people hear my album and they listen to the words [...], I guarantee that people are going to be able to relate to at least one or two songs,” she said.

Ms. Seeley’s music is available on all streaming platforms or through www.freerrecords.com. She also has a YouTube channel, SIGS on Seeley St.

*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.



Photo courtesy of FREER Records.

MS. SEELEY POSES for a photo.



FOMP Hold Clean-Up Earth Day Event on Mosholu

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

Environmental conservation group Future of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) hosted a three-day event to celebrate Earth Day, on Thursday, April 18, Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, in and around Norwood and Bedford Park.

On April 18, the group tabled at an Earth Day celebration at Montefiore Medical Center's Moses campus on East 210th Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood. Montefiore officials highlighted how healthcare operations and practices are essential but that they contribute 10% of all emissions that impact the planet.

Representatives said, "Montefiore Einstein is committed to advancing environmental sustainability to support exceptional, compassionate care and improve the well-being of our patients, employees and communities." Attendees were encouraged to meet local, earth-friendly organizations (like FOMP), take home important information about the environment, participate in interactive educational events, and avail of free, eco-friendly giveaways.

The two remaining days incorporated parkland clean-ups, financed by some discretionary funds from local Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11). FOMP executive director Elizabeth Quaranta later

said in part of the second day, "Sweet success: neighbors meeting neighbors cleaning up the parkland and making notes on where we're going to be planting more daffodils in the fall!"

Quaranta said the group used compostable bags and were very strategic on where the clean-ups were to take place. After sharing some "after" photos, she added, "Enjoy the parkway. Help us to continue by supporting FOMP since we are heading towards a self-sustainable model. If you're not part of our monthly [recurring] sustainability donor club, now would be a good time to join. You can donate as little as five dollars, or you can donate more to help someone else who cannot donate. Love your community. Don't move — improve!"

Day 3 focused on the Mosholu Parkland area around Kossuth Playground, and consisted of more clean-ups, "mulching," and planting. Mulch is any material used to cover soil's surface and is used to retain moisture in the soil, suppress or block weeds, keep the soil and plant roots cool, prevent frost heaving in winter, and make the landscape look more attractive.

Evan Weinberg, director of community affairs for Assemblyman John Zaccaro Jr. (A.D. 80), was present on Day 3 and said of his participation, "We're here

today because Earth Day is coming up." Weinberg commended The Bronx for its parks. "We have such beautiful park spaces and one of the things that we really pride ourselves on, and the assemblyman prides himself on is that community is a foundation for everything, and that foundation begins with making sure that our loved ones in our community have wonderful parks."

He added, "We're here cleaning up these parks, making sure they're ready for summer, ready for the schools to get out, ready for the kids to use as the weather gets warmer and the light stays out later at night, and that we can all enjoy the safe and wonderful spring and summer weather."

Quaranta thanked the assemblyman for sending representatives from his office. "You guys were awesome! Thank you, Evan Weinberg." Around 10 people were seen involved in the clean-up on the day. Quaranta concluded, "Kossuth Playground got a lot of love today."

Meanwhile, to mark Earth Week, NYC Emergency Management Department (EMS) released its 2023 Annual Report on April 24, highlighting the agency's leadership in citywide preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Mayor Eric Adams said, "And as

we mark both Earth Week and Severe Weather Awareness Week, it's important to recognize that preparedness is a year-round effort. Through programs like Strengthening Communities, NYC CERT, and Ready NY, we're empowering every neighborhood to face challenges head-on and to build a citywide network of readiness."

New York City Community Emergency Response Team (NYC CERT) members are dedicated volunteers who undergo a training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, community disaster support, disaster medical operations, and traffic control.

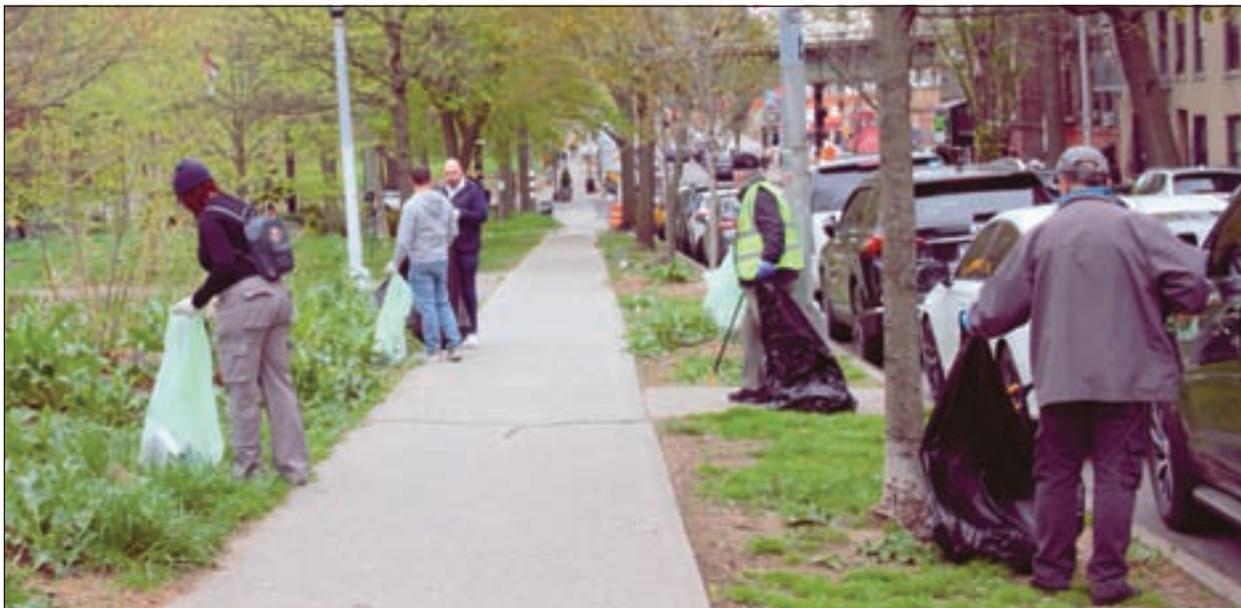
Ready NY is an EMS public education campaign, through which residents learn about the hazards they may face in the City and prepare for all types of emergencies by writing an emergency plan, choosing a meeting place, gathering supplies for the home, and preparing a "Go Bag" in case they need to leave their home in a hurry.

City officials encouraged residents who have not already done so to subscribe to Notify NYC app on their phones in their own language, and added that Notify NYC will now also utilize Facebook ([on.nyc.gov/notifyfb](https://www.facebook.com/on.nyc.gov/notifyfb)) to disseminate critical information in cases of emergency. They said in 2023, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated 12 times to address emergencies and remained operational 24/7 in support of the city's asylum seeker operations.

They said the agency responded to 2,401 incidents, including 603 complex responses in the field with an operational presence, and that during iconic events like New Year's Eve in Times Square, the US Open, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, EMS worked behind the scenes to ensure the celebrations were safe for all.

In 2023, the agency said it updated the Coastal Storm Recovery Playbook based on lessons learned from Ida and provided technical assistance with City agencies on 35 hazard mitigation projects. They said these projects, critical for enhancing resilience against natural disasters, involve over \$550 million in FEMA's hazard mitigation funding. Read the full report at <http://on.nyc.gov/nycemreport2023>.

*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.



Photos by Miriam Quiñones

VOLUNTEERS JOIN MEMBERS of Future of Mosholu Parkland in cleaning up Mosholu Parkway around Kossuth Playground on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Information on sustainability was also shared with the public.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers for their thoughts on the current protests taking place at colleges across the country regarding the Israel– Hamas war.



“All American citizens have a constitutional right to peacefully protest, but these protests have veered over into violence. Calling out for American citizens to be killed because they happen to be Jewish; that’s not free speech, and I feel like any other minority group, Black, brown, gay, LGBTQ people, if somebody had protested calling for them to be physically harmed, that would be gone in an instant, but somehow when it’s about Jewish people, then it becomes free speech.”

Hope Langer M.D.,
Riverdale
Photo by David Greene



“First and foremost, it was not an attack. It was a terrorist attack. That’s the first thing that needs to be established. The second thing that must be established is that Hamas has been designated a terrorist organization since 1988; they did not just get designated in 2020 or 2021. This is all a part of Hamas’ plan. I’m very well in tune. I read the charter, and this is what they call ‘enticement to genocide’ and the other tactic is what they call ‘urban guerilla warfare.’ I see this ending in a civil war coming to America again.”

Moshe Reyes,
Tremont
Photo courtesy of Moshe Reyes



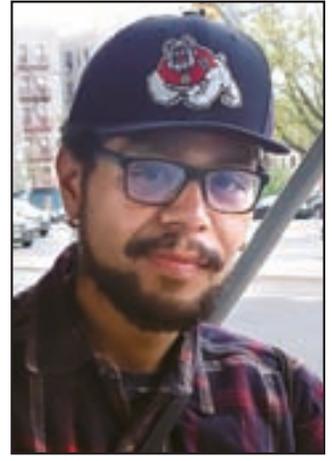
“My thoughts on what’s going on? Look, I promote world peace, right? You know there’s a sign for duality, for every ying, there’s a yang. For every negative, there’s a positive. The ideal method would be to promote world peace. The solution would be for individuals to come together and coexist without so much bitterness and animosity and years-long conflict.”

Jeff Wynn,
Brooklyn
Photo by David Greene



“I support Israel but what I don’t support is the genocide that’s going on. What happened in Israel deserves retaliation, but 30,000 innocent people dying, I can’t live with that. I don’t know if there’s a solution. I don’t know. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needs to go; he’s not right.”

Kevin Jones,
Bedford Park
Photo by David Greene



“Honestly speaking, it has to do with different types of racism and the only way we can fix it is by either coming together as a human race, or to move forward in life and say we can’t care about things we have no control over, like war. The solution to the problem is to keep our families safe and understand the point of views from each side.”

John Andre Velasquez,
Kingsbridge
Photo by David Greene

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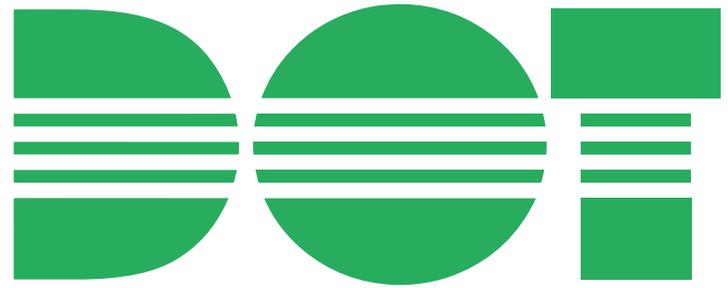
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<https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> then click on the rectangle captioned "Procurement Navigator," whereupon you will arrive at the Portal. To quickly locate the RFP/RFx, insert the following EPIN, 84123P0015, into the Keyword search field, then click search. To respond to the RFP/RFx, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so. A Pre-Proposal Conference via Microsoft TEAMS is scheduled for 05/15/24 at 1:00 PM. Those wishing to attend must request the Microsoft TEAMS link by no later than 3:00 PM on 05/14/24 via email from the Authorized Agency Contact. The deadline for the submission of questions is 05/22/23 by 4:00 PM. The proposal due date (submission via PASSPort) is 05/31/23 by 2:00 pm.

This procurement is subject to participation goals for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBs) as required by Section 6-129 of the New York Administrative Code. The M/WBE goal for this project is 30%. Any inquiries concerning this RFP/RFx should be directed by email to the Authorized Agency Contact, Shaneza Shinath, at sshinath@dot.nyc.gov.

Some Jewish Constituents Call Out Torres on Gaza

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The latest demonstrations seen on the country's college campuses are a reminder that many New Yorkers continue to vehemently oppose U.S. military support for Israel in the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. As of May 1, according to Al Jazeera's live tracker, 1,139 people have been killed in Israel since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas carried out a terrorist attack in southern Israel and took around 240 Israelis hostage, some of whom have since been released.

The same media outlet reports that as of May 1 at least 8,730 have been injured in Israel. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera reports that at least 34,568 people, including more than 14,500 children and 8,400 women, have been killed in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023.

The outlet also reports that more than 77,765 people have been injured in Gaza and more than 8,000 are missing. Al Jazeera further reports that in the Occupied West Bank, at least 492 people, including more than 124 children, have been killed and 4,800 have been injured since Oct. 7, 2023.

Constituents of New York's 15th congressional district, which stretches from the northwest of the borough to the South Bronx, are among those who are continuing to raise their voices in support of regular Palestinians. The district is represented by Democratic Congressman Ritchie Torres and as reported, twice last year, members of the Bronx Anti-War Coalition held a rally outside the congressman's office in Belmont to call for a ceasefire and demand an end to financial support of Israel's war efforts by the United States.

On March 29, a contingent of Torres' constituents, headed by Jewish members of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and their allies, paid a visit to his constituency office to present him with a letter in which they outlined their opposition to his views on the situation in Gaza. The full text of the letter can be read below.

“Dear Representative Torres,

As your Jewish constituents, we come to your office today alarmed at your behavior, and your blatantly false claim to speak in our name.

From the beginning of your term, you have gone out of your way to applaud Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people. Back in 2021, you white-washed Israel's murder of children, and that behavior has continued ever since. Now more than 170 days into Israel's attack on Gazan civilians, the death toll has risen to 40,000+, about 70% of which are women and children. Due to the collapse of Gaza's infrastructure, inability to count, and all those now categorized as “missing,” the casualty rate is surely far higher.

As Jews, we stand against such a Holocaust. Bought as you are by AIPAC



Photo courtesy of Norwood Community Library via Twitter.

A FREE PALESTINE banner hangs over Bruckner Boulevard in The Bronx in an undated photo posted to social media on Dec. 4, 2023.

(over \$500,000 over your career), you refuse to listen and block us on social media, an act which the Supreme Court has just unanimously ruled is a violation of our free speech.

When we protest at your office, you run away and smear us as “extremists” or “hate mongers”. At a recent event, you even took a page from Trump by joking on stage while security guards pushed and choked Jewish, PoC and LGBTQ constituents who came to speak to you at the 92nd Street Y.

Members of Congress are servants of the people, not the other way around. Therefore, we visit your office today and demand the following:

1. That you apologize immediately for your libel of those who protest Israel's acts of genocide. Such protest is not “antisemitic.” In truth, it is YOU who spread antisemitism and endanger our people, every time you conflate Israel and Judaism (the dual loyalty trope.)
2. That you agree to sit down publicly and listen with respect to Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now representatives, and Jewish voices such as Norman Finkelstein, Aaron Mate, Dan Cohen and Miko Peled.

If you refuse or ignore this request, Ritchie Torres, that is proof you represent AIPAC, not The Bronx, and that you are gravely disrespectful of the diversity of Judaism. For you, our people are convenient shields to hide your monstrous disregard for human rights and life.

Signed
Your Jewish Constituents
(Never again and NOT in our name)”

Norwood News reached out to the congressman's office for comment on the letter. In response, Torres said, “While I

welcome civic engagement from all my constituents, JVP is a fringe organization that blames Israel, rather than Hamas, for the atrocities of October 7th. I have no desire to meet with anyone who justifies the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust.”

Meanwhile, other Jewish people have shared their support of the congressman. Amanda Berman, founder and executive director of the Zioness Movement, said Torres was “a model of true and consistent progressivism for all marginalized communities, including in his commitment to Jewish self-determination in the native homeland of the Jewish people.”

Berman continued, “He consistently stands against all forms of antisemitism and its contemporary manifestation in anti-Zionism, which has appeared as a rabid form of hate that targets not only Jews but anyone who stands in courageous solidarity with the overwhelming majority of Jews on earth who support and defend Israel's sovereign existence.”

She added, “The ‘activists’ who sent this letter, spewing racism and antisemitism simultaneously, do not represent the Jewish community, and do not represent the people of The Bronx. True progressives condemn anyone who works to make Congressman Torres and his district staff feel physically vulnerable for the crime of working for a principled man who stands up for Jews, while standing unwaveringly for peace.”

Bini Knauss, principal of SAR Academy in Riverdale, said the congressman never shied away from hard questions. “[He] is responsive, reflective, rational, and remarkably accessible to his constituents, of all backgrounds and of all faiths,” Knauss said. “These ‘demands,’ based on incorrect facts, disrespectful language, and false conclusions, do not merit a meeting and do not represent the Jewish community.”

Mark Treyger, CEO of Jewish Community Relations Council, NY, is a grandson of Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans, a son of immigrants from Ukraine that fled religious persecution because of his family's Jewish faith, and a former colleague of Torres in the City Council.

Treyger said the overwhelming majority of Jewish New Yorkers and those from across the globe greatly appreciated what he described as Torres' moral clarity and leadership, “his unwavering support for Israel's right to exist, Israel's responsibility to defend its people, including securing the immediate release of hostages [...],” and what he said was the congressman's relentless efforts to combat all forms of hate and bigotry, including skyrocketing antisemitism in New York.

Treyger said Torres had a clear and unapologetic track record of standing up for marginalized and vulnerable populations, which he said predated his service in Congress. He said Torres' moral clarity brought comfort to the Jewish community. “I personally know how he is fighting for a lasting peace in the region that brings peace, security, and dignity for all people that call the region home,” he said in part.

Meanwhile, Daniel Rosenthal, vice president of government relations at UJA-Federation of New York, said, “UJA-Federation was deeply honored to host Congressman Torres in Israel this week. Congressman Torres is a steadfast and unwavering ally to both the Jewish community in New York and Israel.”

Most, if not all, international journalists have been precluded from entering Gaza to report on the conflict, according to various sources. NPR reported on March 15, “In Gaza, Palestinian journalists are documenting a war they're also trying to survive.” The outlet reported that the Israeli military — with rare exceptions for military tours — has prevented foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip.

NEWS BRIEFS

Alvarez said work on the repainting of the mural will begin on June 2. Those wishing to volunteer can sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AAAB2DA0FFC16-49424948-norwood?mc_cid=47a1ba3ef9&mc_eid=f5604060d1#/

Eligible Palestinians Can Now



Photo courtesy of Guerinos against Graffiti*

THE NORWOOD MURAL located on East 207th Street and Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, previously defaced with the word “Ammo” has recently been painted over with white paint by Guerinos Against Graffiti*.

Norwood Mural “Ammo” Wording Painted Over

Local graffiti removal group, Guerinos Against Graffiti*, confirm they have painted over the word “Ammo” on the Norwood mural located on East 207th Street and Bainbridge Avenue. As previously reported, the original floral mural had been defaced/ “tagged” some time over the last year with the sinister word “Ammo,” sometimes used as an abbreviation for the word “ammunition.” As reported, it’s unknown who defaced the mural, but other markings suggest it may have been gang members. The word has since been painted over with white paint, while the remains of the original mural are still visible. “NORWOOD WAITED for the Artist, for the Landlord, for the Porter, for the Deli owner, for the Councilman. NOW IT’S GONE!!!” Guerinos for Graffiti wrote in a group email on April 30.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Laura Alvarez, the artist who painted the original floral-inspired mural, announced that she is hosting two idea-generating events at the location of the mural to discuss the design of a replacement mural. The first session will be on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the second session will be held on Wednesday, May 15, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and residents can sign up at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/help-design-the-new-norwood-mural-tickets-894621937297?mc_cid=47a1ba3ef9&mc_eid=f5604060d1

Apply to Work in the U.S.

The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs said that on Feb. 14, U.S. President Joe Biden issued a memorandum granting Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to Palestine for 18 months. DED is a benefit authorized at the discretion of the president that protects certain individuals from deportation and allows them to live in the United States for a designated duration. DED is **not** an immigration status and there is no application process for DED itself.

City officials said DED is currently authorized for three countries: **Palestine, Liberia, and Hong Kong.** On April 12, the administration announced eligible Palestinians, i.e. those present in the U.S. on Feb. 14 who meet eligibility criteria for DED could begin applying for work permits. Applicants are advised to stay informed and to be aware of immigration fraud. For more information, visit nyc.gov/immigrants.

Take Your Child to Work Day

NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi & North Central Bronx (NCB) welcomed over 40 young adults onsite on Thursday, April 25, for “Take Your Child to Work Day.” Children of staff members at Jacob Medical Center and NCB were welcomed on site for the all-day event, and allowed the visitors to tour the facility, visit the hyperbaric chamber, the simulation lab, and pediatric emergency department.

Torres Introduces New Bill on Lithium-Ion Batteries

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson (R), Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D), the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Senate Commerce Committee and a list of interest groups and companies sent a letter on April 23 in support of a new bill, the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act, introduced by Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15).

The interest groups included Consumer Reports, Grubhub, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Chamber of Progress, Consumer Federation of America (CFA), DoorDash, Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY), Flex Association, Hunger Free America, JOCO, Kids in Danger (KID), Lyft, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, National ACE, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), New York League of Conservation Voters, Partnership for New York City, People-ForBikes (P4B), Queens Chamber of Commerce, Safe Kids Worldwide, The Business Council of New York State, The United States Conference of Mayors, and Uber.

Torres said unregulated lithium-ion batteries are deadly, as evidenced by the 216 fires and six related deaths caused by such batteries across New York City in 2023 according to the FDNY. “The consensus is bipartisan - it’s time for the federal government to act,” he said.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals/ **NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/Jacobi & North Central Bronx (NCB)** welcomed over 40 young adults onsite on Thursday, April 25, for “Take Your Child to Work Day.”

Juvenile Detention Center Abuse Survivors File Lawsuit Against City

Attorneys for Levy Konigsberg filed 150 civil lawsuits against the City of New York on Tuesday, April 30, on behalf of the survivors of alleged sexual abuse while they were under the care of the Administration of Children Services (ACS) at the various Bronx juvenile detention facilities. These include the former Spof-

ford Juvenile Detention Center (also known as Bridges Juvenile Detention Center) in Hunts Point which has since been converted to affordable housing, Horizon Juvenile Center in the South Bronx, and Rikers Island.

It is alleged the City’s juvenile detention center staff severely and systematically sexually abused the plaintiffs when they were children, and that the perpetrators were correctional officers, counselors, nurses, other staff members and even supervisors. The Bronx District Attorney’s Child Abuse / Sexual Crimes unit can be reached on (718) 838 7176.

St. Pat’s Occupational Therapist Marks 25 Years

St. Patrick’s Home Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, located in Van Cortlandt Village, and Sigma Rehabilitation recently honored one of its long-time occupational therapists, Lourdes “Lulu” Sosa, for what they said is her “nearly 25 years of dedication and hard work treating and caring for the people of The Bronx.” They said Sosa, who is gearing up to retire either by the end of 2024 or in January 2025, received the company’s Certificate of Excellence on April 29, capping off Occupational Therapy Month.

“Lulu has the longest longevity in our department and has earned the respect and admiration of her coworkers through hard work and dedication,” said Erika Lin, director of rehabilitation. “She is very knowledgeable in OT and has applied her knowledge to treat her patients and mentor students throughout the years. Lulu is a self-initiator and goes beyond the call of duty to bring joy to her patients and help them recover. She has been part of the team and has had multiple successful discharges of her patients to their homes. Lulu is well deserved of this award.”



Photo courtesy of Sigma Rehabilitation **ST. PATRICK’S HOME** Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, located in Van Cortlandt Village, and Sigma Rehabilitation honored its longtime occupational therapist, Lourdes Sosa, on April 29, 2024, for nearly 25 years of service.

CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE



Source: Unknown

A VIDEO OBTAINED and shared on social media by Little Wanderers NYC, a cat rescue group, shows a pitbull mauling a cat in an unknown location on an unknown date, reportedly in The Bronx. This is a still from the video.

Pitbull Kills Owner inside Home

Just over one week after an animal rescue group shocked Bronxites with a report that alleged, organized dogfighting and animal cruelty, including the mauling of stray cats by pitbulls, was allegedly taking place at NYCHA complexes in The Bronx, a Bronx man is dead following an attack by a pitbull inside his apartment in Longwood.

Police said officers from the 42nd Precinct responded to a 911 call at 3.09 a.m. on Friday, April 26, about a dog biting their owner inside of 1210 Simpson Street. They said upon arrival, officers observed a pitbull mauling a 41-year-old male. They said both officers fired their weapons striking the dog multiple times, the victim was transported to hospital by EMS where he was pronounced deceased, and the officers were also transferred to hospital for observation.

They said the dog was pronounced deceased at the scene and the investigation remains ongoing. *Norwood News* spoke to residents of the area and one resident said he never saw the owner mistreat the dog while another said the owner did mistreat the dog. Neighbors suggested the building was being used as a shelter. We contacted NYC Department of Homeless Services to ask and to find out the policy around pets. We did not receive a response as of press date.

CMC Development Group and HELP USA co-developed the building where the incident occurred, along with nearby 937 Home Street, creating an 8,000-square foot church and program offices, as well as 72 units of affordable housing in 60,000 square feet of residential space. *Norwood News* contacted both CMC and Help USA for comment on the incident and will share any updates we receive. The building opened on Oct. 19, 2023.

Prior to the incident, on April 19, the cat rescue group, Little Wanderers NYC, had posted on social media that “another cat” had been killed by dogs and that they had been reporting about stray cats being used for bait in dogfighting games and competitions at a NYCHA housing complex in The Bronx for a long

time. The group wrote, “Although it has been well known for years and people reported it, everyone got the run around.”

Accompanying the post was an undated video showing an apparent pitbull mauling a cat at an unknown location. A Little Wanderers NYC representative, who we are not naming for security reasons, said they were made aware of the video by “someone who reported it,” adding that they do not wish to identify the person to protect them from any retribution.

In the background of the video, a man can be heard making kissing noises and seemingly encouraging the dog, saying, “Shake it Taylor. Good Girl!” However, as there is no other background noise other than the man speaking, it’s unclear if the video / voiceover has potentially been edited or not.

As there is reference to Gun Hill Houses NYCHA complex, located in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx, in Little Wanderers NYC’s social media post, we asked the group if they could confirm if the video of the pitbull mauling the cat was taken at Gun Hill Houses. A representative explained that they do not wish to do so for security reasons. Meanwhile, a representative from the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, who is aware of the issue, told *Norwood News* that to date, at least, it has not been corroborated that the video was recorded at Gun Hill Houses.

The original source of the video is unknown to *Norwood News*. When we visited Gun Hill Houses on April 25 and spoke to several residents, we asked if they were aware of any dog fighting taking place. Almost all said they were not. However, one person said they were aware, though they were fearful of saying much more on the matter. One person said police had recently been seen at the NYCHA complex, and indirectly suggested the reason for the visit was in connection with potential dogfighting.

Meanwhile, Little Wanderer NYC’s post continued in part, “Unfortunately, the killings aren’t just localized to this one housing project. Half a mile away, another cat was killed by dogs. There is an eyewitness. She tried to report it, but it didn’t go very far. The body was taken to a city agency. How much more hard evidence do we need?” The group said a meeting had been scheduled with City Councilman Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) who represents the North Central Bronx including Williamsbridge and are also encouraging all those who care about animal cruelty to contact their respective local representatives to take action. We did not receive a response as of press date.

In mid-March, *Norwood News* reported that a dog became impaled on a railing after it apparently jumped off the roof of a residential building in Kingsbridge late at night while in the company of a child. We understand the dog died and though we followed up, we

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 052					
CompStat Book							
Week of 04/22/24 - 04/28/24							
		28 Day		Year to Date			
	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	1	1	0.0 %
Rape	100.0 %	4	3	33.3 %	20	12	66.7 %
Robbery	75.0 %	40	32	25.0 %	164	122	34.4 %
Felony Assault	142.9 %	55	47	17.0 %	210	192	8.4 %
Burglary	0.0 %	16	19	-15.8 %	63	76	-17.1 %
Grand Larceny	-50.0 %	60	55	9.1 %	234	206	13.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-60.0 %	26	26	0.0 %	113	105	7.6 %
Total	2.6 %	201	183	9.8 %	805	714	12.7 %
Patrol	5.4 %	198	177	11.9 %	786	695	13.1 %
Transit	-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %	16	16	0.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %	3	3	0.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	11	7	57.1 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	7	7	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	4	7	-42.9 %	27	18	50.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	12	9	33.3 %	39	29	34.5 %
Petit Larceny	-44.3 %	167	251	-33.5 %	656	825	-20.5 %
Misd. Assault	30.8 %	53	63	-15.9 %	266	236	12.7 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIMES in the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending April 28, 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, as well as year-to-date major crimes in the 52nd Precinct as of April 28, 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

THE NYPD IS asking for the public’s help identifying the person seen in the attached photo who they say is wanted in connection to a robbery that occurred in University Heights on April 5, 2024.

didn’t ever receive definitive confirmation.

University Heights: Person Sought following Assault & Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying the person seen in the attached photo who they say is wanted in connection to a robbery investigation in University Heights. Police said that on Friday, April 5, at around 8.50 a.m., inside a business located at 2441 Jerome Avenue, an unidentified person placed a victim in a chokehold and stole \$1,000 from the cash register.

They said the person then fled on foot northbound on Jerome Avenue to parts unknown. They said the victim refused medical attention. Police said the suspect is described as male, has a dark complexion and slim build, and was last seen wearing blue pants, a green jacket, and a gray hooded sweater with a green face mask.

Fordham Manor: Man Charged for Shooting Boy 2 on Fordham Road

Following the arrest of Freddy Flores, 20, last of Walton Avenue in Fordham Heights, the suspect in the shooting of a 2-year-old boy on Fordham Road on Saturday afternoon, March 30, Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark an-



VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION (VIP) PROGRAM

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder Abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

- Physical
- Emotional/ Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect



FACTS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

- About 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ have experienced abuse.
- Without decent health care and public resources, our population becomes more at risk for abuse as we age.
- The impact of elder abuse is felt by people of all ages.
- Elder abuse also reduces older people's participation in the life of our communities.
- Elder abuse creates health care and legal costs that are often carried by public programs like Medicare and Medicaid.



ABOUT US

We provide FREE services and supports designed to promote elder justice by helping them to navigate systems and ensure their safety within the home and their community.



OUR SERVICES

- Advocacy
- Safety planning
- Information & Referral
- Supportive Counseling
- Assistance with Order of Protection & Evictions
- Crisis Intervention
- Security Lock Installation
- Educational Workshops, and more



FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS PLEASE CALL (718)542-0006 OR EMAIL US AT INFO@NSHOPP.ORG



PROGRAMA DE INTERVENCIÓN Y PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA (VIP)

975 Kelly Street Suite 401 Bronx, NY 10459

¿QUÉ ES EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS?

Abuso de ancianos, el maltrato o daño a una persona mayor, es una injusticia que todos debemos prevenir y ayudar.

- Físico
- Emocional/Psicológico
- Financiero
- Sexual
- Negligencia



DATOS SOBRE EL ABUSO DE ANCIANOS

- Aproximadamente 1 de cada 10 adultos mayores de 60 años ha experimentado abuso.
- Sin atención médica decente y recursos públicos, nuestra población corre más riesgo de abuso a medida que envejece.
- El impacto del abuso de ancianos lo sienten personas de todas las edades.
- El abuso de ancianos también reduce la participación de las personas mayores en la vida de nuestras comunidades.
- El abuso de ancianos genera costos legales y de atención de la salud que a menudo corren a cargo de programas públicos como Medicare y Medicaid.



SOBRE NOSOTROS

Ofrecemos servicios y apoyo GRATUITO diseñado en promocionar la justicia para personas mayores, ayudándolos a navegar los sistemas y seguridad en su hogar y su comunidad



NUESTROS SERVICIOS

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- Planificación de la seguridad
- Información y Referidos
- Consejería a corto plazo
- Asistencia con orden de protección y desalojos
- Intervención en Crisis
- Instalación de Cerraduras
- Presentaciones educativas, y mucho más...



PARA MÁS INFORMACION O HACER UN REPORTE, LLÁMENOS AL (718) 542-0006 O ENVÍENOS UN CORREO ELECTRÓNICO A INFO@NSHOPP.ORG





Letters To The Editor

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

Bereavement Services

On Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m., Deacon Paul Hveem will moderate a supportive, spiritual group for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one at St. Brendan Church, Parish of St. Brendan & St. Ann, 333 East 206th Street Bronx, NY 10467-4003. All are welcome. Phone (718) 547-6655 for more information.

**Richard Marias,
Norwood**

Consider All The Bronx Offers

You don't have to be a Bronx resident to appreciate and enjoy all the borough offers. Several retired friends and I periodically visit various Bronx locations. My wife and I also do the same on our own separate trips. Our senior Metro Card discounted \$1.35 fare offers both a subway ride and free transfer to one of many NYC Transit buses in The Bronx. Every year, we make several visits to both City Island for great seafood and Arthur Avenue for tasty Italian meals and incredible deserts.

After eating, it is followed by a relaxing walk along City Island or Arthur Avenues. City Island reminds us of life in a small upstate town. Arthur Avenue is like Little Italy in downtown Manhattan. There are also visits to the Bronx Botanical Gardens for the holiday train show and Bronx Zoo. We also enjoy walking around Riverdale Park with its great Hudson River views. There are also visits to Yankee Stadium.

When sitting on Great Neck Steppingstone Park's Pier, we can see The Bronx. Too bad there is no ferry connection to the borough. It would probably take less than 20 minutes instead of an hour or more by public transportation via Manhattan. While working for the Federal Transit Administration, I visited dozens of depots, yards, shops, and stations operated by MTA NYC Transit subway, Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (MABSTOA) bus, Metro North Rail Road and MTA Bus (former Liberty Lines Bronx Express and New York Bus private NYCDOT franchised bus operators), and rode many of the routes.

This gave me an excellent understanding of The Bronx public transportation network. I always used mass transit when visiting. At the end of the day, regardless of whether you live in The Bronx, another NYC borough, Nassau, or Westchester County, we are all neighbors. We have more in common than what may divide us. Our economic success and enjoyment of what life has to offer is interdependent.

**Larry Penner,
Great Neck**

In Support of BronxNet

I previously read a not-so-flattering article on my other employer, namely BronxNet Community Television, published in The New York Daily News. The article, by Daily News reporter, Graham Rayman, was very critical of the station's handling of its finances. It was an exposé of sorts in the Monday, March 4, 2024, issue, and appeared to show BronxNet in a rather negative light.

When I read the newspaper article, handed to me by a colleague in a Brooklyn men's shelter I've been staying at recently, I was totally flabbergasted by the headline. In my humble reporter-in-training's opinion, it seemed rather one-sided in its cynical view of the network. I say this not just because I happen to be a television access producer at the station, as well as a camera operator/novice videographer, and a TV co-host.

Having worked there and having received training at the station for the past nine years since 2015, I do believe I know BronxNet's true reputation. They are good guys; hardworking people, especially workers such as myself, and other access producers, or even floor managers and various other people who, by the way, don't even work on a salary. In other words, we make absolutely no money doing our jobs.

But we don't do it for the money; we do it for the sheer love of the work and for the love of The Bronx community we are here to serve, and for those within the Bronx and beyond who are willing to tune into our excellent programs.

I spoke briefly to a senior person within BronxNet about the Daily News article I read, and his response to me was that it wasn't worth the paper it was written on. Perhaps he is right.

As for a more in-depth view of the Daily News story content, I would advise readers to check out the news story on BronxNet itself available online. Please read the article carefully. Then, use your own judgment and come up with your own conclusions. I think this statement is quite diplomatic and only fair to you, TV viewers and readers of this letter. Thank you for reading!

**Brian Briggs
Wakefield**

Editor's Note: The referenced New York Daily News article can be found here <https://www.nydailynews.com/2024/03/04/tensions-explode-at-bronx-community-television-operation-amid-fiscal-challenges/>

Norwood News reached out to BronxNet for comment on the issue. We did not receive a response as of press date.

**Open Letter to Councilman
Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11)**

Dear Councilman Dinowitz,
As a Jewish constituent, I write to you in response to your press release of

April 22, entitled "My Visit to Columbia University."

You claim to speak "proudly" for my community, but I am horrified at the dishonest framing of some of your language in that email. Even worse, you subtly conflate accurate criticism of Israel with "attacks" on Jewish students. Such is the dual loyalty trope; an antisemitic assumption that should be condemned every time it is encountered, especially when pushed by politicians.

What is it that you call "hate" speech? Recognizing Israel is a Western colony which 76 years ago ethnically cleansed over 750,000 of the indigenous population for its establishment? The use of the phrase "From the River to the Sea," which is a commonsense call for the right of all Palestinian refugees to return home (UN Resolution 194), and enjoy equal rights and citizenship? The use of the word "intifada," which means resistance? Just as those in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising resisted the Nazis, Injustice SHOULD and must be "resisted." Painting such as hate speech is a flat out *shanda*.

Any who "fear" such words are – intentionally or unintentionally – taking the side of the abuser. In the days of desegregation, some white students "feared" the language of Civil Rights. Those fears should be allayed by honest communication, but by no means should those fears be weaponized to silence voices which call out for justice.

It is essential to Judaism that we do stand up against the genocide in Gaza. Never again means never again for all. Otherwise, the phrase means nothing

As you know, hundreds of my Jewish brothers and sisters were arrested a few days ago at a Seder outside of [U.S. Senate Majority Leader] Chuck Schumer's apartment. Equally, many of the protestors at Columbia are Jewish. Have you sat down with any of them to listen with respect as to whether they view such speech as "disturbing" (as you put it)? I doubt it - but you should. Now.

Until you do, and appropriately revise your April 22 press release, I will not, as a Jewish New Yorker and constituent, conclude that you speak for me.

**Janet Goodman-Clarke
Resident of City Council District 11**

Editor's Note: Different meanings have been assigned to the term "From the River to the Sea" and to the word "intifada" depending on context and how they are interpreted by different groups.

Jeff Halper, director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, an anthropologist, is reported as saying, on a Turkish media site, that Israel drove 750,000 Palestinians out of their homes in 1948, which it's alleged was about 80% of Palestine's population at the time.

Shanda (שנדי) is the Yiddish word for shame or disgrace.

For ease and clarity, the councilman's referenced press release is included below. The councilman represents Bedford Park, Norwood, Kingsbridge Heights Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge, Riverdale-Spuyten Duyvil, Wakefield Woodlawn, Woodlawn Cemetery, and Van Cor-

landt Park.

**Read below to learn about my
visit to Columbia University**

Dear Neighbor,

As the Jewish holiday of Passover nears, some of us are preparing for our Seders; some of us are excited for time off from school or work; and some of us are looking forward to warmer weather. As we prepare for what should be a meaningful and restful week, many of our screens are plastered with disturbing images and videos from the protests at Columbia University.

Free speech is a foundational value of our country, enshrined in our constitution, allowing us to express our political beliefs with civility and without harming others. Unfortunately, too much of the language coming out of these protests has devolved into hate speech rather than political speech.

Just yesterday morning, I received a disturbing text from a constituent. The OU-JLIC rabbi at Columbia/Barnard recommended students go home for fear of their safety. Hillel subsequently called on the school to do more to restore calm, and this morning, Columbia moved all classes to remote learning and restricted entrance to campus

Today, I visited Columbia's campus to observe the protests firsthand and to speak directly with students and faculty affected by the turmoil there. Throughout my time on and off campus, the professors and students shared disturbing tales they had personally experienced.

The stories I heard were painful. The signs Jewish students see and chants they hear go far beyond civil discourse. Jewish students are intimidated and made to feel unsafe, with some even receiving death threats. Some students require escorts simply to go to class.

Students said they had to learn to navigate campus to avoid antagonistic protests, and that they were learning to cope with stress related to hearing chants that question their right to exist.

Students should be learning how to navigate the world, not navigate their own campus; students should learn to cope with the stress of final exams, not the stress of people questioning their very right to exist.

The President of Columbia has said that antisemitic language will not be tolerated. This pronouncement must be backed up with action. Columbia University must do more to ensure the safety and support of its students and faculty

Council Member Eric Dinowitz

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwood-news.org or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles.

Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

EVENTS

The Office of the Bronx Borough President is hosting a **Grand Concourse Walking Tour** on Saturday, May 11, at noon at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY, 10456, as part of Bronx Week 2024. The tour is limited to 20 guests. RSVP to s800mg@aol.com to reserve your spot. The tour is free of charge and will be canceled in the event of rain.

The **Bronx Night Market** will take place at 1 Fordham Plaza, Bronx, NY 10458 on Saturday, May 4, at 4 p.m. To RSVP, visit [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), and search "Bronx Night Market." The culture and cuisine festival

will feature over 50 local vendors.

Bronx Community Board 7 will mark its annual **Memorial Day Commemoration** with a flagging event on Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m. at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway, located between Marion and Hull Avenues. For more information, contact Steven Ochoa Camacho at sochocamacho@cb.nyc.gov or on (929) 496-7687.

MUSIC

Lehman College and Community Chorus presents its annual **Spring Concert**, featuring masterworks for chorus and orchestra by various renowned composers, including Gershwin. This performance is free and open to the public. It takes place Sunday, May 5, at 2.30 p.m. in Lehman Concert Hall. Complimentary tickets are available at the Lehman Center for the Performing box office. For more information, call (718) 960-8247 or e-mail music@lehman.cuny.edu.

ARTS

The Kingsbridge Historical Society will host "**Neighborhood Panoramas: An Art and Photo Exhibit at Edgehill**" on Sunday, May 12, from noon to 3 p.m. at 2570 Independence Ave. Bronx, NY 10463. The photos will depict scenes from Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, Marble Hill, and Inwood around the turn of the 20th century. For more information, contact info@kingsbridgehistoricalsociety.org.

FILM

The Bronx Independent Cinema Center Presents "**BX3M**," a film by Judith Escalona on Friday, May 3, at 5 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, located at 310 E. Kingsbridge Road Bronx, NY 10458. The screening will be followed by a Q&A. For more information, visit www.bronxindependentcinemacenter.com/events.

The Bronx County Historical Society will present a free virtual screening of Part I of the three-part documentary, "**Black Russians: The Red Experiment**" on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The documentary tells the little-known story of a small group of African Americans in the U.S. who fled segregation and violence in the 1920s to seek a better life in the Soviet Union. To register, visit <https://bronxhistoricalsociety.org/home#events>.

MOVEMENT

Mosholu Preservation Corporation, The Office of Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), and Cultivators will host an **Annual Tree Pit Clean Up** on Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of Reservoir Oval East & Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood. Fresh flowers will be planted while supplies last. For more information, contact D11scheduling@council.nyc.gov.

Opinion

Urgent Action Needed to Restore Peace & Security to Woodlawn

By WILLIAM MURRAY

The Woodlawn community is facing an urgent issue with repeated and disruptive street parties, particularly on Jerome Avenue and near 233rd Street, escalating into more severe criminal activities. This behavior, once peripheral, now threatens our neighborhood's safety, with a noticeable increase in crimes such as vehicle theft and disturbances during daytime hours, affecting residents' daily lives and sense of security.

Additionally, unauthorized gatherings at Indian Field disrupt the area's tranquility, violating park rules and causing traffic obstructions. This aberrant behavior is out of character for our community and demands immediate action.

We call on Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, and Congressman Ritchie Torres to intensify their efforts to protect the rights and well-being of the community.

Despite previous complaints and enforcement attempts by the NYPD and Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP), the persistent misuse of public spaces, especially the Allen Shandler Recreation Area, has become a public nuisance, endangering community safety.

The continuous disturbances have left residents feeling frustrated and disillusioned. Despite engaging in "Build the Block" meetings, Woodlawn Taxpayers Association meetings, and Bronx Community Board 12 sessions, a sustainable solution remains elusive. The situation is exacerbated by illegal

activities along Jerome Avenue, including unregulated car washes and obstruction of emergency vehicle access, further degrading the quality of life. The harassment of MTA workers and the disruption caused by loud music and illegal gatherings near Woodlawn Cemetery is particularly disrespectful and

dangerous.

We urge NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue and local officials to take decisive action by enhancing police presence and implementing preventive measures to address this "broken window" phenomenon and restore peace and security to our community.

CRIME FILE - CONTINUED

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



(continued from page 8)

nounced on Friday, April 19, that Flores was charged in connection with the incident. She said he was charged with attempted murder in the second degree, plus additional charges for firing several shots at an intended target, and instead striking the 2-year-old infant in the back as he was walking with his mother that day on Fordham Road.

Clark said, fortunately, the child survived the traumatic incident. The DA said Flores was arraigned on April 19 before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Brenda Rivera. Bail was set at \$50,000 cash, \$150,000 bond, and \$150,000 partially secured bond at 10%. He is due back in court in July.

A rally was organized on April 2, two days after the shooting, by Good Shepherd Services' Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) cure violence program at East 148th Street and Fordham Road, the same location where the infant was shot. B.R.A.G. cure violence interrupters and anti-gun violence activists work with young people to promote safer streets.

As reported, a second B.R.A.G. member, Jermaine Greene, was arrested on drug and gun charges on March 28. Michael Rodriguez, another former B.R.A.G. member, was convicted and

sentenced in January for drug-related charges. Greene and Flores are deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Fordham: Man Dead and 2nd Man Critically Injured after Shooting

A 33-year-old man is dead, and a 38-year-old man is critically injured following a double shooting on the border of Fordham Manor and Fordham Heights. Police said that on Tuesday, April 23, at around 9.49 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding two people who had been shot in the vicinity of Morris Avenue and East Fordham Road.

Police said, "Upon arrival, in front of 2449 Morris Avenue, officers observed a 33-year-old male with gunshot wounds to his stomach and right armpit, and a 38-year-old male who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds throughout the

body." They said EMS responded and transported both victims to St. Barnabas Hospital, where the 33-year-old male was pronounced deceased, and the 38-year-old male was listed in critical but stable condition.

Police said there were no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing. The deceased was later identified as Michael Mendez, 34, of Field Place in Fordham Heights.

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 <https://crimestoppers.nypd-online.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPD-Tips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

TO REPORT A STORY TO THE
NORWOOD NEWS CALL US AT

(929) 318 6595

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO



Free Resource Fair at Yankee Stadium

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is hosting a free resource fair at Yankee Stadium 1 E 161st St., Bronx, NY 10451 on Thursday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. Job seekers will have access to free professional headshots, one-on-one resume assistance, and to employers seeking new hires. Advance registration is required. To RSVP, visit bronxchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/3641.

She Built NYC Open Call to Artists
The City of New York seeks artists interested in creating public monuments that honor remarkable women in all five boroughs, including civil rights pioneer Elizabeth Jennings Graham in Manhattan; the legendary Billie Holiday in Queens; Dr. Helen Rodríguez Trias in The Bronx; and Katherine Walker on Staten Island. In Brooklyn, a monument honoring the great Shirley Chisholm is already underway. Artists interested in this opportunity may submit samples of past work and supplementary materials to be considered. Visit <https://nyculture.submittable.com/submit> to apply.

DOT Art | Call for Artists for Park Row Connection to Chinatown:

NYC DOT Art is commissioning temporary art for Park Row to reinforce the connection between Lower Manhattan

and Chinatown and reflect the rich cultural identity of the area. Artists are invited to submit past work examples for an opportunity to be selected to develop and install art in mediums including asphalt art, barrier beautification, fence interventions, and digital illustration for aluminum signage. Applications for the program are due May 5, at 11.59 p.m. **All questions should be emailed to arts@dot.nyc.gov.**

Public Housing Community Trust | From Roots to Arts: Call for Artists

Applications are now live for "From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage," an innovative artist-in-residency pilot program designed to enrich and expand culture, heritage, and art narratives within public housing by placing local artists and residents at the forefront. The program will support five artists at locations in each borough from 2024 to 2026. Selected artists will receive \$70K per year plus benefits, with additional support of up to \$155K for programming and fabrication. The deadline is May 19. For more information, visit: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6407af9dc56393442ff1356a/t/6626e3645cf5e7466161fe32/1713824612853/240417+Public+Artist-in-Residence+Open+Call+Final+Draft.pdf>.

Bronx Park Skatepark

Share your ideas for the reconstruction of the Bronx Park Skatepark located at Bronx Park East and Allerton Ave, Bronx, NY 10467 on Tuesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. Registration for the virtual community meeting is required by Tuesday, May 21, at 5 p.m. Register at nyc.gov/parks/input. For more information contact Katherine Borrrome at Katherine.Borrrome@parks.nyc.gov.

NYC Parks is hiring for the summer. City Park workers with a driver's license start with a rate of \$20.89/hour. Seasonal aide positions are also available for non-drivers at \$18/hour. Visit bit.ly/parks24bx for more information.

LGBTQIA+ Job Fair

The Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson is hosting a LGBTQIA+ job fair on Friday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at La Central YMCA, 434 Westchester Avenue, Bronx. Admission is free. For more information, contact Alexis Ruiz at aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

Online Business Webinar

The Small Business Development Center at Lehman College is hosting a business webinar on employment law on Tuesday, May 7, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Legal expert volunteers will provide insights to small business employers, and participants will have the opportunity to sign up for a one-on-one consultation

with an expert attorney. To register, visit <https://lehman-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/6477gkjkWfvOPbNq4iERvRNp#/registration>.

Free E-Waste and Paper Shredding Event

The Office of State Sen. Gustavo Rivera and the 52nd Precinct Crime Prevention unit are hosting a free e-waste and paper shredding event on Thursday, May 9, from noon to 5 p.m. at 3016 Webster Avenue Bronx NY, 10467. For more information, call Sen. Rivera's office at (718) 933-2034.

Upcoming Voter Registration & Election Deadlines

The primary elections for Congress, State, and Party Positions will be held on June 25. Early voting starts Saturday, June 15, until Sunday, June 23. The last day to register to vote is June 15 in the local primary.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units at 1821 Prospect Avenue, with a deadline of May 20, 299 East 161st Street Apartments, with a deadline of May 28, among others. HPD frequently extends the announced deadlines. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search-lotteries> for more information.



"Take a Moment" to Think about Your Mental Health

By LIZ SPURRELL-HUSS

Did you know that May is Mental Health Awareness Month? According to the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), Mental Health Awareness Month, which started in 1949, is a time to learn about and address the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with poor mental health conditions.

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Month is "Take a Moment." It's a great time to practice taking a pause, and spending a little time on caring for yourself, without guilt or shame. Here are some ideas on how to take a moment:

- Call or text a trusted friend who

boosts your mood.

- Write down what's on your mind or record it on your phone.
- Use positive affirmations - words or phrases that you say to yourself. For example, instead of saying, "I'll never be good at this," you could say, "I am capable of learning and improving."
- Eat a healthy snack - the crunchier the better!
- Move your body! Take a quick walk around the block, dance in your room, or follow along with a short exercise video.
- Get more sleep by going to bed a little earlier.
- Take some time to unwind - sit quietly with a warm drink, meditate, or stretch.
- Spend time outdoors - nature can boost our mood in an instant!

If you are looking for more support, here are some resources from Montefiore and your community that can help:

Montefiore Behavioral Health Virtual Urgent Care

Having a tough time? Get mental health support by video. <https://www.montefiore.org/virtual-urgent-care>

Crisis Text Line

<https://www.crisistextline.org/> Connect with a volunteer crisis counselor via TEXT message. Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a volunteer crisis counselor.

In Person Services

Montefiore Behavioral Health Center at Westchester Square - Child and Adult Outpatient Psychiatry Program
 For ages 4 and up, 2527 Glebe Avenue, Bronx NY, 10461 Phone: (718) 904-4476. Adult primary care services are also available at this location.

Moses Campus - Adult Outpatient Psychiatry Program

For adults aged 17.5 and up, 111 East 210th Street, Klau 1, Bronx NY, 10467 Phone: (718) 920-4295.

Moses Child Outpatient Psychiatry Program

For children aged 4-17.4, 3340 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx NY, 10467 Phone: (718) 696-3011.

On-Track New York

Adolescents and young adults ages 16-30 with early psychosis, 111 East 210th Street, Klau 1, Bronx NY, 10467

Phone: (718) 920-4295. Ask to speak with the On-Track NY outreach specialist.

Wakefield Campus - Adult

Outpatient Psychiatry Program
 For adults aged 17.5 and up, 4401 Bronx Boulevard, Bronx NY, 10470 Phone: (718) 304-7050.

Wakefield Child Outpatient Psychiatry Program

For children aged 4-17.4 years old, 4401 Bronx Boulevard, Bronx NY, 10470 Phone: (718) 304-7100.

The "Take the Moment" campaign encourages us to participate in open dialogues, cultivate empathy and understanding, and access resources on our journey towards mental wellness. For more information about the Take a Moment campaign, check out the NAMI website at: <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month/> and for more information about dealing with stressful and overwhelming situations visit this <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/cope-with-stress/index.html>.

Liz Spurrell-Huss, MSW MPH is a director of health equity programs at Montefiore Health System.

Sparks Fly at Bronx CB7 General Board Meeting

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Bronx Community Board 7 board members were the target of a stream of vulgar insults during last month's general board meeting held at Scott Towers on April 23, when Norwood resident, AJ Ramos, berated the board, using profanities, and alleging they had not addressed matters he had raised at previous meetings.

Addressing those gathered during his allotted slot during the public section of the meeting, Ramos described himself as "someone who has literally submitted complaints about members on the board to the board and BP [borough president]" and alleged he never saw the issues raised "at ethics meetings or follow ups."

"I just wanted to formally go on the record saying this board is a f*cking joke and a complete scam," Ramos said. "I don't understand why they refuse to get their act together and why they continue to waste my tax dollars and city resources in their own personal interest, and not the public's."

Unlike elected officials, members of the City's various community boards are unpaid volunteers who serve on various committees with the aim of addressing local issues, and sometimes advising the City on recommended courses of action. Those with executive or committee roles are voted into those positions by other



Image courtesy of AJ Ramos via YouTube

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 members hold the April general board meeting at Scott Towers in Jerome Park on April 23, 2024.

board members but remain unpaid.

At one point, addressing Norwood resident, Sirio Guerino, who was also in attendance at the meeting, Ramos continued, "Mr. Sirio, like so many other residents, why do we even bother coming and wasting our time?" Ramos concluded, saying, "In closing, I just wanted to go on record as saying Caca or Corruption Board 7 can, for lack of better terms and within my rights to free speech and expression, in a non-violent, peaceful, yet educational, artistic, scientific, literary, and political way, s*ck my d*ck and eat my hairy

ass. Happy Pride Y'all."

There were some audible expressions of disgust and disappointment by those present. Board member and 3rd vice chair (Budget, Personnel & Ethics), Jean Hill, said in part, "We do not have that type of behavior." Ramos then responded saying, "Yes ma'am. S*ck It Up. Not in America. Free speech! Free speech! We're allowed to be offensive. Free speech is offensive."

The rules of conduct are read out at the beginning of each community board meeting, and the public are

advised that offensive or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and if deemed necessary, the authorities can be called.

Norwood News has reported on prior requests made over the years by Ramos to the board to consider raising a Pride flag at specific locations within Bronx Community District 7 during Pride Month. The board duly reviewed these at various stages and ultimately rejected those pinpointing specific locations but did agree to raise the flag somewhere within the district at a location that was to be determined.

The board also assured the public of their support for LGBTQIA+ rights. Bronx CB7 chair Yajaira Arias told Norwood News previously that she was glad that Ramos had raised the matter of the Pride flag. "This is good. It's a topic of conversation," she said. "We're having those conversations. We want it to happen."

She added, "This is what residents should do, come to the board meetings, express things, express how they want certain things to happen, and we will go through the process of how we operate, and we put it in an agenda, we put it to committee, committee talks about it, discusses it, and we vote on it as a collective group because that's what we do."

(continued on page 14)

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF BRIDGES
CONSULTANT PROGRAMS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The City of New York has Request for Proposals available for qualified Consulting Engineering Firms interested in the following Proposed Contract.

Project or Contract Title:
Request for Proposal – Total Design and Construction Support Services for 21st Avenue Bridge Over NYCTA-BMT Sea Beach Line (BIN 2-24382-0) & 19th Avenue Bridge Over NYCTA-BMT Sea Beach Line (BIN 2-24371-0), Borough of Brooklyn
Contract No. HBKA24382 & HBKA24371
PIN: 84124BXR624

Expected Contract Term: 2920 Consecutive Calendar Days starting from the date of the Notice to Proceed for the Preliminary Design Phase until the Final Completion of Construction Contract.

Description of Services Required:

The services to be procured is the Total Design (TD) and Construction Support Services (CSS) for 21st Avenue Bridge Over NYCTA-BMT Sea Beach Line (BIN 2-24382-0) & 19th Avenue Bridge Over NYCTA-BMT Sea Beach Line (BIN 2-24371-0), Borough of Brooklyn

A Pre-Proposal Conference (Optional) has been scheduled for May 8, 2024, Time: 10:00 AM through Zoom. Proposers who wish to connect to the Zoom Conference will need a Zoom ID and Password or the link. Therefore, proposers who wish to connect will need to contact the authorized agency contact person via email at least three (3) days prior to the Pre-Proposal Conference in order to obtain the information to connect. Proposers will need to provide the first name, last name of everyone who wishes to connect, name of the organization, phone number and email address.

This Procurement is subject to participation goals for Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), as required by Section 6-129 of the New York Administrative Code. The M/WBE goal for this project is 30%.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this RFP must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the RFP, vendor should visit the PASSPort public Portal at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> and click on the "Search Funding Opportunities in PASSPort" blue box. Doing so will take one to the public portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system. To quickly locate the RFP, insert the 84124P0003 into the Keyword search field. To respond to the RFP, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

Release Date: May 1, 2024
Pre-Proposal Conference: May 8, 2024
Submission of Request for Proposals are due on or before 2:00 PM on June 10, 2024



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BEDFORD PARK DRAWING CLUB

Is anyone interested in a weekly figure-drawing meet-up in the Bedford Park, Bronx area? A room might be available for this sketch group to meet in if there is enough interest. Artists would be responsible for their own drawing materials and would sketch a clothed model in a variety of timed poses. All levels would be welcome! Contact BedfordParkDrawingClub@gmail.com for details.

Public and Community Meetings

The 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., sometimes in person and sometimes virtually. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, at 6.30 p.m. at Monroe College's Kings Hall, Mintz Auditorium, 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's Methodist Church, 146 West 228th Street, The Bronx. It is also a hybrid meeting. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). The next meeting will be in June. For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

Sparks Fly at Bronx CB7 General Board Meeting

(continued from page 13)

In an interview with *Norwood News* after the latest April general board meeting, Ramos said he had been informed by CB7 that a Pride flag had been raised in the CB7 office last year but that no picture had been taken of it or shared with him, and therefore, he had his doubts that it did actually happen.

Other complaints Ramos had related to the recent public hearing on the Tibbetts Brook daylighting project. He said he felt his comments in relation to the constant flooding of Mosholu Parkway were relevant to the discussion but said he had been informed by CB7 that they were not, and

that the public hearing was specific to Tibbetts Brook.

Other grievances related to his views that the public should be given more time to speak at community board meetings, given that elected officials are afforded more time than the public. The inference was that elected officials have their own platforms and staff to get the word out about their own activities. Other grievances of Ramos related to certain ethical and procedural matters.

Also during the public section of the meeting, Guerino called on the board to move forward on the Pride flag issue. Ramos applauded him and said, "That's what an ally looks like."

Norwood News contacted Bronx Community Board 7 for comment on the remarks made by Ramos during the meeting. They had "no comments." We also contacted the Bronx Borough President's office for comment. We did not receive an immediate response but will share any feedback we receive.



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Norwood Co-Op Awaits Audit Findings

(continued from page 1)

tenance fees that went into effect on Feb. 1, after being given just 13 days' notice.

Alina Dowe, a co-op owner who also happens to be the Bronx borough director of the community affairs unit for New York City Mayor Eric Adams, alleges Graham and the board took out a \$2.2 million mortgage in October 2022, without informing board members or shareholders.

For its part, the board and the president deny any wrongdoing and their legal representatives say any documents signed by the president were signed in her capacity as a representative of the board.

Dowe went on to allege that \$742,000 of equity was removed from the co-op's finances, on top of an \$80,000 withdrawal that was targeted to go into an escrow account to satisfy an unpaid \$106,000 Con Edison bill.

Dowe would later also allege that an additional \$300,000 line of equity was taken out several years ago to pay for the replacement of the building's windows. Shareholders allege the windows were never replaced.

Dowe later told *Norwood News* that when shareholders found out about the maintenance fee increase and had concerns over the refinancing and the other financial matters, they called the January meeting with the board of directors with the intention of voting Graham out as president.

At the Jan. 23 meeting, attorney Ronald Sher of Himmelfarb & Sher, LLP, based in White Plains, NY, spoke to shareholders on behalf of Jobber Bronx & Yonkers LLC, later identified by Sher as the new majority shareholder, which

he said is managed by MD 2 (Squared).

The shareholders expressed their outrage that Sher and the board had hired both a ballot counting company to oversee the planned vote, as well as a security guard who they said they were told was there to watch over the meeting and protect board members.

Dowe said Sher informed shareholders that the associated costs for hiring both the security guard and the ballot counting company would also be passed on to shareholders. Defending his rationale for the move, Sher told the crowd, "We were concerned that this meeting would be disrupted."

In reference to the financial issues and fees raised, Sher blamed the former management company, who he said handled the day-to-day operations of the co-op, for not sending out a notice on the refinancing to shareholders. "We asked management.... to send out a notice to everybody about the refinancing," he said. "It appears that that did not happen, but that's not the board's fault."

At one point, Gina Costello Williams, the Bronx borough advocate for NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, began to tell shareholders about three new bills recently introduced at New York City Council which reportedly aim to foster transparency around co-op management. As she was speaking, Sher intervened, saying, "We support this law!"

His retort drew angry shouts and some profanities from the crowd, prompting Sher to respond, saying, "This is why we need guards!" He then told shareholders, "Your mortgage was going to mature in November 2023; it was all going to be due. We had to go to



Photo by David Greene

SHAREHOLDERS OF 3520 Tryon Avenue gather for a special meeting at the same address where they brought signs showing their displeasure at the co-op's board of directors' handling of the co-op's finances on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

another bank and get the money to pay them off and we took additional money for further closing costs and capital improvement projects for the reserve fund to be performed over the next 10 years."

Shareholders are now reaching out to elected officials to pass the bills referenced by Costello Williams, which will require board of directors to provide shareholders with monthly financial reports and a minimum of six months' notice of any planned maintenance fee increases.

In an email issued by shareholders ahead of the January meeting, they said these bills, "will aid in ensuring transparency and accountability, which is crucial for the shareholders' peace of mind and the overall stability of the co-ops."

On April 17, *Norwood News* asked Sher to further clarify the ownership structure of the co-op. He explained that 3520 Tryon Avenue Owners, Inc., "is a residential cooperative corporation that is owned by shareholders based upon their respective certificates of stock."

Referring to the prior majority shareholder, he added, "The sponsor / holder of unsold squares sold the apartments to an entity identified as Jobber Bronx & Yonkers, LLC, which is managed by MD 2 (Squared)."

Sher continued, "The Board of Directors specifically asserts that it acted in compliance with its fiduciary duties and fiscal responsibilities as set forth in the by-laws and categorically denies and strenuously disputes any and all allegations of wrongdoing involving depletion of equity or financial impropriety or malfeasance."

Sher went on to say, "The Board of Directors has approved a forensic audit to be conducted by a certified fraud examiner / CPA. Additionally, the management agent has negotiated a pay-

ment plan with Consolidated Edison. Accordingly, we will keep the shareholders apprised of the status of the forensic audit."

Sher also said that the co-op is currently managed by Westchester Property Management Group, Inc., and the accounting firm of Schulman & Black, and that Sher's firm, Himmelfarb & Sher, LLP, is retained as corporate council representing the co-op.

On April 18, Sher added, "The shareholders submitted a report to the NYSAG [New York State Attorney General] regarding their claims and we have previously requested specific evidence or documentations of alleged impropriety or financial wrongdoing so that we can present same to NYSAG of Bronx County District Attorney. We certainly look forward to working together on this matter."

On April 30, in response to some follow-up questions, Sher added, "Please note that the Board of Directors properly authorized and duly approved the Mortgage Refinancing by the corporation. In accordance with the foregoing, the Lender requires an officer of the Corporation to execute the mortgage and loan documents in order to legally and lawfully effectuate same. Moreover, the members of the Board of Directors, pursuant to its fiduciary duties and fiscal responsibilities, based upon the By-Laws, duly approved and authorized the President to sign, as required by the Lender."

He continued, "Please note that the ByLaws specifically provide enabling power for an officer to execute and sign such mortgage and loan documents. Accordingly, Pres. Sheila Graham acted in a proper and lawful manner, solely in her official corporate capacity, not as an individual."

Norwood News has asked the shareholders to share the outcome of the report from the New York Attorney General."

We previously reported on dissatisfaction by *some* private co-op shareholders with the Board of Directors of Fordham Hill Owners Corporation in relation to fee increases and other matters.



Photo by David Greene

ATTORNEY RONALD SHER (center) speaks to a crowd of cooperative shareholders of 3520 Tryon Avenue in Norwood at a meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

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