



NORWOOD NEWS

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HUNDREDS VOICE HOPES AT ARMORY HEARING



Photo by Síle Moloney

ATTENDEES PACK THE auditorium of Kipps Elementary School in Fordham Manor for the second public hearing hosted by Bronx Community Board 7 on the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory on June 3, 2025.

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Around 300 people, including dozens of union members, residents, and members of North-west Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) showed up to voice their hopes, needs, intentions, and aspirations for a successful Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment during the second public hearing (and first in-person) held June 3 at Kipp El-

ementary School in Kingsbridge Heights on the City-owned, long-vacant Armory.

The hearing, hosted by Bronx Community Board 7 and an NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) requirement under the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), followed an earlier announcement the same day that 8th Regiment Partners, the winning redevelopment bidder,

had entered into a joint partnership with NWBCCC, a losing bidder, formalizing 20% community ownership and governance of the soon-to-be-developed site.

Several elected officials joined Councilmember Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), co-chair of the Armory redevelopment working group, together with Sandra Lobo, NWBCCC executive director, 8th Regiment Partners, NYC

Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and other NWBCCC members and unions for the announcement.

The Armory's protected status as a historic building and the largest armory in the country limits what it can be used for, but after a 9-month, public engagement process and "rigorous" Request for Proposal (RFP), in Jan-

(continued on page 15)



**Five Teens Missing
from Group Home**
pg 3



**Bedford Park
Captain Arrested
after Boat Fire** | pg 4



**Second Bronx
PR Flag-Raising
Ceremony Held**
pg 13

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Rivera Endorses Sanchez in D14 where Average Worker earns \$25K/Year

by **SÍLE MOLONEY**

State Sen. Gustavo Rivera (S.D. 33) formally endorsed Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) for reelection to her Bronx council seat in the upcoming Democratic primary during a campaign event held in conjunction with the Unity Democratic Club last month at Fort #4 Playground, located at 2890 Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge.

The councilwoman, a progressive Democratic like Rivera, first won her seat in November 2021 and C.D. 14 broadly covers some or all of the neighborhoods of Morris Heights, University Heights, Fordham and Kingsbridge.

Her predecessor, former City Councilman Fernand Cabrera, is running in C.D. 14 again, this time to unseat Sanchez, who is also running on the Working Families Party ticket. At the rally, Rivera said, “I knew that this is a lady who needed to be in elected office because we have a lot of us that work in public service and not everybody’s built for elected office.”

He added, “But I had a sense that she was, and it was exactly the right time for her, and more importantly, was the right time for this community.” Explaining that he had lived in C.D. 14 for 23 years before he had to move when the senatorial district lines were redrawn in 2023, he said when Cabrera was termed out, Sanchez had an opportunity. “This is a neighborhood that I know well,” Rivera said. “We want to make sure the community in this neighborhood continues to be represented with the quality that this lady brings to the table.”

He added, “She’s somebody who’s not only a smart woman, she’s a hardworking woman, she’s a committed woman, and you’ll know by some of the enemies that she has made, you will know by some of the enemies that she has made [he repeated], what kind of person she actually is in public office, which is exactly [why] we need to keep [her] in public office.”

The councilwoman, who has given birth to two children since taking office a few years ago, thanked Rivera for his support before moving on to the issues facing her district today. “We’re in a moment where the City is under attack, where our City, our programs, the so-



Photo by Sile Moloney

STATE SEN. GUSTAVO Rivera (S.D. 33) formally endorses Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) for reelection to her council seat during a campaign event held in conjunction with the Unity Democratic Club on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Fort #4 Playground, located at 2890 Sedgwick Avenue in Kingsbridge.

cial safety net, not just in New York City but across the country, is under threat, right?” she said, in a presumed reference to the latest policies of the Trump administration.

“We have threats against education, we have threats against Medicare, and Medicaid, we have threats against social security, we have threats against all of the programs that support our families across the nation.” She added that as residents try to move into the next socioeconomic group, it was important to have Rivera’s support.

“Because y’all, he’s been fighting this fight before there was a label,” Sanchez said. “He’s been fighting this fight and serving our community, fighting for that social safety net and beyond, since before there was a label that was cool or not cool, a progressive.” The councilwoman went on to say that Rivera knew her constituents to be “a community of strivers.”

She continued, “We’re a community where the average worker is earning just \$25,000 a year, where we want to make it, we want to work hard, but there’s a lot of obstacles against us and so, it’s so important to be able to say we’re going to invest in education, we’re going to invest in the Kingsbridge Armory, we’re going to get it right this time around, and we’re

going to do all of this work together, no matter who is against us.” (Read more on the armory in our front-page story.)

As reported, Agallas Equities, a losing bidder of the Kingsbridge Armory redevelopment RFP, filed a lawsuit against NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC), 8th Regiment Partners, the winning redevelopment bidder, and various current and former elected and city officials in late March.

Agallas broadly alleges corruption and stolen intellectual property amid the RFP process and has also asked NYC Department of Investigations to investigate a potential conflict of interest. Sanchez is not named in the suit and the City denies any wrongdoing and is moving ahead with the selected developer.

Sanchez joined Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (B.R.A.G.) for a rally on May 9 outside her office following a non-fatal shooting which took place in the building next door at 2065 Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights on May 5. In efforts to address gun violence and crime in District 14, she founded the West Bronx Community Safety Partnership, securing a commitment from Gov. Kathy Hochul of \$10 million in resources to uplift neighborhoods with a public health and community-driven approach to safety.

Five Teens Missing from Castle Hill Group Home

By DAVID GREENE

Police are investigating the disappearance of five female teenagers from a Castle Hill foster home, all of whom went missing on different days in less than a month. For the security of those living at the home, we are not disclosing its name or location.

According to the NYPD, Jy-Lee Connor, 14, left the home at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, and has not been seen since. Police announced that Jayleen Suarez, 15, left the home at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, May 23. Suarez has not yet returned.

On Tuesday, May 27, police say Jai Lynn Gray, 16, left the same home at 7.55 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, and has not returned. On Tuesday, June 10, police announced that Dezi Whittingham, 15, disappeared after leaving the same home at 12.45 p.m. on Saturday, May 31.

While gathering information to complete this story, the NYPD announced on Wednesday, June 11, that a fifth teen, Yelena Baergea, 17, left the home at noon on Sunday, June 7, and has not been seen since.

After Grey's disappearance, *Norwood News* asked the NYPD press office if the then-four missing persons cases were being handled by the 43rd Precinct's Missing Persons Squad or by the Special Victims Unit. Our request went unanswered.

An hour after Baergea left the home, we asked a female employee who was exiting the building about the missing teens. The unidentified woman replied, "I cannot...um...let me tell you... Let me call..." The woman then made a call on her cell phone apparently to her manager, saying, "Mrs. Hobert, I have a reporter in front of the home. Yes. No prob, okay. So, okay. All right. He said there's a missing teen from the home."

After hanging up, the employee said, "No, she said there's no public relations." Asked if she could say who operated the home, the employee replied, "I can't do that." She then walked away.

We also reached out to the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) who were looking into the matter of the missing youths. Following some research, we asked ACS if Catholic Guardian Services ran the home. We were later informed that it is one of the provider agencies contracted by ACS.

On Wednesday, June 11, *Norwood News* spoke with a Mrs. David at Catholic Guardian Services by phone to inquire about the missing teens. "I can't talk to you," she said before she put the phone down for several minutes. During this time, it became clear she was in the middle of a work-related meeting that focused on the children being cared for at the home and the services they provide or do not provide, such as beds. Later, on picking up the phone, David promised someone would respond to our inquiry.

Norwood News also reached out to the Archdiocese of New York, as well as Catholic Charities to ask about any potential affiliation to Catholic Guardian Services as they all share the same First Avenue address. We had not received a response as of press date.

On June 11, we spoke with a young woman who was a former resident of the facility, who said it caters to teenagers and young women who are in the foster care system and pregnant. The former client said, "They treated me like sh*t." She added, "These staff members (are) basically there for a paycheck."

The former client of the home also alleged that staff members don't care about

the health or wellbeing of clients, and that staff members round up babies and place them in the center of the living room and "watch TV."

The former client continued, "I know a lot of the girls when they are there, the support, it's like they don't get any guidance from actual adults that care about them, so they end up doing their own thing. And since they kind of live near the projects, a lot of predators kind of like try to talk to the girls."

The former client added that she applied for a job at the home, explaining, "Because I wanted to be different than the staff that was there." She said she was never called in for an interview.

According to its website, Catholic Guardian Services, a non-profit, had an operating budget of \$84,305,683 for fiscal year 2022-2023, with \$82,484,284 paid by taxpayers. A March 2023 disclaimer from Wikipedia on the Wikipedia page for Catholic Guardian Services, reads, "This article contains wording that promotes the subject in a subjective manner without imparting real information. Please remove or replace such wording and instead of making proclamations about a subject's importance, use facts and attribution to demonstrate that importance."

According to Wikipedia, Catholic Guardian Services oversees 34 residential facilities and employs 1,200 employees. It is a human services nonprofit, and its programs assist members of the disadvantaged population of the New York metropolitan area. It is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York and operates fifteen distinct programs, providing a range of services.

These include services in the areas of child abuse and neglect prevention, fos-

ter care, maternity services, and developmental disabilities. Its mission is also supported remotely by over 600 foster and adoptive parents. CGS's programs and services are delivered in partnership with the Archdiocese of New York, the New York City government, the New York State government, education agencies, foundations, policymakers, and advocacy groups.

An ACS spokesperson later shared the following statement with us in response to our inquiries. "We always prioritize the safety and well-being of our youth in foster care. In the event that a young person in foster care leaves their foster care placement and cannot be found, our investigative consultants work closely with law enforcement and the young person's foster care agency to locate the young person and ensure their safety. Over the past several years, we have also expanded resources for youth in foster care to connect them to positive role models, and to promote their safety and success."

We were informed by ACS that NYS law prohibits the agency from disclosing whether or not a child is in foster care as the case information is confidential. We were also informed that ACS has around 120 investigative consultants, who are retired NYPD detectives, on staff who work closely with law enforcement to support the agency's most vulnerable youth and teenagers and help locate them if they go missing.

ACS representatives said anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is urged to call 911 or 1 (800) 342-3720.

May marked National Foster Care Month, a time to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children and youth in foster care and to recognize the dedicated individuals who support them.

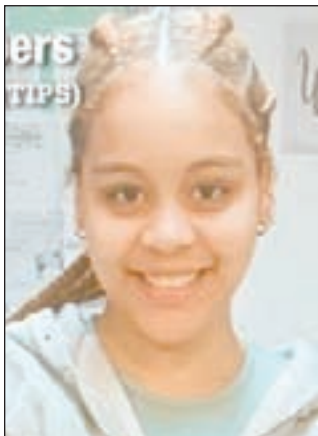


Photo courtesy of the NYPD
THE NYPD RELEASED this photo of Jy-Lee Connor, 14, who has not been seen since leaving her foster home in Castle Hill on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 7 p.m., and who is one of five teens now missing from the same home.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
POLICE ARE LOOKING for Jayleen Suarez, 15, who they say was last seen at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
ACCORDING TO POLICE, Jai Lynn Gray, 16, was last seen leaving a foster care home at 7.55 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, and has not yet returned to the home.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, the NYPD announced that a fourth teen was missing from a Castle Hill group home. Dezi Whittingham, 15, disappeared on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, after she left the home on Saturday, May 31, 2025.



Photo courtesy of the NYPD
WHILE FILING THIS story on June 11, 2025, the NYPD announced a fifth teen, Yelena Baergea, 17, was reported missing from the same Castle Hill group home as four others. They said she left the residence at noon on Sunday, June 7, 2025.

INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on the proposed cuts by the Trump administration to Medicaid and Medicare and how it would affect them. According to ABC News, a large part of funding for the Trump administration's second term agenda comes from cuts to safety net programs like Medicaid, the health care program for lower-income Americans. U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called "big, beautiful bill" that recently passed in the House makes around \$600 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the outlet reported, adding that about 10.9 million people could lose their coverage over the next 10 years, according to a recent estimate by the Congressional Budget Office. Meanwhile, on June 5, NBC reported that in looking at new ways to pay for the president's domestic agenda, Republicans are exploring ideas to slash "waste, fraud and abuse" in Medicare, according to several senators. Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people aged 65 or older.



"The only thing I can tell you is that from what I'm hearing [U.S. President Donald] Trump is not touching that, but I don't know. I don't know too much about it, but the only thing I like about this bill is that in the bill, it has no tax on tips and no tax on overtime; that I like. But closing hospitals, that I don't like."

Tony Apostolos,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"I think it would be a waste for them to do this because a lot of people really need it. Many don't have the income, and with inflation and the budget cuts and people out of work... I'm 58 now, so some day I will need that, so I think we should try and fight this. We need to start some kind of movement and not just sit back and allow this."

David Lowe,
Manhattan resident visiting Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"I think that it should not be cut. I'm retired and I paid for it, and I need it, and they need to leave it alone. We need to get someone that has some sense in Congress, because something is wrong with them. Rich people get richer; they can afford to pay for this but if our people get sick, the mothers, the grandmothers, the children, and we can't get Medicaid, that's crazy."

Mildred Givens,
Bedford Park
Photo by David Greene



"Honestly, in my opinion, we're all going to have to sacrifice.... the sacrifices I'm going to have to make if I get cut off. Prices on everything will rise, including Pampers, because all of that comes through Medicare. I need that for my kid, because I'm a single mother and that's what helps me out. We, mothers, need all the help we can get."

Adanis Rivera,
Bedford Park
Photo by David Greene



"I think the government officials need to start focusing on cutting other programs that aren't so essential to the lives of everyday ordinary and working-class people. They can focus on other programs to cut. It seems like they are taking from people in need and giving to the people that don't need as much."

Vidyanand Dhanra,
Fordham Manor
Photo by David Greene

Bedford Park Man Arrested after Boat Fire Results in One Critical & 22 Rescued

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

The FDNY said their emergency unit rescued 22 people from a boat that caught fire on Saturday, June 7, in the vicinity of 262 Fordham Street / Hart Island Ferry Terminal. Meanwhile, police said a Bedford Park man has been arrested with a DUI offense in connection with the incident.

An FDNY spokesperson said the department received a 911 call at 7.59 p.m. on Saturday for a report of a boat fire with multiple people in the water. They said upon arrival three patients were rescued from the water by FDNY's marine units and all fire on the boat was extinguished.

They said the both the department's marine units and land units responded and rescued 22 patients in total. They said two refused medical attention, and one was transported in critical condition to Jacobi Medical Center. They said 19 people incurred non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to area hospitals, and all other civilians swam to Hart Island. They said the cause of the fire is under investigation.

In images posted to social media of the incident, it does not appear that passengers were wearing life jackets. The FDNY later said that FDNY Marine Units responded to reports of a boat fire "near City Island" in the Bronx, adding that there were 22 people on the boat.

"Marine 4 gave a verbal for a boat fire and multiple people in the water to

The Bronx dispatcher," FDNY Assistant Chief Michael Meyers said. "At that point, the Bronx dispatcher had land units respond to come into City Island and begin to accept patients. Marine 4 grabbed three people out of the water."

Meyers added, "At that point, they transported them to one of the docks that was close by, where Engine 70 was waiting, and EMS was waiting as well to begin CPR on the victims." He continued, "The other 19 folks swam to Hart Island. They were just off the east end of Hart Island, and then they were picked up by the NYPD Coast Guard and FDNY boats and transported back over to the docks at the Yacht Club on City Island."

The fire chief concluded, "This just goes to show you what a coordinated effort happens between our marine units, our land units, and our EMS units to get here to help save lives, by responding in here, by communicating well, and by working with our City partners to help ensure that we protect the people of the City of New York."

Meanwhile, the NYPD said they received a call at around 7.59 p.m. for a report of boat fire in Long Island Sound in the vicinity of Hart Island. They said the NYPD's harbor unit, aviation unit, and drone team responded, along with the FDNY and EMS.

"In total, 23 people were transported to local area hospitals," an NYPD spokesperson said. "Twenty-two patients sustained minor injuries and

were transported in stable condition. One patient sustained serious injuries and was transported in stable condition. The investigation remains ongoing by the NYPD and United States Coast Guard."

They said Joshua Brio, 33, of Bedford Park, The Bronx was arrested on June 7, at 9.04 p.m. He was charged with reckless endangerment with first degree, driving while intoxicated (with alcohol or drugs), and a further charge of driving while intoxicated ("first offense").

When contacted, we were informed by an NYC Parks spokesperson that the department does not allow recreational boat access to Hart Island, but the Parks' department does operate special pre-arranged tours while it undergoes restoration and preservation. When asked, we were also informed that NYC Parks does not regulate use of the waterways around the island.

On Sunday, June 8, we spoke to some residents and some visitors of residents who live in the same building as the Bedford Park man who was arrested but none knew him or were aware of the incident.

According to the NYPD, Brito lives



Photo courtesy of the FDNY

A BOAT IS seen in flames near City Island / Hart Island on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

in an 11-story, assisted living building located in Bedford Park run by the City since it opened in September 2024. One resident said it's owned by CHV Bedford Park, LP; and run by Gen or Genuine Corporation of Emerson, New Jersey.

Residents of the building said it has "low income" tenants, shelter residents, and residents who came from a shelter catering specifically to domestic violence victims. For this reason, we are not disclosing the location.

When one female resident was told the captain of the boat lived in her building, she replied, "In this building? What! He died?" When informed he was under arrest, she asked, "For what?" When told he was charged with a DWI, she gasped.

A second woman said, "That's why the cops were here the other day." She

(continued on page 9)

Speeding ruins lives. Slow down.



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NEWS BRIEFS

By SÍLE MOLONEY

OCM Recalls Cannabis Products by IndoGrow LLC

New York State's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) issued a recall on multiple adult use cannabis products produced by IndoGrow LLC on June 11. OCM officials said the regulated cannabis products are being sold through li-

censed cannabis adult use dispensaries throughout New York State.

They said the affected products were originally quarantined due to a lack of validity in testing by a former permitted laboratory, adding that OCM authorized a re-test of the products, and nine (9) lots failed due to the presence of unallowable

pesticides, posing a potential risk to public health and safety. The following products in the chart below, which may also be known by names that may include "Indi," "Grow by Indi," "Our Creation" and "Grow with Us," have been recalled as a precaution, though OCM officials said they had not received any reports of illness:

Licensee	License Number	Product	Lot number
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	The Force Pre-Roll	SWDV01
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Blue Coffee Flower	IC099-001-BC
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Blue Coffee Pre-Roll	IC099-BC1-PR
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Sour Runtz Flower	IC099-001-SR
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Sour Runtz Pre-Roll	IC099-SR1-PR
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Cosmic Burst Flower	PPPG01
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Oreoz Flower	IC099-001-OR
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Oreoz Pre-Roll	IC099-OR1-PR
IndoGrow LLC	OCM-MICR-000099	Secret Formula Flower	IC099-001-SF

Blood Emergency Alert

NYC Health + Hospitals officials said there is currently a critical blood shortage, and New Yorkers can help save lives by donating blood. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson has reinforced the call for blood donations.

Donors can attend a Blood Drive at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx on Friday, June 27, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on the NCB campus's 15th floor in Room 15A. All donors will receive a FREE T-shirt as a thank-you for stepping up during the emergency, NCB officials said. Register at <https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/328145>.

NYS Senate Passes Ground Lease Co-op Bill

The NYS Senate passed the Ground Lease Co-op Bill on June 10, marking what advocates of the bill said was a key step forward in securing protections for more than 25,000 ground lease co-op residents vulnerable to displacement due to longstanding gaps in New York State housing law. The Senate advanced the bill 34-28, and advocates, including the Ground Lease Co-op

Coalition, say they are confident the NYS Assembly will carry it across the finish line before the end of the legislative session in June.

Advocates say long-term ground leases are beginning to expire statewide for more than 10,000 apartments, and unlike traditional co-ops, ground lease co-ops own their homes but lease the land beneath their buildings from landowners. Originally established to support middle-class homeownership, advocates say more than half of New York's ground lease co-ops are located in The Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.

They say as land values reach all-time highs and outpace typical incomes for residents, the bill introduces critical protections to help New Yorkers in ground lease co-ops fend off predatory rent increases and preserve the ability to stay in their homes in the event of deconversion. In particular, they say the bill ensures residents will benefit from the same protections under rent stabilization laws as all other rent stabilized buildings, and secure reasonable first rents if their co-op is forced to de-convert.

They say this provides a path for them to stay in their homes and the bill also seeks to guarantee the ability of tenants to borrow for required repairs and capital improvements, the right of first refusal, and tenant protections upon deconversion, including rental leases for existing residents. They say ground lease co-ops continue to house New York's middle class, with the majority of residents earning just above the city's median of \$76,000 across all five boroughs.

NYS Medical Aid in Dying Act Passes Both Houses

New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act (<https://bit.ly/4jMD6rN>) has passed both the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate and now awaits signature by Gov. Kathy Hochul. If signed, New York will become the 11th state, along with Washington, D.C., to enact such legislation, according to reporting by New York News Connection. The law, if signed, allows a person who has been determined by two doctors to be mentally capable of making an informed decision and who has only six months to live to receive medical aid in dying.

Legacy & Leadership Brunch: End-of-Life Planning Event Held

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson joined community and faith leaders and organizations on June 10 for a "Legacy & Leadership Brunch: End-of-Life Planning" at The Haven on Home Street in Longwood, where she said attendees discussed meaningful ways to protect themselves and their loved ones through every stage of life, covering topics such as health care proxies, powers of attorney, life insurance, living wills, social security, and scam prevention. If you would like more information, call NYC Department of the Aging at (212) 244-6469.

Assembly Passes Bill for Free Inhalers

Queens Assemblywoman Jessica Rojas (A.D. 34) announced on Tuesday, June 10, that the New York State Assembly passed her bill (A128A) to ensure New Yorkers who need asthma inhalers can access them for free, with no copays, no cost-sharing, and no deductibles. The bill has already passed in the Senate and now awaits signature by Gov. Kathy Hochul. Rates of asthma in The Bronx are among the City's highest.

Over 215 Groups Demand Reversal of HALT Law Suspension

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Over 215 organizations have sent a letter dated May 27 to Gov. Kathy Hochul and State Prison Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III, demanding State prisons immediately rescind what the organizations say is the “illegal” suspension of the HALT Solitary Confinement Law and instead fully implement the law.

Anisah Sabur, a Bronx resident, national coordinator of the “Unlock the Box” campaign, and a survivor of solitary confinement in New York, said HALT was previously enacted some years ago by a supermajority of both houses of the State legislature and signed into law by the governor.

Sabur said the letter also urges enactment of legislation that creates meaningful pathways of release from, and fundamentally change the environment within, New York’s prisons, including laws relating to elder parole, fair & timely parole, “second look,” earned time, the Marvin Mayfield Act, Rights Behind Bars, and ending qualified im-

munity.

Letter signatories include the Bronx Defenders, NYS NAACP, NYS Defenders Association, The Legal Aid Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Vera Institute of Justice, and more. Sabur said that 55 State legislators also recently urged NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS) to end what they say is the “illegal” suspension and fully implement HALT. Sabur said The Legal Aid Society also filed a lawsuit, challenging the suspension.

Jerome Wright, co-director of the #HALTsolitary campaign, said he knows from personal experience that solitary confinement is “torture.” He said, “The social isolation wreaks havoc on people’s minds and bodies, has led to numerous people dying, and makes everyone less safe. I also know from running and creating programs [with] real alternatives, involving full days of out-of-cell programming and human engage-

(Continued on page 8)



CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Two Bronx Members of the NYPD Arrested for Attempted Assault/Assault

The NYPD said an off-duty NYPD officer was arrested on Tuesday, June 10, at 3.16 a.m. within the confines of the 49th Precinct which covers the neighborhoods of Allerton, Morris Park, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Eastchester Gardens, and Pelham Gardens.

They said Officer Edgard Delossantos, 27, who became a police officer in July 2021, was charged with attempted assault. Delossantos is assigned to the 44th Precinct, which broadly covers parts of the Grand Concourse, Bronx Terminal Market, and Yankee Stadium.

Police also said that on Tuesday, June 10, at 3.16 a.m., off-duty NYPD Detective Melissa Negron, 42, was also arrested in the confines of the 49th Precinct. They said she was charged with assault. Negron is also currently assigned to the 44th Precinct. She became a police officer in 2006 and was promoted to detective in September 2014. Both defendants are presumed

innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



Norwood: MTA Female Employee Assaulted on BX-10 Bus

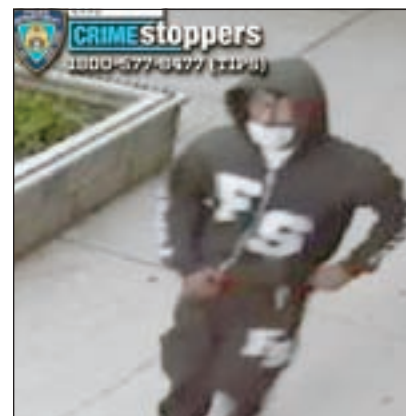
The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying a person above who they say is wanted in connection to an assault that occurred in Norwood. They released the accompanying image of a person of interest. Police said that on Monday, May 19, at around 8.40 a.m., an unidentified person

sprayed an unknown substance into the face of an on-duty, 33-year-old female MTA employee onboard a BX-10 MTA bus in the vicinity of Bainbridge Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue East. "The individual then fled the location to parts unknown," the spokesperson said. "The victim was transported to Montefiore Medical Center in stable condition."

Norwood: Man Sought for Reckless Shots Fired on E 209th Street

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying and locating the person seen at right in the accompanying photo who they say is wanted in connection to shots fired in Norwood. Police said that on Saturday, May 24, at around 8.05 p.m., an unidentified man fired multiple shots in front of 365 East 209th Street. "The individual then fled westbound on East 209 street on foot to parts unknown," a police spokesperson said. "There were no injuries reported as a result of this incident." Police said the suspect is described as male and was last seen wearing a white

surgical mask, a black, hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and black sneakers.



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.nypdonline.org/>, or on X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Over 215 Groups Demand Reversal of HALT Law Suspension

(continued from page 7)

ment, dramatically reduce violence and better protect people's health."

He added, "The HALT Solitary Law follows that well-documented evidence, but since HALT went into effect in 2022, DOCCS has systematically violated the law by failing to implement real alternatives and continuing to lock people in solitary by another name for months and years. Guards tried to stop the HALT Solitary Law through the democratic legislative process, the courts, and by outright ignoring the law. But the public, a supermajority of elected leaders, and the courts have all said New York State will not continue this torturous and dangerous practice. Incarcerated people's lives matter too."

Meanwhile, Harvey Rosenthal, chief executive officer of the Alliance for Rights and Recovery, a coalition of New Yorkers with major mental illnesses and trauma histories, said there was perhaps no greater pain than that of experiencing the mental health trauma of solitary confinement. "A supermajority of New York lawmakers recognized how torturous solitary is and how it *worsens* safety for everyone," he said.

"DOCCS must immediately rescind

their unlawful order suspending the HALT Solitary Law and must fully implement the HALT Law, including true alternatives proven to reduce violence and better protect people's health. New York's prisons must not continue to deny our most vulnerable New Yorkers more humane alternatives to this soul-crushing and life-taking trauma and torture."

Norwood News reached out to both the governor's office and DOCCS for comment. The governor's office referred us to DOCCS and a DOCCS spokesperson said, "Due to the 22-day illegal strike and ongoing state of emergency system wide, the programming elements of the HALT Act were paused for the safety of both the incarcerated and our staff. The Commissioner has conducted periodic reviews of each facility to assess feasibility and safety of resuming programming, and several facilities have been able to resume HALT programming."

The spokesperson added, "We expect more to follow in the near future. We continue to conduct safety and operational reviews on a facility-by-facility basis in order to ensure that when programming recommences, it's done so in manner that prioritizes the safety and security of those in our care, our



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

ADVOCATES FOR THOSE who died in custody or are still held in custody on Rikers Island jail rally in Foley Square in Manhattan in front of the federal courthouse on September 10, 2024, holding signs in remembrance of those who died while in custody.

staff, and the community. Correction Law §2(23) specifically allows DOCCS to suspend the programming elements of the segregated confinement rules when there is an emergency or exigent circumstances. Additionally, and separate from the provisions of Correction Law §2(23),

Correction Law Sec. 137, allows the Commissioner to exercise his authority to suspend the program provisions of the HALT Act."

A copy of the letter in question is included in our Letters to the Editor section.

CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 046					
ComptStat Book		Week of 05/26/25 - 06/01/25					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	2	12	-83.3 %
Rape	0.0 %	7	2	250.0 %	21	9	133.3 %
Robbery	-33.3 %	29	34	-14.7 %	162	143	13.3 %
Felony Assault	-60.9 %	67	71	-5.6 %	335	316	6.0 %
Burglary	-80.0 %	11	16	-31.3 %	65	86	-24.4 %
Grand Larceny	66.7 %	56	58	-3.4 %	264	278	-5.0 %
Grand Larceny Auto	100.0 %	22	14	57.1 %	120	85	41.2 %
Total	-25.0 %	193	198	-2.5 %	969	929	4.3 %
Patrol	-26.9 %	186	186	-5.1 %	945	907	4.2 %
Transit	- %	5	1	400.0 %	12	12	0.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %	12	10	20.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	4	3	33.3 %	15	17	-11.8 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	3	3	0.0 %	12	14	-14.3 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	7	5	40.0 %	26	20	30.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	6	6	0.0 %	33	41	-19.5 %
Petit Larceny	223.1 %	103	44	134.1 %	434	406	6.4 %
Misd. Assault	-50.0 %	93	99	-6.1 %	385	495	-22.2 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Sources as of 6/13/17.
Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 1, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of June 1, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Bedford Park Man Arrested after Boat Fire Results in One Critical & 22 Rescued

(continued from page 4)

added that police were inside the building until after midnight on Saturday. Asked if she knew Brito, the resident said, "No, but I do know they (the police) came in here." A male resident who had not seen the video added, "Wow! Really?"

Unable to reach Brito for comment, we tracked down another man with the same name who also lives in The Bronx. Once informed what the phone call was about, the man said, "You've got the wrong Joshua Brito, I'm not the boat guy."

Asked if he had heard about the boat fire, he replied, "Yeah, you're the third call I've gotten already." When asked if he saw the video of the fire, he responded, "I don't know if I saw the right one, but that's crazy, this whole incident." When informed what the video shows, he said, "No way! I'll have to look this up."

Asked what he thought when he heard a man with the same name as his was arrested, he laughed and said, "I was, like, hey! They got the wrong one. A lot of people were calling me like, 'Hey! Are you okay?' and 'What happened?' That's what I was saying. Like, I don't even own a boat."

According to the Bronx District At-

torney's Office, Brito was arraigned and released on Monday, June 9. He pleaded not guilty, and his next court date is in July. According to the criminal complaint, police observed Brito standing behind the steering wheel of a white Carver cruiser with the engine running while the boat was moving.

A police officer also noted that Brito had "watery eyes and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from his breath." According to complaint, Brito told a separate member of the NYPD, "I was driving the boat. I had one beer," and subsequently, "I picked up the group at World Fair. I had an issue with the boat two days ago. I disconnected the generator."

According to the criminal complaint, a breathalyzer test carried out on June 7 at 10.09 p.m. at Jacobi Hospital on Brito and it yielded results of .05 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). Brito is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Members of Fordham University's rowing club were rescued in The Bronx after their boat capsized in Eastchester Bay close to Rodman's Neck in May 2024.

Patrol Borough: Bronx		Precinct: 050					
Comptrol Book				Week of 05/26/25 - 06/01/25			
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	8	3	166.7 %
Robbery	-40.0 %	13	8	62.5 %	45	64	-29.7 %
Felony Assault	300.0 %	16	23	-30.4 %	90	86	4.7 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	8	12	-33.3 %	63	53	18.9 %
Grand Larceny	0.0 %	49	49	0.0 %	253	313	-19.2 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-14.3 %	26	22	18.2 %	110	142	-22.5 %
Total	-6.7 %	112	116	-3.4 %	570	662	-13.9 %
Patrol	-10.0 %	106	111	-4.5 %	545	631	-13.6 %
Transit	0.0 %	2	0	- %	5	2	150.0 %
Housing	- %	4	5	-20.0 %	20	29	-31.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	4	2	100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	3	2	50.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	2	3	-33.3 %	12	9	33.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	5	6	-16.7 %	16	26	-38.5 %
Petit Larceny	176.5 %	119	71	67.6 %	460	449	2.4 %
Misd. Assault	66.7 %	39	27	44.4 %	169	139	21.6 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Sources as of 6/13/17.
Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 1, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of June 1, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 052

Comptrol Book

Week of 05/26/25 - 06/01/25

	% Chg	28 Day		Year to Date		% Chg	
		2025	2024	2025	2024		
Murder	-100.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %
Rape	- %	1	4	-75.0 %	20	24	-16.7 %
Robbery	60.0 %	39	30	30.0 %	169	203	-16.7 %
Felony Assault	-47.4 %	68	54	25.9 %	332	283	17.3 %
Burglary	100.0 %	11	14	-21.4 %	85	80	6.3 %
Grand Larceny	0.0 %	70	64	9.4 %	360	316	13.9 %
Grand Larceny Auto	50.0 %	27	22	22.7 %	119	144	-17.4 %
Total	-6.3 %	217	192	13.0 %	1,087	1,065	2.0 %
Patrol	-6.3 %	209	189	10.6 %	1,066	1,030	3.7 %
Transit	- %	7	2	250.0 %	18	21	-14.3 %
Housing	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %	5	15	-66.7 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	5	9	-44.4 %
UCR Rape*	- %	2	5	-60.0 %	22	33	-33.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	0.0 %	12	12	0.0 %	56	53	5.7 %
Petit Larceny	23.1 %	123	116	6.0 %	696	796	-12.6 %
Misd. Assault	144.4 %	77	57	35.1 %	362	333	8.7 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	2	2	0.0 %

All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Sources as of 6/13/17.
Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSP/L) definitions.
* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 1, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of June 1, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

CALL US AT (929) 318 6595 TO ADVERTISE

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

Taking Care of Pets in Summer

Never leave your pet alone inside a car. Inside car temperatures in summer increase rapidly and to much higher levels than outside temperatures even after a few minutes. Before taking your dog for a walk, test the temperature of the sidewalk with the palm of your hand. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their paws. Make water available to your pets at all times.

Therapy in the Bronx

Atlas Rising Ground Presents "Therapy Comes to the Bronx – A Day of Healing, Community & Fun" on June 27 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Devoe Park, W 188th Street, Bronx, 10468. All are welcome for a transformative event designed to introduce mental health therapy done the New York Way!

Early Voting & Primary Election Day, June 24

Primary Election Day in New York is Tuesday, June 24. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early Voting runs from June 14- 22. To be eligible to register to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen; be 18 years old on June 24; a New York State resident for at least 30 days before the election; not be in prison for a felony conviction; not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court; and not claim the right to vote elsewhere. For more information, visit <https://www.nycvotes.org/whats-on-the-ballot/2025-primary-election/>.

Ranked Choice Voting is Back

Ranked Choice voting is back. To learn more, visit www.nycvotes.org/rcv. The last day to register to vote in the June 2025 primaries in person is June 14. Applications to register to vote by mail must

also be received by June 14. For more information, visit <https://nycvotes.turbo-vote.org/>.

Check your polling station ahead of time. If voting early, the poll site may be different to the Election Day poll site.

Help Decide How to Spend "The People's Money" 2023-24

NYC Civil Engagement Commission is calling on residents to help decide how to spend "The People's Money." New Yorkers have participated in the Participatory Budgeting Process and have selected a list of projects which are now on a ballot. Only the top five projects will be funded. New Yorkers aged 11 and older are invited to vote on their preferred projects. To learn more about the projects on the ballot, visit https://cec.blueberrypop.io/?utm_source=print&utm_medium=palm_card_and_posters&utm_campaign=the_peoples_money_citywide_voting.

NYC Beaches are Open

NYC beaches are open since Memorial Day weekend and remain open through Sept. 7. During beach season, lifeguards are on duty daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Swimming is prohibited when lifeguards are not on duty and in closed sections, which are marked with signs and/or red flags.

All NYC beaches are free and open to the public. Sign up at <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/> and opt-in to "beach notifications" to receive real-time opening and closing notifications or visit NYC Health department's beach page for water quality information before you head to the beach. Visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/facility/safety/water-and-sun-safety> for tips on water safety.

NYC's Public Outdoor Pools

NYC's public outdoor pools will open for the season on Friday, June 27. Indoor public pools are open year-round. Visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/outdoor-pools> for more information.

NYC Public Schools Summer Meals

NYC Public Schools will have free summer meals available from June 27 to Aug. 29, providing breakfast and lunch across all five boroughs to anyone ages 18 and younger.

No application is required! For a full list of dates, times and locations, visit: on.nyc.gov/SummerMeals.

Poe Green Market

Poe Park Greenmarket will be in operation on Wednesdays from June 24 through Nov. 25. in conjunction with GrowNYC. All are welcome to come and buy fresh, locally grown vegetables, fruits and more.

Barbecuing

Outdoor barbecues are allowed only in specific areas of certain NYC public parks (areas situated away from trees). NYC Parks reminds residents that there are designated BBQ areas within the

City's public parks where grilling and barbecuing are permitted. For more information, click <https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/barbecue>.

The Bronx sites include but are not limited to two areas within Van Cortlandt Park: Allen Shandler Recreation Area: Jerome Avenue, south of 233rd Street and Broadway, and West 242nd Street, adjacent to the pool. Other permitted areas are in Bronx Park at Boston Road and 180th Street, and one area of Claremont Park at Morris Avenue and Teller Avenue.

Residents are reminded to be cautious when barbecuing and to keep a safe distance from patrons, children, and trees, to be courteous to others, and to please clean the area carefully before leaving. Events involving more than 20 people require a special permit. Visit <https://nyceventpermits.nyc.gov/parks/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fParks%2f> for more information.

NYC Parks is Hiring

NYC Parks is hiring. Visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs> for more information about seasonal work, internships, and more.

NYC Department of Buildings Applications Submitted for Bronx CD7

Various applications have been filed with NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) for the following Bronx Community District 7 locations:

a permit for a 4-story building located at 293 East 207th Street, Bronx, NY 10467 <https://newyorkyimby.com/2025/04/permits-filed-for-293-east-207th-street-in-norwood-the-bronx.html>

a permit for a 6-story building located at 3196 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 <https://newyorkyimby.com/2025/04/permits-filed-for-3196-webster-avenue-in-norwood-the-bronx.html>

a demolition notice for 2758 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468 <https://files.com-stantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/383blac2-5090-4aaf-9601-7789675cfe82.pdf?rdr=true>

NYC Veterans Advisory Public Sessions Save the Dates

An NYC Veterans Advisory Board Bronx public session focusing on education will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m. More details, including the venue are still to be confirmed. Other veterans related public sessions on other topics are also taking place in other boroughs. An employment related public session will be held in Brooklyn (venue tbc) on Wed., Oct. 29, also at 6 p.m. All can be attended virtually via Zoom. The meeting ID is 959 242 2343 and the passcode is 191295. Alternatively, call (646) 558 8656.

Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for various housing units in The Bronx. Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/search/lotteries> for more information.



Summer Health and Wellness Events in the Bronx

By NAOMI PEMBERTON

The second Saturday in June, this year that's June 14th, is Family Health & Fitness Day. Summer is a great time to take part in the free health and wellness events that happen indoors and outdoors across The Bronx. Read on to find out how you can use community resources to enhance your family's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Closing the Health Gap through Local Initiatives

Many Bronx residents struggle with health conditions like hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and social determinants of health like food insecurity. Community events like cooking demos and nutrition classes (<https://bit.ly/3Tm3lug>) confront these issues by providing education and resources directly to the community at no cost.

Check out the amazing offerings of the St. Barnabas Hospital's Teaching Kitchen (<https://bit.ly/410tA5j>) or the many Bronx farmers' markets and farmstands (<https://bit.ly/45T7Wvw>), which are typically open June to November.

Community events connect people with vital tools that may otherwise be out of reach, including blood pressure screenings, nutritional counseling, free food, fitness classes and mental health support. These efforts are particularly important in The Bronx where families often lack the time, resources, or infor-

mation to care for their health.

These events create a welcoming space for people of all ages, promoting a holistic approach to well-being. They bring the community together and provide fantastic opportunity to meet neighbors, connect with local health organizations, and discover free Bronx resources.

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, co-sponsor of many health events, is dedicated to supporting The Bronx by providing community-based programs, nutrition and physical activity programs and mental health support. Local clinics, nonprofits, schools, and community boards unite to host events and reinforce the message that health is indeed a shared responsibility.

Here are some examples:

- Shape Up NYC (<https://on.nyc.gov/3ZuNfID>) is a free group fitness program for adults and senior
- Zumba at Norwood's own Williamsbridge Oval park (<https://on.nyc.gov/3Ttk5lID>)
- No scheduled events? No problem! Use the ABC method described in this previous *Norwood News* article: (<https://bit.ly/43G5G9F>)

To plan a physical activity on a specific date and time e.g. on Monday evenings, you and your teen could walk around the track in your local park for hour at 10 a.m. or perhaps you could ride your bikes in Pelham Parkway on Saturday evenings

Instilling Lifelong Healthy Habits

Children learn behaviors from their families. When they witness their caretakers or role models cooking healthy meals or doing physical activity, they often follow in their footsteps. This intergenerational learning is at the heart of many community events! Kids become enthusiastic about movement and nutrition, while adults rediscover the im-

(continued from page 14)

NORWOOD NEWS

***Norwood News* is Recruiting a Sales Executive**

Norwood News, founded in 1988 and located at 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, is an award-winning, biweekly, print community newspaper and website which primarily serves the Bronx neighborhoods of Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Fordham Manor, University Heights, and Fordham Heights, and to a lesser extent, the wider Bronx. We are currently recruiting for a sales executive to join our growing team. The sales executive will work closely with the editor-in-chief, the designer of our print newspaper, the web designer, and the office manager by proactively selling ads for both our print publication and our website.

The right candidate should have two years previous sales experience, be highly organized, have excellent interpersonal skills, be motivated to respond promptly and attentively to our advertisers' inquiries, maintain a strong network of advertising relationships, have *some* technical skills, a knowledge of the Northwest Bronx and of wider citywide sales opportunities, good grammar and writing skills, and be able to work independently in a fast-paced environment for a busy nonprofit news outlet.

Responsibilities include proactively selling [ideally recurring] ads for both our print publication and website, carrying out all necessary due diligence on advertisers, contract preparation and coordination of signatures by advertisers on all ad contracts and insertion orders, completing and maintaining both electronic and hard copy logs of all ad sales contracts and insertion orders, preparing a biweekly ad schedule ahead of each print edition, which includes details of the ads running on each publication date, the ad specifications, details of each contract run date, etc., liaising with advertisers to fully understand their technical ad requirements and communicating these to the designer, obtaining sign-off from advertisers on any ad amendments and communicating this to the designer, proactively liaising with our office manager to ensure the timely issuance of invoices and assisting the office manager, when necessary, with chasing payment of outstanding invoices, coordinating and furnishing any necessary affidavits requested by advertisers in respect of ads, maintaining and growing a network of advertisers and maintaining an updated, competitive media kit, adding any new advertisers to the distribution list for receipt of hard copies of the newspaper, keeping all expense receipts and submitting expenses electronically via the requisite channels, ensuring advertorials received from partner organizations are proofed and accurate, completing all necessary online compliance and other training.

Requirements:

- excellent organizational and time management skills
- ability to turn around ad contracts promptly and efficiently
- ability to understand and communicate ad technical requirements e.g. photo dimensions, photo resolution, logos, and other technical elements that make up both digital and print ads
- knowledge of Spanish not required but an advantage, as would be a knowledge of New York City departments and their advertising agents
- a basic knowledge of advertising law, particularly around legal notices and affidavits would be useful

The salary for this position is \$55,000 per annum plus 15% on sales commissions, paid quarterly, with full benefits. For details on how to apply, please send an email to Síle Moloney, *Norwood News* editor-in-chief, at smoloney@norwoodnews.org.



Letters To The Editor

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

Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a letter sent to NYS Gov. Kathy Hochul and NYS Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III dated May 27, 2025, and signed by over 215 groups. The full list of signatories was too long to print but examples include Bronx Defenders, NYS NAACP, NYS Defenders Association, The Legal Aid Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Vera Institute of Justice, and more. A link is provided further below to the full list of signatories. Please also refer to our story on this issue on Page 6.

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Martuscello,

We, the undersigned organizations, demand that you immediately reverse the illegal purported suspension of the HALT Solitary Confinement Law and instead fully and effectively implement it. Despite DOCCS doubling down on its attempts to suspend HALT, nothing in the HALT Solitary Law authorizes a suspension of any parts of the law. **Carrying out this "suspension" directly violates the HALT Solitary Law, illegally usurps the lawmaking function of the state legislature, and causes grave harm and likely death.**

Solitary confinement is torture. It inflicts immense suffering, devastating harm, and too often death. Studies show that people in solitary are

between six and 12 times more likely to engage in acts of self-harm or die by suicide. Solitary is disproportionately inflicted on Black and Latinx people. Solitary confinement also worsens safety for everyone by causing people to deteriorate physically, mentally, and emotionally. At the same time, true alternatives to solitary – involving full days of meaningful out-of-cell human engagement and programming – have been proven to reduce violence and better protect people's health and safety.

Recognizing that longstanding evidence, supermajorities of both houses of New York State's legislature passed the HALT Solitary Law and your predecessor Governor signed it into law. HALT Solitary is the law of New York State and DOCCS does not have the authority to push it aside.

It is particularly egregious that DOCCS has taken this unlawful step seemingly as a capitulation to the demands of officers who illegally carried out a statewide work stoppage that put tens of thousands of New Yorkers' lives at risk by resulting in massive lockdowns and limited or no access to family visits, food, medications, medical and mental health care, programming, out-of-cell time, parole board hearings and more. It has been reported that at least 12 people died while nearly the entire prison system was locked down in solitary because of the illegal work stoppage. It is also particularly egregious that DOCCS has taken this unlawful step after the world watched 17 DOCCS staff – officers, sergeants, and medical providers – brutally beat Robert Brooks to death and less than three months later officers reportedly bru-

tally beat Messiah Nantwi to death.

Beyond ending the illegal purported suspension, DOCCS must fully and effectively implement the HALT Solitary Law. DOCCS has been systematically violating the HALT Solitary Law since it went into effect, continuing to lock people in solitary confinement by another name for months and years at a time. Among other violations, DOCCS has been illegally locking people with disabilities in solitary, illegally sending people to solitary and alternatives for reasons prohibited under the law, illegally denying people access to the seven hours of daily group out-of-cell time required in purported alternatives, illegally claiming that locking someone alone in a tiny recreation balcony in the back of their cell is "out-of-cell" and "congregate out-of-cell" time, and illegally failing to utilize the mechanisms of release from alternatives while imposing extreme sentences to solitary, thereby warehousing people in units that are solitary by another name for months and years at a time.

Enough is enough. DOCCS is not above the law, and must implement all components of the HALT Solitary Law. In addition to reversing all of the violations above, DOCCS must expand the use of community-led and peer-led programs in alternatives to solitary, such as the proven M.A.N. Program. DOCCS must also bring in outside experts, such as Dr. Bandy Lee and Dr. James Gilligan, and provide them full autonomy to design and operate units in a manner akin to the original RSVP Program or the former Merle Cooper Program, which involved full days of

out-of-cell group programming and engagement and saw positive impacts on safety for everyone.

In addition to fully implementing the HALT Solitary Law, we urge you to release people who are incarcerated through expansive use of executive clemency and medical parole, starting with those who are elderly and most vulnerable; restore full family visits at all facilities; end all lockdowns; stop all officer brutality, sexual violence, and other abuse; reverse the family care package ban; and support legislation that will create meaningful pathways of release from New York's prisons and fundamentally transform the environment within New York's prisons, including Elder Parole Bill (S.454/A.514) and Fair & Timely Parole (S.307/A.162); the Second Look Act (S.158/A.1283), Earned Time Act (S.342/A.1085), and Marvin Mayfield Act (S.1209/A.1297); Rights Behind Bars (S.3763/A.1261A); and Ending Qualified Immunity (S.176/A.1402).

Sincerely,

(Editor's Note: Visit <https://bit.ly/4kxbmZm> to read the letter in full, including the full list of signatories.)

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

Celebrate Pride Month at Woodlawn and join **LGBT Notables Trolley Tour** on June 21, at 12.30 p.m. As part of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites project, visitors are invited to place rainbow flags at the Woodlawn Cemetery graves of vaudeville stars, suffragists, Harlem Renaissance figures, artists, writers and other LGBT individuals who are buried at the cemetery. The tour will be led by the founders and directors of the NYC LGBT Sites Project. Tickets are available at: <https://woodlawnconservancy.givecloud.co/product/LGBTHistoryMonthPrideTour1230pm/june-21-2025-woodlawns-lgbtq-pride-tour-1230-pm>.

The James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center Garden Community Farmers Market Opening Season 6 will take place on Saturday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will coincide with a **James Baldwin Plaza Naming Ceremony and Juneteenth celebration**. The location is James Baldwin Plaza, Sedgwick and Goulden

Avenues and West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468. It's near Meg's Garden and the Edible Forest on the DeWitt Clinton High School educational campus, 100 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468.

At 11 a.m., Robin Rollin of Black Yogis will offer Yoga instruction, free and open to both beginners and experts, and Danielle Guggenheim will lead storytime for children of all ages at 11.45 a.m.

Opera Community Chorus will perform a Juneteenth Jubilee starting at noon at the same location, and the naming ceremony that will take place at 1 p.m. with Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11). There will be an Open Mic for community sharing, poetry and music from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. JBOLC invites poets, spoken word artists, storytellers and musicians to perform to the themes of Freedom, Identity, Resilience and Pride. Contact: Ray Pultinas on (917) 755 3559 or via email at raypultinas@gmail.com for more information.

The Feast of St. Anthony festival is taking place in the heart of Little Italy in Belmont at 187th Street and Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458 from Wednesday, June 11, through Sunday, June 15, from Come along for live music, entertainment, amusements, rides and the "best food anywhere."

Join the Bronx County Historical Society for **"The Bronx in the Roaring Twenties, A Panel Discussion"** on Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx campus, Tate Library. The entrance is on Manhattan College Parkway near the intersection with Delafield Road, The Bronx, NY 10471.

The panelists will be Kevin Baker, historian and author of "The New York Game: Baseball and the Rise of a New City," Constance Rosenblum, historian and author of "Boulevard of Dreams: Heady Times, Heartbreak, and Hope Along the Grand Concourse in The Bronx," and Robert Billingsley, son of Bronx bootlegger and real-estate developer Logan Billingsley. The discussion will be moderated by Lehman College professor and librarian, Dr. Janet Butler Munch. For more information, visit bronxhistory.org/roaring20s.

PHOTOGRAPHY

An outdoor photo exhibition by Ricky Flores, **"Dance Evolution at Orchard Beach"** will take place at Orchard Beach this summer in conjunction with Photoville Festival 2025 and various partners. The opening reception will be held on June 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Orchard Beach, Section 6, Park Drive, Bronx, NY 10464. Learn more at bronxhistory.org/orchardbeach.

MUSIC

TADA! Youth Theater, a unique Drama Desk, award-winning nonprofit youth theater, presents a virtual event to watch its most recent live production via online streaming. TADA!'s original musical production of *Game Changers*, the second, electrifying, 90s pop-infused, musical show of TADA!'s 40th Anniversary season, is available now through July 4 for your viewing pleasure at home or anywhere you like!

This 55-minute musical is performed by a diverse cast of talented young actors, ages 8-18, and is recommended for children, ages 3 and up. *Game Changers* takes you on a nostalgic journey back to the iconic kid game shows of the 1990s. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://tadayouththeater.anywhereseat.com/channel.php>. Tickets cost \$10 for two views of the show.

MOVEMENT

Join a **Yoga class** at St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Avenue in Fordham Manor on Saturday, June 14, at 11.30 a.m. or a **Step Aerobics** class on Saturday, June 28 at 11 a.m. Join a **Running Group** at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East in Norwood on Wednesday, June 18, at 6.30 p.m. or June 25, at 6.30 p.m.

BP Gibson Hosts Puerto Rican Flag-Raising Ceremony

By MIRIAM QUIÑONES

In celebration of Puerto Rican pride and culture, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson hosted the Annual Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, at Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx.

"The Bronx is home to one of the largest Puerto Rican communities in the country, and this flag raising is a powerful symbol of visibility, pride, and belonging," said Gibson. "We are proud to honor the strength, resilience, and rich culture of Puerto Ricans

in our borough and beyond. This ceremony officially kicks off a season of celebration, remembrance, and unity."

This year's theme was "*Plantando Bandera (Planting Roots)*," and pays tribute and homage to the contribution of Puerto Ricans in The Bronx and across the nation, from activism and entrepreneurship to music, food, and family traditions.

This is the second time in the borough's history the Puerto Rican flag will formally be raised, bringing together local leaders,



Photo by Miriam Quinones

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson presents proclamations to various honorees at the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, at Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

CHILDREN WERE ALSO raising their flags at the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, at Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quinones

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT Vanessa Gibson, Miriam Quinones, Puerto Rican Day Parade president Maribel Mercado, Karoline, The King, Ruben Santana, Janet Vazquez, Rosemary Santana, Rebecca Carrion, Daine Torres, Karola Rivera Juvenil, and Cinthia Prado attend the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, at Lou Gehrig Plaza in the Concourse section of The Bronx.

artists, and community members who marked the start of the Puerto Rican parade season in the City. The 60th Annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade was held in Manhattan on Sunday, June 8, and the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will take place Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at the Grand Concourse between Mount Eden Avenue and 165th Street.

"Let us carry the pride of this day in our hearts!" said Maribel Mercado, president of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade. "Everyone is fostering unity, celebrating our achievements, and continuing to build brighter futures for everyone. Que Viva Puerto Rico! Que Viva Bronx, and may our flag fly high with honor and pride."

Meanwhile, Miguel Guadalupe,

vice-president of the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, said, "We are very proud and honored to receive this proclamation from the Bronx Borough President. We always enjoy the presence of the Bronx community in our parade each year, and we look forward to celebrating our culture and heritage on June 8th."

Grammy Award-winning musician Bobby Allende also delivered remarks during the program and received a citation of merit from the borough president. Recording artist Luis Damon performed both *La Borinqueña*, the Puerto Rican National Anthem, and the National Anthem of the United States. Jomil Luna, MPH, sales representative with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, served as the emcee for the event.



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Public and Community Meetings

The next **52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting, and the last before the summer hiatus, will take place on Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the Plaza Rehab & Nursing Center, 100, West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx. 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 Tuesday, June 17, at 6.30 p.m. at the New York Botanical Garden, Ross Hall Auditorium, 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458 (entrance across from Metro North Station). 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 (CB8)** full, hybrid, board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m. at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center Armor Hall, 675 West 252nd Street, Bronx (entrance at W. 249th St and Independence Ave.) and via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>,

or by phone on +16465588656, with passcode/meeting ID 2114033690#. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). The association is usually on hiatus for the summer and reconvenes in September. For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.



Summer Health and Wellness Events in the Bronx

(continued from page 10)

portance of modeling healthy behaviors. Workshops that address stress reduction, diabetes prevention, and

health-conscious parenting empower families to learn and develop sustainable wellness strategies together.

When families move, eat, and heal together, the entire community benefits. Community wellness events are a reminder of the power of community-driven wellness and the big potential of implementing small changes. Bronx families should not face growing public health challenges alone. Health is not a privilege; it is an inherent right. This summer, let's come together to turn this vision into reality for ourselves and future generations!

Naomi Pemberton is a senior project manager of community health programs at Montefiore Einstein.

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Hundreds Voice Hopes at Armory Hearing

(continued from page 1)

uary, EDC selected 8th Regiment Partners' project submission.

Called "The Kingsbridge Center / El Centro Kingsbridge," the winning proposal is a two-phase, multi-use project expected to be finalized some time in 2030 and 2032, respectively.

Phase I will consist of a mixed-use development with a venue space and entertainment uses, sports fields, cultural and commercial space, light industrial manufacturing space, an educational facility focused on workforce development, and over 25,000 square feet of dedicated community space.

Phase II includes around 450 units of permanently affordable, multi-story, rental housing which will be constructed adjacent to the Armory, where currently the National Guard operates from two annexes on West 195th Street, between Jerome Avenue and Reservoir Avenue. The height of the residential building will exceed the roof height of the main armory building.

The redevelopment is backed by a \$200 million investment by NYC Mayor Eric Adams and NY Gov. Kathy Hochul, a further \$2 million from Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, \$12 million from Sanchez, and a \$1.05 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with the support of U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13).

Lobo said the latest partnership marks a transformative shift in how development can and should happen in Bronx communities. "For decades, Bronx residents have organized for a say in the future of the Kingsbridge Armory," she said. "We're proud to have secured a model that reflects what the community has always called for: shared governance, community ownership and real investment in our people."

According to 8th Regiment Partners and NWBCCC, the partnership "aligns with long-term community interests" and "includes unprecedented elements in a City-owned project." These include two long-term, subleased, community-owned, developed condos, comprising over 20 percent of the total site footprint dedicated to community use.

One condo will serve as a 25,000-square-foot community hub providing space for community activities, workforce development, entrepreneurship and worker cooperative business development, and the other will offer up to 100,000 square feet for affordable light manufacturing aimed at accommodating Bronx-based businesses that have been displaced from the borough.

A Master Condo Association will guarantee that community-owned portions of the project will help govern major operational and strategic decisions. Up to 20,000 square feet of affordable commercial space is to be set aside for small and local busi-

nesses during the housing phase of the development, focusing on vulnerable businesses along the Kingsbridge corridor.

In addition to an already agreed Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with NYC building trades announced in January, a further commitment has been obtained to encourage neutrality agreements that ensure quality, family-sustaining jobs, and protection of workers' rights to organize across the site.

Lobo said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on May 28 between NWBCCC and 8th Regiment Partners, securing NWBCCC's role as co-developer of approximately 20% of the entire Armory site. She said it also includes commitments to establish a Community Council, and a Community Benefit Fund, to support the arrangement.

In addition, she said the MOU secures a commitment from 8th Regiment Partners to sign a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with a broader coalition of labor, community, small business, and faith-based stakeholders which will be negotiated during the ongoing ULURP process.

A first (virtual) public hearing was held on May 31, and a 60-day community board review led by Bronx Community Board 7 is currently underway.

We asked Lobo if NWBCCC was putting up any financing towards The Kingsbridge Center project. She said, "At this stage, NWBCCC's contributions are focused on program development, and coordinating public subsidy and philanthropic support for the community-owned components. NWBCCC will be responsible for securing capital and operating resources to build out and activate the spaces we will co-develop within the Kingsbridge Armory."

Meanwhile, Gabriella Sottile, on behalf of 8th Regiment Partners, said the development team was crystal clear about understanding the value of strong community partnerships. "We look forward to having the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition not only as a long-term tenant but a key partner in this project for years to come," she said in part.

The MOU parties said the partnership also commits to maintaining high environmental standards, and the Community Council will provide ongoing input on tenant mix, programming, and additional strategies for community investment. Additionally, they said the Community Benefit Fund, funded through project revenue and governed by the Community Council, will support long-term local investments in initiatives aimed at wealth-building and community ownership.

The sustainability project component incorporates 1.5 acres of new, publicly accessible, open space, an all-electric building, roof-top solar panels, advanced storm-water resiliency systems, a transit-oriented development, anticipated LEED Gold Standard, and an energy efficient, greenhouse gas-reducing design.

As reported, Manhattan-based Agallas Equities, which lost its bid to redevelop the Armory, has since filed a lawsuit against EDC, 8th Regiment Partners, and various current and former politicians and City officials, broadly alleging "a troubling pattern of political interference, procedural violations, and apparent intel-

lectual property theft that [allegedly] corrupted what should have been a fair and transparent [RFP] public process."

The named parties deny any wrongdoing and the case is ongoing. *Norwood News* reached out to Taveras for comment on the latest joint partnership. We did not receive a response.

During the public hearing, attendees were appreciative, hopeful yet firm about their expectations, especially around employment. In response to the presentation by EDC at the hearing on contracting workers for the project, one union member said, "I understand you're using the name 'Local 79,' which is one [union] but you still got plumbers, you got fitters, you got painters, glaziers. There's other unions besides Local 79, so what I'm trying to make sure is that, yes, there's a lot of residential [work] that has not been union, but there's many that has been union. So, if you want to make it happen, you can make it happen." A hearty applause followed his testimony.

Norwood News asked EDC whether the PLA covers both Phase I and Phase II of the project and were informed that EDC signed a Letter of Intent with the Building Construction Trades Council (BCTC) to enter good faith negotiations for a PLA for Phase I of construction. EDC said 8th Regiment Partners agreed to participate in the PLA for the redevelopment of the Armory drill hall building (Phase 1).

Additionally, EDC said that the project, from construction through operation, will be subject to New York City's "Community Hiring" program similar to "HireNYC," a free program run by EDC delivering "job-ready, qualified New Yorkers" to development projects, "while creating local employment opportunities for low-income New Yorkers."

EDC added that while the housing component (Phase II) does not have a PLA, 8th Regiment Partners committed to working with 32BJ for building service workers for both phases and the development team also agreed to work with Laborers Local 79 for Phase II construction. 8th Regiment Partners aims to break ground in 2026.

Another hearing attendee who gave testimony is a director and secretary of the Bronx Basketball Hall of Fame nonprofit, the aim of which is to preserve "the rich heritage of basketball in The Bronx and those individuals whose extraordinary, skillful performances in turn inspire so many."

"Many people don't know... They'll realize that probably there are more professional basketball players, coaches, teachers, referees from this county than from any county in the United States in the NBA and in professional leagues and colleges all over the world," the man said.

He talked about preserving the borough's basketball legacy, teaching youth, and encouraging their dreams and desires to succeed. He said similarly De-



AN EXTRACT FROM a presentation on the latest project for the Kingsbridge Armory, "The Kingsbridge Center" by NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Source: EDC

Witt Clinton High School had sent the most players from any U.S. high school to the professional basketball leagues. "We're looking to hopefully have a space in the armory [...] to continue our efforts not only in basketball, but we have like a Big Brother / Big Sister [mentoring] program," he said.

He added that the nonprofit is in contact with the Bronx Museum and Bronx Historical Society in order to showcase this rich Bronx basketball legacy. He said the group has also set up scholarship programs for Bronx youth. "I echo the sentiments of everybody that has spoken before, and hoping that they'll find a place for a community nonprofit corporation such as ours," he said.

Daniel Ranells of the Bronx River Alliance also gave testimony. "We have to upkeep the environmental standards during construction, after construction, and also in the lived environment," he said. "We don't want flooding. We don't want too much heat. We grew up in New York City, we're used to it being hot in the street."

He continued, "It doesn't always have to be that way. So, I ask the developers and the City to work with agencies to expand our green infrastructure, to expand our trees around the entire area, and to make it livable... a nice walk around the reservoir, walk around the armory. As we take care of our lived environment, we also need to take care of our community members, so I'm a strong advocate for having community hiring, having living wages."

The project is now moving at lightning speed. We will share more details of the public hearing in a follow-up story, along with details of 8th Regiment Partners' presentation at Bronx Community Board 7's land use committee meeting held June 10.

For her part, Sanchez said the joint partnership reflects the values and priorities laid out in the "Together for Kingsbridge" Community Vision Plan which called for a project that delivered good-paying union jobs, space for youth and families, and economic development rooted in local neighborhoods.

She committed to evaluating the proposal as it moves through ULURP "with the rigor it deserves, guided by the Vision Plan." She added, "This is our once-in-a-generation chance to get this right, and we must."

To view a full copy of the presentation given by EDC at the second public hearing on June 3, visit: <https://bit.ly/43WZby1>.

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