



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## CHRISTOPHER REDDING REMEMBERED

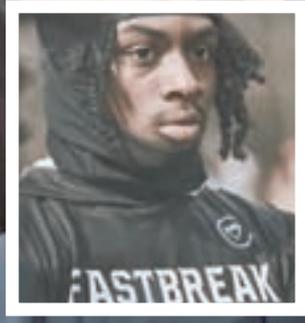


Photo by David Greene

**FAMILY, FRIENDS AND** clergy members join elected officials and others for a vigil to remember 16-year-old Christopher Redding at the corner of West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in Kingsbridge, The Bronx on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, one week after he was fatally shot at the same location.

Photo courtesy of Christopher Redding's football coach

**(INSERT) CHRISTOPHER REDDING**, 16, A reportedly talented footballer was fatally shot at West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in Kingsbridge, The Bronx Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.

By **DAVID GREENE & SILE MOLONEY**

In an interview on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, a little more than 72 hours after getting a call to say her son had been shot and killed at West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx, the grieving mother of

Christopher Redding, 16, recalled her son's final day and decried the four teens who allegedly chased him down and shot him to death.

As reported, the NYPD said officers responded to a 911 call at around 5.10 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, for a report of several people who had been shot

at the intersection of Broadway and West 238<sup>th</sup> Street. "Upon arrival, officers observed a 16-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the back, a 15-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the right leg, and a 13-year-old female with a gunshot wound to the right leg."

They said EMS responded

and transported all three victims to St. Barnabas Hospital where the 16-year-old victim was pronounced deceased. They said the 13-year-old girl and 15-year-old boy are in stable condition. They said there were no initial arrests and the investigation remained ongoing.

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**Love is in the Air**  
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N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

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# Bronx to be Split into Two Patrol Boroughs

By SÍLE MOLONEY

During her 2026 State of the NYPD address at One Police Plaza in Lower Manhattan on Tuesday, Feb. 10, Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch announced The Bronx will be divided from its current single leadership structure overseeing all Bronx precincts into two patrol borough commands, Bronx North and Bronx South, in early spring. She also highlighted the department's other new strategies aimed at keeping New Yorkers safe.

Tisch said the NYPD delivered the safest year ever for gun violence in 2025, with the fewest shooting incidents and shooting victims in recorded history, according to NYPD statistics. Additionally, she said last year saw major crime declines in all five boroughs, as well as the lowest index crime in the subways since 2009, excluding the pandemic years.

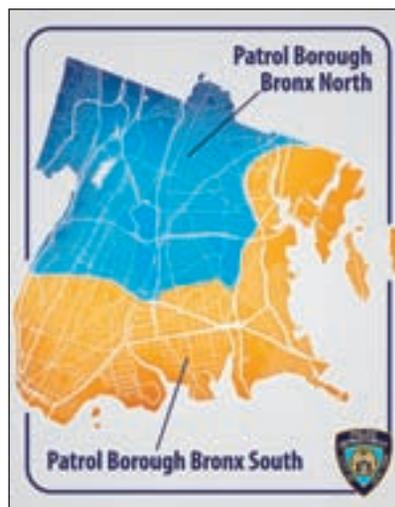
"Together, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and we say with renewed certainty that the state of the NYPD is strong," said Tisch. "A year ago, I set clear expectations for the NYPD. New Yorkers deserved a police department that was stable in its leadership, disciplined in its operations, serious about its standards, and focused relentlessly on public safety."

The commissioner said the division of The Bronx into two patrol borough commands will bring nearly 200 additional police officers to the borough, strengthen the NYPD's ability to respond to different needs across neighborhoods, and add additional specialized units in The Bronx, including homicide squad detectives, evidence collection teams, narcotics teams, Neighborhood Safety Teams, and auto crime units.

She said Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens have each long since moved to two patrol borough commands to handle the volume of work there, and The Bronx has experienced more crime per capita than any other borough while operating under a [single] structure that she said has not kept pace with the demands placed on it.

She said in 2025, The Bronx accounted for more than one third of all shooting incidents and shooting victims citywide, roughly three times that of Queens and Manhattan. Tisch said the borough also recorded more major crimes than Manhattan and Queens, and nearly the same as Brooklyn. Additionally, she said Bronx residents generated nearly one million calls for service last year, more than Queens and nearly equal to Manhattan.

Other announced initiatives included the overhaul of in-service training whereby officers will participate in a recurring, focused, week-long in-service training program that will continue throughout their careers and will cover a wide range of topics, including tactics, de-escalation, constitutional policing, legal standards, and situational awareness.



Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch  
**PATROL BOROUGH BRONX** geographical split between north and south  
Source:

The commissioner said the NYPD is also rolling out a new digital dispatch system for 311 jobs assigned to the NYPD's quality-of-life teams [Q-teams] to ensure responses are handled with the same level of structure and accountability as 911 jobs. She said it will mean officers will be able to better track, respond to, and close out 311 jobs.

Another initiative includes digitizing precinct operations, which she said have been hand-recorded in paper logbooks recorded since the department's founding in 1845. These include staffing, roll calls, inspections, equipment, overtime, property, and compliance checks.

Additionally, the commissioner announced the roll out of DAS 2.0. The Domain Awareness System (DAS) is a platform that was created in 2014 to give officers real-time information to support patrol responses and investigations in one central location. She said DAS 2.0 brings real-time awareness directly into the field.

For example, an officer driving on the FDR can be alerted that a stolen car has passed a license plate reader and a supervisor at a scene can see live drone video and know exactly where that drone is in relation to the incident.

Tisch said the NYPD has the capability to detect drones but lacks the authority to take them down. She said the department expects to receive authority from the White House this year and continues to prepare by investing millions of dollars in mitigation equipment and completing all necessary training.

The commissioner said the preparation ensures the NYPD will be positioned to commence drone mitigation operations as soon as legally allowed, which she said is essential as the department looks ahead to events that will soon take place in New York City, like the World Cup, the 250th birthday of the United State of America, and the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

Tisch also announced that Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Reverend A.R. Bernard will serve as the two co-chief chaplains of the NYPD, overseeing the chaplains unit and their work, "providing spiritual assistance and moral guidance to all members of the department and their families." She said Dolan led the Archdiocese of New York for almost two decades, guiding one of the largest faith communities in the country and "serving as a steady civic and moral leader for New Yorkers across all five boroughs."

She said Bernard founded the Christian Cultural Center, one of the largest and most well-known congregations in New York City. The commissioner said he has spent decades serving families across the five boroughs, building a ministry known for outreach, counseling, and deep engagement with the community. Dolan and Bernard will be installed at a ceremony on Feb. 24.

"As I was thinking about who should be the next chief chaplain of the NYPD, one Hebrew word kept coming to mind, *Tzadik*, a person of righteousness," Tisch said. "Cardinal Dolan and Reverend Bernard are two of the most righteous people this city has ever known." Dolan recently retired as archbishop of New York and was succeeded in February by Bishop Ronald Hicks.

Finally, the commissioner said in honor of the memory of NYPD Detective Steven D. McDonald, and in recognition of what she said was his profound impact on the department, the Police Academy will be named after him. She said McDonald was shot and paralyzed in the line of duty on July 12, 1986, and despite his life changing in unimaginable ways, she said he became a role model for all officers, living a life of courage and defined by dignity and forgiveness. She said McDonald tragically passed away on Jan. 10, 2017.

In naming the academy in his memory, she said it will ensure every officer who walks through its doors can look towards him as a role model. There will be an official naming ceremony on July 16, 42 years to the day McDonald entered the Police Academy.

News of the Bronx patrol borough command division was welcomed by Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, who said, "The Bronx has been under-resourced for decades, so I welcome the NYPD Commissioner Tisch's new plan for a two-patrol borough structure in The Bronx that puts the borough on equal footing with Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens." Clark said it will not only mean additional police officers but coverage and enforcement tailored to the specific needs of the borough's diverse neighborhoods. She added in part, "I believe it will lead to more opportunities to prevent crimes, as well as respond to and solve them."

# Eighteen in Custody after Organized Teen “Takeover” of The Mall at Bay Plaza

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE**

Eighteen people were taken into custody on Monday, Feb. 16, police said, after an estimated 100 to 500 teens participated seemingly in an organized “takeover” of The Mall at Bay Plaza in the Baychester section of The Bronx.

Police said that on Monday, Feb. 16, at around 2.08 p.m., officers responded to a 911 call regarding a crowd control condition at 200 Baychester Avenue (Bay Plaza Mall). “Upon arrival, officers observed a large group of disorderly youths at the location,” a police spokesperson said. “Police issued multiple warnings to disperse the location. Multiple juveniles were taken into custody.”

Police later said 18 people were taken into custody. When contacted regarding charges, the Bronx District Attorney said for those under 18, any misdemeanors or non-violent felonies would go to Corp Counsel. Norwood News was also informed that the case for one older youth has been sealed. We will share any further feedback we receive.

In videos shared on social media by different users, some teens are seen on the ground outside The Mall being cuffed by police, while in others, a swarm of cops are seen flooding the area. A flier that had reportedly been circulating online prior to the event according to some shared videos reads, “Bay Plaza Take Over, Monday, Starts at 2:00 Ends until we get kicked out. DM for more info.” The origin of the flier is unclear.

In other videos, the teens, many dressed in dark clothing and hoodies, are seen storming The Mall, and inside what looks like a McDonalds, some are seen jumping on tables and generally

running wild. In another video, they are seen throwing chairs inside a restaurant and in another, one is seen outside The Mall throwing a shopping cart against a glass door.

In yet another video of the aftermath of the incident, a window or possibly a glass door is seen shattered, and staff are seen inside cleaning up, at that point, an empty business. In another, teens are seen running after other teens, shouting, holding up their phones, and filming one youngster who appears to be on the ground getting trampled on. It’s unclear if the person fell or if it was a fight. In another video, teens are seen seemingly trying to enter a store while an apparent store employee attempts to close it.

In accompanying text included across one of the videos shared online, the seemingly organized takeover was described as a “success” by one account user. In another video, it was mentioned that several teens were arrested. In other videos posted online, the commotion appeared to spill over later inside an MTA bus.

Snippets from at least some of the videos were shared on some drill rap-related user accounts on social media possibly with the aim of gaining more followers. In a separate post on one of the drill-rap related accounts, the account owner showed his appreciation that during a Coney Island press conference held the same day as the “takeover” i.e. Feb. 16, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani recalled listening to drill rap artist, Pop Smoke, in prior years while enjoying the amusement rides.

“NYC MAYOR IS A FAN OF NYC DRILL RIP POP SMOKE... nahhh



File Photo

**A HIVE OF** customers swarm the H&M at the new Bay Plaza Mall in Co-Op City. Doors opened August 14, 2014.

chat I’m starting to fw our new mayor heavy now ” the post read in part. The user tagged both the mayor and another drill rap group in the same post.

The mayor had been in Coney Island announcing the creation of a new Business Improvement District (BID) for the area, and while standing in front of the amusement park, he said in part, “I love roller coasters. I was on the Phoenix [ride] like four months ago. I’m a big fan of Coney Island, big fan of roller coasters... also, a big fan of the bumper cars that you can go on, just not too far from the boardwalk.”

He added in part, “Many a memory listening to Pop Smoke [drill rap artist] while being in those bumper cars.” Norwood News reached out to the mayor’s office for comment on the Bay Plaza incident and will share any feedback we receive.

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, Rep. George Latimer (NY-16), Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Assembly Member Michael Benedetto (A.D. 82), State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (S.D. 36), and Council Member Kevin Riley (C.D. 12) released a joint statement in response to incident, broadly saying that those involved did not represent the vast majority of young people from The Bronx. Read the full statement attached.

In December 2025, Bailey announced a check presentation of \$1 million to the NYPD’s 45th Precinct for ARGUS security cameras in nearby Co-op City. The 45th Precinct also covers The Mall at Bay Plaza.

Meanwhile, the Westchester County Executive’s Office Department of Public Safety said Wednesday that they were monitoring social media activity and working with municipal law enforcement partners “to discourage so-called called teen-ager “takeovers” of retail venues and other public spaces.”

Commissioner Terrance Raynor said, “We are asking teens to take our advice about takeovers: do not participate in this kind of activity. You can get hurt, other people can get hurt, and

you can be subject to arrest. We are also urging parents to speak with their children and advise them to ignore this dangerous ‘challenge’ being presented to youths via social media.”

Westchester officials added that county and local police were aware of social media posts identifying various locations in Westchester as potential sites for a takeover. Raynor urged the public to share any information they have about potential takeover targets or events. Yonkers Police Department were more direct in their response. “Takeover? Think twice in Yonkers,” they said. “We are not like other jurisdictions. We have the resources and the motivation to arrest all participants. Any attempt at a ‘Take Over’ in any location in our city will be swiftly dealt with.”

On Tuesday evening, NYPD police officers and two others seen wearing combat gear and bulletproof vests were seen on the platform of the 149th Street-Grand Concourse subway station in the South Bronx. When contacted as to the reason for the presence of the group in the station, the NYPD press office said they had no explanation for same.

Meanwhile, a young, female, Black TikTok user who has over 36,000 followers and 4.3 million likes on her account, took to social media late on Monday night to berate those who participated in the incident. Her video heading read, “Bay Plaza Takeover is Sherm & if you’re going, you’re embarrassing.” It was followed by several crying emojis.

According to Google, Sherm is a slang word that can be used as a derogatory term for a “degenerate” or someone not worthy of respect, or it can refer to a dangerous street drug known to cause severe hallucinations and violent behavior.

The young woman said in part, “Why don’t we have sh\*t in The Bronx? This is why, Bro! This is now the second time that y’all have done this sh\*t! Are y’all aware that there’s a reason that that is

(continued on page 4)

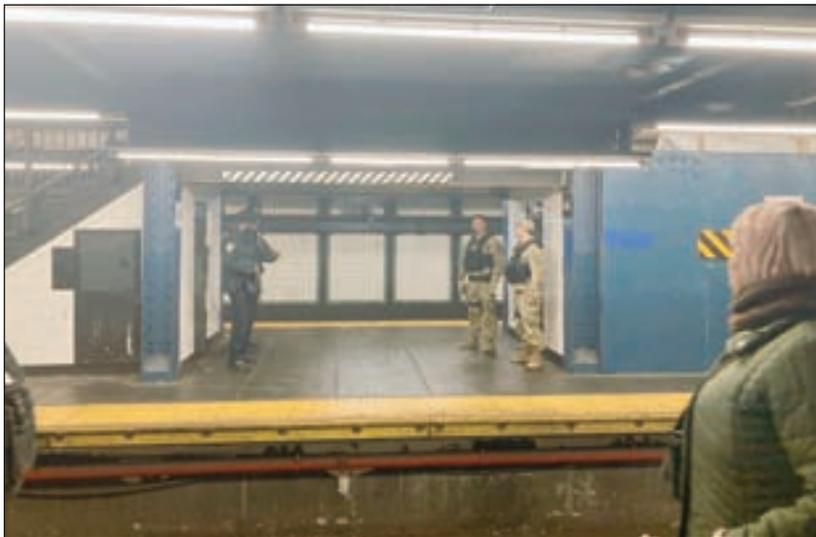


Photo by Síle Moloney

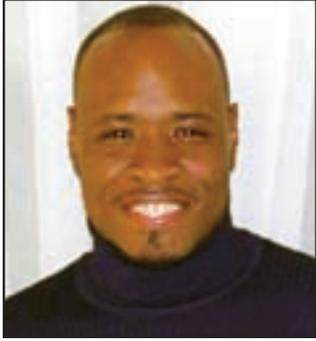
**POLICE AND PERSONS** seen in combat gear are seen on the platform of the 149th Street-Grand Concourse subway station serving the 4 train in the South Bronx on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026.

# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on the “Epstein Files” and if they believe anyone else will be held accountable for sex crimes or for assisting Jeffrey Epstein with the sex crimes he perpetrated. It’s been widely reported that Epstein died in custody in 2019 as he awaited his trial on sex trafficking charges. He was convicted a decade earlier and spent 13 months in a county jail, which included a work-release program, for soliciting prostitution from a minor.



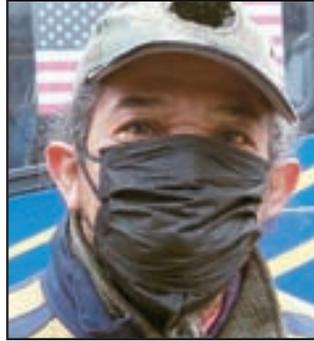
“People aren’t asking about the Epstein files out of curiosity. They’re asking because powerful people in this country never face consequences. When wealth and political connections are involved, the public assumes there’s a different set of rules. If the DOJ (U.S. Department of Justice) wants to restore trust, it needs full transparency and real accountability. No one should be too rich or too well connected to be investigated or face consequences.”

**Malcom Gray,**  
Pelham Parkway (Democratic male  
State committee person for Assembly  
District 80)  
Photo courtesy of Malcom Gray



“I’m kind of starting to believe that this guy, Epstein, was probably a spy. Even if he was an offender, he was probably a spy. He was trying to find a way out of what he was into. But the uncovering of these files is going to uncover a lot of stuff, governments, corporations and industries. A lot of stuff is going to be uncovered because of this individual; it’s already coming out. Even with these redactions, you can find a story and the redactions almost feed the story. The more that you show me that there is nothing to be shown, you’re showing me that there is something that I should be looking at.”

**Von Franklin,**  
University Heights  
Photo by David Greene



“The people need to be sure about everything that happened then and they need to be sure about it. You want to make sure because the people named could be innocent. Some ladies had the same problem. What happened to these ladies, and what happened to the people who stayed there? Why did they stay there if they were sure that this was happening? Someone else needs to go to jail because that’s not supposed to happen. Sometimes when you would visit Epstein, he would give you a lady. We need to be sure if that lady was there by herself, or if somebody put her to work like that.”

**Pedro Deleware,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo by David Greene



“The whole Epstein situation is a mess. The police, the feds, everyone knew for years and did nothing. A lot of people made money from sex stuff with Epstein. I hope we get to the bottom of this and never allow human trash like him to get away with tragedies like this ever again. There are a lot of millionaires with power pulling all kinds of stunts out there. How do we stop them when the world is their oyster?”

**Kay Cardona,**  
Pelham Gardens  
Photo by David Greene



“I think the names of powerful people in the files should be revealed, should never have been redacted, and the people should be aware of the extent of the operation and its influence. The implicated parties who did wrongdoing should be brought to justice.”

**J.C. Amorini,**  
Forest Hills, Queens  
Photo courtesy of J.C. Amorini

*Editor’s Note: According to reporting by The Daily Beast dated Jan. 31, 2026, the allegation of rape against U.S. President Donald Trump involving a 13-year-old girl is part of an explosive new tranche of documents released by the U.S. Justice Department into the crimes of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The claim, which the White House says was “unfounded and false,” was made in an FBI file dated from August 2025 linked to an investigation into the Alexander brothers, three wealthy Florida siblings who are currently on trial, accused of sex trafficking. The logo which appears in Photo 3 has been blurred for legal reasons.*

## Eighteen in Custody after Organized Teen “Takeover” of The Mall at Bay Plaza

(continued from page 3)

one of the only malls we have in The Bronx? Are y’all aware that there’s nothing to do here for a reason?”

Seemingly exasperated, the young woman continued, “Y’all wonder why people say, ‘Oh the [inaudible / Sky zone?] isn’t going to last long.’ This is why! Why’s there no places for kids to hang out? This is why! People don’t want to run afterschool programs and places for kids because y’all act like this, Bro, for no reason. Y’all play exactly into the stereotype and it’s sad, Bro! A bunch of Black and brown kids going to raid the f\*cking mall... that’s embarrassing as f\*ck! Where are y’all parents, Bro? Y’all parents need to get in trouble for this, I’m sorry.”

She continued, “These kids nowadays got a mind of their own but nah, their parents need to start getting in trouble for this sh\*t so they can really start to crack down on these motherf\*ckers. Y’all are sherm! You are as childish as f\*ck! If you’re going to go raid that mall, you are childish. Nobody with any common sense or even the smallest bit of smarts is going to go do that. Y’all broke through the movie theater last year. Y’all robbed

stores. Y’all broke store windows, all of that. What do you guys gain out of that? Talkin’ about there’s no sh\*t for kids in New York. Guess why? Y’all are ghetto and f\*cking untamed.”

The teen added in part, “Y’all’s parents did not raise y’all right. I’m only 18 years old, Bro, and I’m seeing people who are 17, 16 doing this sh\*t! I’m scared for y’all! Y’all’s futures are genuinely cooked, Bro, if you think this sh\*t is swag.” The user went on to suggest that in her opinion the parents of the affected teens needed to enforce more discipline at home. “You 15, 16 years old doing sh\*t like this? Yeah, no! You clearly not going to learn. You clearly too far gone. I would’ve thrown your asses out the frame,” she said.

The young woman continued, “This sh\*t is sad, Bro. Hear y’all go givin’ ‘em more shit to say about Hispanic and Black people. This is why we’ll never win. Certain people from our communities just do dumb sh\*t. I hope the police come and just start charging everyone. I hope every single police force in the f\*cking New York f\*cking State goes to that mall and cuffs everyone, every single last one of y’all b\*tches, and put every single one of y’all asses in jail no matter how old...jail, pro-

bation, f\*cking JuV all o’ that.”

She added, “I’m sick of y’all. I really, really, really am because, Bro, what’s the point of this? What do y’all gain from this?” The young woman continued saying that last year, when the movie theater was broken into, one possibility discussed afterwards by officials was to have minors carry ID and have them accompanied by an adult to get into the mall. “Once y’all do this now, y’all think they’re NOT gonna make this sh\*t happen? C’mon! Now, y’all little kids really not gonna have nowhere to f\*ckin’ go!” Her post had garnered nearly half a million views as of Monday night.

Also on Monday, the New York Daily News reported that the NYPD/FDNY rescued a 16-year-old boy who was trapped 50 feet down a shaft on the NYC Queensboro bridge, following a TikTok stunt the same day.

As reported, Suave Drilly, a drill rap artist from the Norwood area of the Bronx, was shot dead in the South Bronx last year. Norwood News reported in April 2022 that Suave Drilly, then 23, was in custody and awaiting arraignment as one of 20 alleged G-Side / Drilly gang members in the Norwood / Gun Hill area. According to the Bronx District Attorney’s office, 20 gang members were arrested on various charges, including murder, non-fatal shootings, and stabbings.

In August 2024, Norwood News reported how “Slaughtery” gang members had been separately charged with 14 shootings, the slashing of a rival in a courthouse, and how they bragged online about it. The gang is also influenced by drill rap, a sub-genre of rap music that emerged in the last 10 years. It addresses gang and street life and often glorifies misogyny and violence.

In February 2022, former New York City Mayor Eric Adams said he had met with a group of Drill rappers and later explained how the meeting went. “They said, ‘We heard you were going to ban Drill rapping,’ and I did not say that,” Adams said. “No, I was very clear on what I stated and they came in with a lot of energy. You know, here’s the 62-year-old guy that don’t understand young people and you want to destroy... and I let them talk. Then I told them what I said, that violent people who are using Drill rapping to post who they killed, and then antagonize the people who they are going to kill is what the problem is.”

Adams added, “And they heard me, and we’re going to be rolling out something in the next few days to deal with this issue. It was a great conversation. I was happy to have them there.”

Norwood News reached out to McDonalds and to the management of The Mall at Bay Plaza for comment and will share any feedback we receive.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A BULLET HOLE** is seen on the side of a gray, double-parked car at 3327 Perry Avenue in the Norwood section of The Bronx on Tuesday night, Feb. 17, 2026, after the 27-year-old driver of the vehicle was robbed at gunpoint.

## Norwood Driver Robbed at Gunpoint, Vehicle Struck with Bullet

By SÍLE MOLONEY

A 27-year-old male driver was robbed of a sum of money at gunpoint while seated inside his car on Perry Avenue in the Norwood section of the Bronx late Tuesday evening, Feb. 17, the victim told *Norwood News*.

Speaking in Spanish, the victim explained that as he was driving along Perry Avenue in the direction of East Gunhill Road, between East Gun Hill Road and East 209th Street, he recognized a friend and stopped to double-park and speak to him. “Two people carrying guns appeared on foot in front of the car and demanded money,” he said, explaining that they did not enter the car.

“They were pointing the gun against the windowpane,” the man said, adding that at one point one of them fired one shot at the vehicle. Asked at what height the gun had been held when it was pointed at him, the victim said it was at the level of his head (through the glass). The bullet hole was later seen on the passenger side of the vehicle and had pierced the side of the engine section. *Norwood News* asked the man if he was hurt, and he said he had not been.

We asked if the bullet exited the vehicle and the man said he believed it was inside the engine. When we said we imagined he was still in shock, the man replied, “Yes.” Asked if he had handed over money, the young man said, “Yes, I took out some money and gave it to them.” He went on to say that he still has his wallet and added that the robbers left once they got the money. Asked how much money they got away with, he said around \$2,000 in cash.

*Norwood News* asked the driver if it had been foreseen that he would meet his friend on the street, and he said no, that it was just by chance that they saw each other. Asked if his friend knew the robbers, he said no. The victim added

that the police arrived quickly to the scene.

Asked for a description of the thieves, the man said they were young, were dressed in black, and wore ski-masks and only one displayed a gun. *Norwood News* later saw a group of young people wearing ski-masks and chatting close to the crime scene behind a high fence/enclosure in the front section of a nearby house.

About five minutes later, two young people wearing ski masks, but not dressed in all black, were seen walking down Perry Avenue in the direction of Bainbridge Avenue. One was carrying what looked like a plastic bag.

Asked if he had insurance, the victim said he had. A section of Perry Avenue was seen blocked off by police vehicles between the crime scene and East 209th Street after the incident.

Police later said that based on preliminary information, the incident occurred at around 8.08 p.m. on Tuesday night at 3327 Perry Avenue when two unidentified people approached the victim and demanded that he give them money.

“One of the individuals displayed a firearm,” the spokeswoman said, adding that we would need to call back later for more information as the investigation was ongoing. Major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct, where the robbery took place, are included in this edition’s crime file.

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

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# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**



**DEMOCRATIC REP. RITCHIE** Torres (NY-15) held a discussion at the New York Botanical Garden in The Bronx with U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026.

## Torres Hosts Jeffries in The Bronx

Democratic Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) welcomed U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) to The Bronx on Sunday, Feb. 15, for what was described as “an intimate conversation with local residents focused on delivering for working families and standing up to Donald Trump’s agenda in Washington.”

Held at the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park, the event brought together around 300 constituents for a discussion about the challenges facing The Bronx and the work House Democrats are doing to push back against policies they say threaten the community. The program also included the recognition of two Bronx community leaders, Cheryl Marie Dewitt, executive director of the Williamsbridge Center, and Haji Dukuray, described as a longtime Bronx community advocate, for what Torres said was their extraordinary contributions and service, which he said reflected the strength and resilience of the borough.

Torres said Dewitt has dedicated nearly four decades to serving children and families through early childhood education. Beginning as a substitute assistant teacher in 1986, he said she rose through the ranks to her current role in 1999, and continues in that role today. He said under her leadership, the center has weathered significant programmatic and funding changes while continuing to serve young children through an NYC Department of Education birth-to-five contract. He said Dewitt has also been a fierce advocate for early childhood workers, serving as Bronx borough chair for her union and remaining deeply involved in civic life and community leadership.

Torres said Dukuray, who arrived in the U.S. from Gambia in 1988, was recognized for his decades of community leadership and resilience. He said he is a founding board member of

Sumpu Do Khatty USA and an executive committee member of the Bronx Islamic Cultural Center and its affiliates. He said Dukuray has worked tirelessly to uplift immigrant families and strengthen community ties, and following the horrific 2022 Twin Parks fire that claimed the lives of multiple members of his extended family, he emerged as a unifying force, bringing together grieving families, faith leaders, and elected officials to secure resources and support for those affected.

## Rental Rip-Off Hearing Dates Announced

Further to his announced in January, that the Mamdani administration would be holding rental rip-off hearings across the City in defense of tenants to hear from working New Yorkers about the challenges they face from poor building conditions to hidden fees on rent payments, the Bronx hearings will be held on March 11 from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Visit <https://nycforms.cityofnewyork.us/219> and <https://nycforms.cityofnewyork.us/220> to sign up for the relevant timeslot.

As reported, following the hearings, Mamdani said his administration will publish a summary and report detailing common themes and areas of opportunity, and said the testimony shared at the hearings will directly inform policy interventions to take on such “ripoff tactics.” More details about the hearings can be found here: [nyc.gov/RentalRipoff](https://nyc.gov/RentalRipoff).



Photo courtesy of Sean Ebony Coleman  
**SEAN EBONY COLEMAN**

## Bronx LGBTQ+ Center Head Reacts to Removal of Pride Flag from Stonewall Inn

Sean Ebony Coleman, founder and CEO of Destination Tomorrow, The Bronx’s designated LGBTQ+ center, has shared a statement in response to the federal government’s recent removal of the Pride flag from the Stonewall National Monument in New York City.

“By removing the Pride flag from the Stonewall National Monument, the federal government is sending a clear

message to America’s LGBTQ+ community: we don’t see you, we won’t listen to you and we don’t represent you,” Ebony Coleman said.

“This is a petty slight from a homophobic administration. Removing our flag will not erase our history, it will not erase our movement. Our city’s diverse and thriving LGBTQ+ community will make our collective voice heard.”

Destination Tomorrow is a New York-based nonprofit serving LGBTQ+ community members.

Following protests at the location, the flag has since been replaced

## Mayor Appoints World Cup Czar

NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced Jan. 27, Stephanie Silkowski as the new director of the Mayor’s Office of Appointments; Bitta Mostofi as special advisor for strategic coordination and operations to the first deputy mayor; and Maya Handa as “World Cup Czar” ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Additionally, Mamdani reappointed Renee Campion as commissioner of the Office of Labor Relations and Kim L. Yu as director of the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services and the City’s chief procurement officer. The mayor also recently announced Sha-

run Goodwin as commissioner of NYC Department of Probation, Yume Kitasei as commissioner of NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and Lisa Garcia as NYC Department of Environmental Protection commissioner. On Feb. 16, he announced the appointment of Christina Farrell as the new NYC Emergency Management commissioner.



Photo courtesy of Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

**NYC MAYOR ZOHRAN** Mamdani announces Sharun Goodwin as NYC Department of Probation commissioner, Yume Kitasei as NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services commissioner, and Lisa Garcia as NYC Department of Environmental Protection commissioner at City Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026.

# Norwood: Car Overturms on E Gunhill Road in Freezing Conditions

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

One person was removed from a vehicle that overturned in the Norwood section of The Bronx in the early hours of Sunday, Feb. 8, in freezing conditions, police said. EMS services said the person was hospitalized. An NYPD spokesperson told *Norwood News* at 1.15 a.m., police received a 911 call reporting a motor vehicle collision on East Gun Hill Road and Tryon Avenue.

“At this time, it’s looking like a one-vehicle accident,” the spokesperson said. “I don’t have the make or model. It appears as though the vehicle overturned somehow.” The spokesperson continued in part, “Looks like there was one occupant who was removed. No arrests or anything so doesn’t look like anything too significant,” the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, when contacted about the incident, EMS/FDNY said the department received a 911 call at 1.14 a.m. for a report of a motor vehicle collision involving an overturned vehicle at 245 East Gun Hill Road between Tryon Avenue and Kings College Place. They said EMS transported one patient to St. Barnabas Hospital and their condition and description were unknown. Temperatures at around 3 a.m. on Sunday morning were around 2 degrees F.

In a video posted to the Citizens’ App, one vehicle is seen overturned on an incline on a section of East Gunhill Road close to the median by Kings College Place, not far from Tryon Avenue. Citizen user Angel 3222 wrote, “Guys,



Image courtesy of the Citizens’ App  
**EMS/FDNY AND POLICE** units are seen close to an overturned vehicle as pedestrians take in the scene at East Gun Hill Road and Kings College Place in Norwood in the early hours of Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, after a vehicle overturned on East Gunhill Road.

the person got in an ambulance. Pray for his or her safety.”

Police and EMS/FDNY units are also seen in the video, while pedestrians stand nearby taking in the scene. Cops are later seen beside the impacted car which was returned to its upright position. The following day, glass and other debris from the crash were seen scattered on the street, and a road sign on the median was toppled over. It’s not yet known in which direction the vehicle was moving at the time of the accident.

We spoke to a number of businesses in the local area, including one laundromat which operates 24/7 and asked if they had witnessed the crash or its immediate aftermath but nobody had.

(continued on page 14)



**Letters To The Editor**

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

**A Kinder Way Forward**

A recent move to expand access to non-dairy milk in school lunch programs is a long-overdue step toward healthier, more inclusive nutrition. Millions of students are lactose intolerant, allergic to dairy, or come from families that avoid animal products for ethical or cultural reasons.

Offering plant-based milk isn't radical - it's practical. These options provide essential nutrients without the saturated fat and cholesterol found in dairy, and they come with a much smaller environmental footprint.

School meals shape lifelong habits. When we normalize plant-based choices early, we teach children that compassion, health, and sustainability can co-exist on the same tray.

In a time when childhood health concerns and climate anxiety are rising, modernizing school nutrition just makes sense. Giving students plant-based options empowers families, respects differences, and quietly models a kinder way forward, one lunch at a time.

**Niles Neusbaum  
Williamsbridge**

**Recent Event at the Riverdale Y**

I am a Jewish woman co-op shareholder in Norwood, and as Jewish garment worker Clara Lemlich called out in Yiddish at a meeting of garment workers in 1909, when she was being passed over by male speakers, *I have something to say.*

It [was] a *shanda* (disgrace) that the Riverdale Y, [Councilman] Eric Dinowitz, and [Assemblyman] Jeffrey Dinowitz [hosted] a talk on antisemitism by former Columbia Business School professor Shai Davidai on Feb. 11. I am a firm believer that the safety of Jews is bound up in the safety of all people. Shai Davidai's actions while a professor at Columbia endangered the lives of Palestinian students, as well as Jewish students, who were protesting the mass killing of more than 70,000 Palestinians during Israel's war on Gaza, still ongoing, although a ceasefire has been proclaimed.

After Davidai posted personal attacks on social media [See columbiaspectator.com article dated August 27, 2025, entitled, "Inside the inconclu-

sive, 17-month-long investigation into former Business School professor Shai Davidai" by Daksha Pillai] calling Palestinian students " Hamas supporters" and "terrorists," those young people [alleged that they] received repeated death threats. To misrepresent and twist the intentions of students who were standing against war was gross misbehavior on the part of an older person in a position of privilege and power.

Shai Davidai is NOT a person who should be invited to The Bronx to speak. The Riverdale Y, and Mistery Dinowitz do not hold a monopoly on Jewish opinion. If they wanted an authentic discussion about antisemitism to take place in this community, why not invite Bronx (including Riverdale) members of groups like Jews for Racial and Economic Justice to speak, people who have, for years, been doing the work to unite working class New Yorkers to stand for justice for all people.

**Pamela Sporn  
Norwood**

*Editor's Note: The latest available hate crime statistics from the NYPD for New York City are attached. Norwood*

*News also reached out to New York State Police for statewide hate crime statistics. We will share any details we receive in our next print edition.*

*Norwood News attempted to reach Mr. Davidai for comment but were unsuccessful. We also reached out to the Riverdale Y, Assemblyman Dinowitz, and Councilman Dinowitz for comment. We did not receive a response from the Riverdale Y or from Councilman Dinowitz as of press date but will share any feedback we receive in our next print edition. The assemblyman responded as follows:*

*"There are many people concerned about the explosion of antisemitism since the October 7, 2023, genocidal attack by the terrorist organization Hamas against Israeli civilians which killed over 1200 Israelis, kidnapped over 250 people and raped others. The majority of hate crimes in New York are directed against Jews.*

*Many people have advocated for safe perimeters to be established around houses of worship. Some have objected to this on First Amendment grounds – that curtailing protests around houses of worship would infringe upon the right of free speech. Yet, some of these same people actually have said that the Riverdale Y should not have allowed Shai Davidai, a*

*leader in the fight against antisemitism, to speak at a recent event it sponsored along with Council Member Eric Dinowitz and I.*

*It seems that there are people who believe in free speech, except when they don't like the speech. Perhaps that might include Pamela Sporn who, "coincidentally" wrote to the Norwood News complaining about the Y event and who has a problem with the fact that Mr. Davidai was invited to speak. I regret I was in Albany while this event took place, because I would have gladly attended. Many people attended the event. No one was forced to attend. Freedom of speech means the Y could invite him and others had the right to listen to him or not listen to him."*

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

**Hate Crime Statistics: Jan. 2026**

*(Representing Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 for calendar years 2026 and 2025)*

Motivation	2026	2025	+/-	% Change
Age	1	0	1	*****
Asian	5	1	4	400%
Black	2	1	1	100%
Ethnic	0	1	-1	-100%
Gender	2	0	2	*****
Hispanic	1	1	0	0%
Jewish	31	11	20	182%
Muslim	7	0	7	*****
Religion	3	2	1	50%
Sexual Orientation	5	5	0	0%
White	1	1	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>152%</b>

**Note: Statistics above are subject to change upon investigation, as active possible bias cases may be reclassified to non-bias cases and removed from counted data.**



Photo by Síle Moloney

**NAT, 21, FROM** The Bronx, takes the D train downtown to meet up with her ex in Manhattan ahead of Valentine's Day, on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**JEANNIE, 70+, AN** artist from The Bronx, takes the D train uptown Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**SAMUEL ACOSTA YNOA** carries a Valentine-themed balloon as he takes the D train uptown in The Bronx ahead of Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A MAN PURCHASES** a bouquet of flowers for his wife on Jerome Avenue in Norwood on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026.

### By SÍLE MOLONEY

For some, Feb. 14 has perhaps come to be seen as a commercial grab by those seeking to capitalize on the sale of flowers, chocolates, lingerie, dining, and more. For others, it's seen as contrived, cringe, outdated, and perhaps an unwelcome reminder of their prevailing relationship status. Yet, for many, Valentine's Day is an occasion to express their extra love and appreciation for those they hold dear, whether romantically or platonically. *Norwood News* recently spoke to some Bronxites and asked for their thoughts on the annual holiday.

On Friday, Feb. 13, we asked a Claremont flower vendor working close to the 170<sup>th</sup> Street subway station serving the B/D trains, where 41-year-old Harlem man, Adrian Dawodu, was fatally shot Tuesday, Feb. 10, how business was going. Speaking in Spanish, the vendor said ok, and anticipated it being busier the next day.

Asked if, generally, people were buying flowers or if they were also buying balloons and other gifts, he said, "A bit of everything." The vendor said it was his wife who had been working on the day of the shooting inside the station. When his wife arrived, we asked if she had heard or seen the shooting, and she said she had not. Police said there are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing.

Later, we spoke to Nat, 21, who was waiting on the platform inside the 170<sup>th</sup> Street subway station in Claremont holding some flowers. We asked her if Valentine's Day was an important day for her, personally. She laughed and as her eyes lit up, she said, "Yeah, it's kind of crazy! I'm seeing my ex, yeah! We dated like three years in high school, so we were, like, babies! We were, like, two years no contact and I'm seeing him again, so it's kind of crazy! I'm excited! I'm going to see him today and we're getting breakfast tomorrow."

Nat said her ex is 22, and added, "I'm excited! I don't know, like, how it's going to go but we have a long story. I can't keep ignoring him. Like, I really appreciate him, so yeah." *Norwood News* asked Nat what she felt were the qualities that made for a good relationship.

"Knowing how to communicate," she said. "That was like our biggest issue back then, but we were in high school, so we were fairly young."

Beaming, she continued, "Now, that we're older, like more mature, I think you learn a lot and we can communicate better than back then so yeah, communication and respect." Asked what she liked about her ex when she first met him, Nat said, "He's Brazilian and I first went to school in Harlem, so it was like really something different and I really liked his Portuguese accent!"

She added, "I'm Mexican so I would teach him Spanish and he would teach me Portuguese. I don't remember much right now, but it was really fun! I'm just really excited even though everyone told me not to [get back with him] but, like, they don't know what we went through together so like yeah, I'm excited!"

Later, we spoke to Jeannie on the subway and asked if she was currently in a relationship and she said she was. We asked how they met and she replied, "We met online which I thought I'd never do ever, ever, ever! Actually, I was pretty cynical about the whole thing but I was really lucky because I always tell him, he's the most wonderful man in the universe, yeah!" Asked how long they'd been together, Jeannie said, "Five years." We asked if she'd recommend online dating apps therefore, and she said, "Try it! It doesn't work for everybody, and I never thought it would work for me, and it did! I took a jump, yeah, against my better judgement."

Asked what she thought made for a viable relationship, she said, "Values, I think, for me, are probably the most important." Asked if she meant that it was important for both people to have similar or common values. She said, "Yeah, similar values or compatible values." Jeannie then asked if she could expand upon that, and we told her to go right ahead. Laughing, she said, "I couldn't ever be with a Trumper!"

She continued, "My guy and I are of similar beliefs and those beliefs spill over into how we treat people, and

that's what I think is the most important thing." We asked if they planned to celebrate Valentine's Day. "Yeah, we got balloons and I'm an artist so I made him a print of one of my paintings that he loves," Jeannie said.

Asked if she did something similarly creative each year, she said, "Yes, I've given him prints. Actually, he has two of my paintings." We asked Jeannie what advice she would give to younger people navigating relationships in a fast-paced digital age. She said, "I'd say really trust your instincts and if you sense that somebody is the right person to get to know, follow your best instincts."

She added, "If you don't, then know that you've had an experience and go on." We asked Jeannie if she thought it was wise to listen to the advice of others when it comes to relationships or to trust your own judgement. "Of course, you should use your own instincts, yeah," she said. "You can listen to people, or you can even solicit their advice, but ultimately what's going on with you, and what you perceive about the person, and feel for the person, that's what's most important."

Jeannie continued, "And you know. I knew from the very beginning that Richard was the person for me." We asked Jeannie if she wanted to say what age range she was in, and she said her seventies. "And he's in his eighties," she said, in reference to her partner, Richard.

Later we spoke to Samuel Acosta Ynoa who was holding a Valentine-themed, helium balloon on the subway, and asked him if he was in a relationship and he said he was, with Sebastian Ospina, for seven years. "I'm very happy and I've decided to spend the rest of my life with him," he said. We asked what it was about their relationship that made it work for seven years. "Being open to change because sometimes, you can [have] different mentalities, and a different vision of the world, but I think what makes us unique is being different, not being the same, and we are basically complementing each other so,"

## Love Is In The Air

Acosta Ynoa said. "

Asked how they met, he said they both worked for a Forever 21 retail store in Times Square. "He was a cashier and I worked in the stock so that's exactly how we met," he said. "I don't know. I just invited him for a dinner and an open dance and that's how everything started." Asked if he liked his partner's style and sense of fashion, he said, "Oh yes! I'm a style boy! You can see and he also loves fashion!"

Later, we spoke to Fatima who said she is also in a relationship and that she met her partner in their home country of Gambia. She said they'd been together 10 years and had come to the United States together. Asked what the best part was about being in the relationship with her partner, Fatima said, "He's so kind to me, so, so kind, something that I'm not used to and am still getting used to. Growing up, people that I've been around weren't known for being sensitive."

We asked if this difference was true, even though they were both from the same culture/country and she said, "Yes. I had, like, a tough bringing up and so it was no sensitive hugs and stuff like that, so it was kind of weird when he tried to hug me, but I'm still trying to get used to this. It's still a bit strange, but it's nice. It's a nice feeling."

Asked if they were planning to celebrate Valentine's Day, Fatima laughed and said, "Why not? I can't get too out of thing because I'm pregnant!" She said it's her first baby and that she's due at the end of next month. We asked how her pregnancy was going and she said, "I wouldn't say it was too hard - just tired. That's probably the only symptom that I have." Asked if she was still working and she said she was, adding that she was going on leave two weeks before the baby was due.

On Feb. 14, we spoke to an older man who was spotted on Jerome Avenue in Norwood, purchasing some flowers. Asked if he was in a relationship, he said, "I'm married from 1996." Asked what the secret was to a long and happy marriage, the man smiled softly and said, "You know, you have to listen to your wife. That's the best thing to keep everything in order."

# Jeffrey Dinowitz & Ben Franklin Club Kick Off Reelection Campaigns

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Kicking off his reelection campaign in Riverdale on Sunday, Feb. 8, to retain the northwest Bronx seat he has held for four decades, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) was joined by family, friends, members of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club, and Bronx elected officials, including Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15) and Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), who each took turns to endorse him.

Held at the campaign headquarters he shares with Torres, the assemblyman addressed a packed room of around 80 to 100 people, highlighting his latest legislative achievements and his long-term impact on the district, which includes some or all of Norwood, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, Riverdale, Van Cortlandt Village, Fieldston, Woodlawn, and Wakefield.

In reference to the assemblyman, Gibson spoke about how detrimental it is when communities don't have a voice or an advocate in office who understands that when they are elected, they must deliver. "Over the years, Jeffrey Dinowitz has done just that," the borough president said, in part. "Consistent leadership matters for such a time as this when we are seeing protected programs, safety net programs at risk of being cut, when we are seeing so many of our neighborhood institutions like a supermarket closing, we need our assemblyman to deliver for the people that he represents."

Later, she added in part, "I am proud to support Jeff Dinowitz in his reelection for this year." Torres, who is also running for reelection, said of the assemblyman, in part, "He knows more about our community here in the northwest Bronx than all the elected officials. He knows it, he breathes it. He's the heart and soul of our community, and the institutional memory. I often refer to Jeff Dinowitz as our elder statesman."

The congressman added, "And that's not so much a commentary on his age, but on his wisdom. He truly knows our community. He's been serving it since 1994. I think I was 6 at the time, so I probably knew more about the rugrats than I did about Jeff Dinowitz but for me, the most impressive fact about Jeff is not the longevity of his public service but his effectiveness."



Photo by Sile Moloney

**(L TO R)** CONGRESSMAN RITCHIE TORRES (NY-15), Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11), Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Virginia Krompinger, candidate for female district leader in A.D. 81, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81), Michael Heller, State committee person in A.D. 81, and Ben Jackson, male district leader in A.D. 81, attend a reelection campaign launch event in Riverdale on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

For his part, the councilman later reflected on his time growing up watching the assemblyman, his father, live out a political life. "It's not so much about talking policy over the dinner table or talking about what legislation you're passing, but when you see your dad and your mom contributing to the community in the way they do, it just becomes the natural thing that you do," he said.

The councilman continued, "It isn't a question that your life is going to be in some way or another public service, and I'm surprised that *my kids*, every Friday, instead of coming home, you know what they do every Friday? With my mom, at KRVC [Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation nonprofit], they're giving out food. They're unpacking the boxes. That was just the value system we were raised with in the community."

Later, saying the Trump administration had set its sights on New York, the assemblyman addressed the crowd, saying, "I have the experience and determination to effectively fight back."

In addition to sponsoring several laws down through the years on such matters as voting rights, sex trafficking prevention, environmental protections, sexual assault prosecution, and others, as reported, more recently, in De-

cember 2025, the assemblyman and State Sen. Pete Harckham (S.D. 40) introduced legislation which aims to protect residents from civil arrest while going to, remaining at, or returning from polling places in New York State. According to Harckham and Dinowitz, civil arrests supported by a judicial warrant or a court will still be allowable under the new bill, however.

In October 2025, the assemblyman said he was pleased to know that the City Council was moving ahead with gun reform legislation that he said was similar to a law he sponsored at State level which passed in 2024, which requires the posting of notices and the handing out of those notices when an individual obtains a gun license.

He said a notice is handed out to a person purchasing a firearm and highlights the dangers of ownership, including the increased risk of suicide, death during domestic disputes, and unintentional death to children, household members, and others. He said it also advises the person of the availability of the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Referring to vaccination legislation he also sponsored over the course of his career, the assemblyman talked about how there was an uptick in childhood illnesses like measles in Republican states like

Florida due to, in his view, a lack of similar vaccine legislation. "We take this more seriously," the assemblyman said. "I guarantee you that at some point, some of these lives will have been saved because of this law but we'll never know who they are."

He continued, "That wasn't an easy thing to do, though. Why? I have never been the target of so much hate, threats, intimidation." Jokingly, Torres interjected, saying something to the effect of he was happy to know the assemblyman shared his pain. Torres has been the target of several protests wherever he goes due to what many consider to be his controversial stance on the war in Gaza, and the extent of the campaign contributions he has received from AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee].

The assemblyman continued in part, "It is an honor to fight for our community in the State Assembly, and I'm committed to continue advocating and delivering for Bronx families. From passing the eviction moratorium during the pandemic, to securing the Henry Hudson Bridge Rebate, to counteracting MAGA extremism coming out of Washington, I'm proud of my work and eager to do even more."

The event was also an occasion for the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club to

announce their slate of candidates for various local roles in A.D. 81 in the upcoming Democratic primaries. "The Dinowitz Democratic Team is a group of proven and dedicated community leaders, and we're excited to be running, a subsequently released group statement from the slate read.

"District Leader Ben Jackson, State Committee Member Michael Heller, and State Committee Member Johanna Edmondson are running for re-election to continue their important work," the statement continued. "Virginia Krompinger is running for district leader to build on her years of community leadership. We're eager to talk with voters and fight for our progressive values."

Jackson is the current male district leader for A.D. 81, while Abigail Martin is the female district leader for the district. Martin is a member of the Unity Democratic Club, as reported. Jackson was described as also being "a lawyer who fights corporate fraud and abuse on behalf of unions, pension funds, and retirement systems."

The slate said he's a long-time Democratic Party volunteer, who has spent more than 20 years helping elect Democrats and strengthening voter protection efforts nationwide, including leading the Party's voter assistance and protection hotlines in 2016, and serving on national voter protection teams in 2020 and 2024, work, the slate said, that helped more than 70,000 people exercise their right to vote.

They said that since being elected district leader, Jackson has helped numerous Democrats get on the ballot and win office, organized grassroots canvassing efforts in New York and Pennsylvania, and has led local voter registration and community engagement efforts in the North Bronx. They said he is a dad, husband, and that he and his wife are raising their two young children in the community.

Krompinger was described by the slate as a strong community advocate, a local Democratic leader, and dedicated volunteer who they said is excited to be running for female district leader. The slate said that for 20 years, Krompinger has worked in risk and compliance roles providing services to financial institutions, including regulatory risk and anti-

(continued on page 11)

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## Mental Health First Aid Training

Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN) is hosting a Mental Health First Aid training course Feb. 26 from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for anyone wishing to learn how to identify, understand, and support someone who may be facing mental health or substance use challenges. To learn more and to register, email Pedro Gonzalez at [pgonzalez@bchnhealth.org](mailto:pgonzalez@bchnhealth.org).

## NYC Parks Lifeguard Qualifying Test

All potential lifeguards must pass the Lifeguard Qualifying Test, which includes a vision and swim exam. To qualify, you must be at least 16 years of age by July 18, 2026, have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other, without corrective lenses. (Glasses and contact lenses may not be worn during the eye exam.) and be able to swim 50 yards in 50 seconds or less, with proper form. For more information, visit the Become an NYC Parks Lifeguard page here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards>.

## VCJC Hosts Wellness Event

Van Cortlandt Jewish Center (VCJC), located at 3980 Sedgwick Avenue

Bronx, NY 10463, is hosting a Yoga and Meditation Master Class entitled "Finding a Haven Within" on Sunday, March 1. The program is open to the public and is designed to promote relaxation, mental well-being, and stress reduction for people of all ages, backgrounds and levels and will be led by Prof. Barbara Kitai, who brings over 37 years of experience teaching this method to college students, professionals, athletes, and adults of all ages and backgrounds. The suggested fee for the class is \$15. Participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat if they have one; a limited number of mats will be available on-site.

Advance registration is required. RSVP by Feb. 19 by calling (718) 884-6105 or emailing [info@vcjewishcenter.org](mailto:info@vcjewishcenter.org).

## ABNY Community Grant Program for FIFA World Cup 2026

On Feb. 17, the Association for a Better New York (ABNY) announced "World Cup for All," a collaboration with the FIFA World Cup 2026 New York/New Jersey Host Committee. The World Cup Community Grant Program, a \$250,000 fund will award competitive grants between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to New York City community-based nonprofit organizations for community fan engagement activations and youth recreation programming tied to the World Cup.

Priority consideration will be given to project applications that center historically underserved communities and neighborhoods, projects with a robust community outreach and engagement strategy to residents, and projects that are free and open to the public. Eligible organizations are en-

couraged to apply online by March 13, at <https://bit.ly/4c12hXx>. Applications and grant guidelines are provided in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Interested applicants are also invited to attend a virtual information session on Thursday, Feb. 26. Register at: <https://bit.ly/4aVWQrM>.

## Fordham Road BID Sneaker Design Competition

The Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID) is inviting the community to put its creative stamp on Fordham Road! Participants will be challenged to design a custom sneaker that will be brought to life in a future mural. The competition launches with a special celebration at the Fordham Road IHOP on March 3 at 10.30 a.m., featuring the debut of a limited-edition, sneaker-shaped IHOP pancake in honor of International Pancake Week. For those who can't make the launch, the exclusive sneaker pancake will be available on the menu throughout the summer. More details are to follow on how to enter the contest. Stay tuned.

## Fire Safety Workshop

A fire safety workshop will be hosted by the FDNY Thursday, March 5, from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in conjunction with Bronx Community Board 7's Municipal Services Committee at the Bedford Community Room, 211 East 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx, NY.

## Building Applications Filed with NYC Department of Buildings

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

- 232 & 232 GAR East 201st Street, Bronx, NY 10458, Block 3306 Lot 31 - demolition notice
- 10 Van Cortlandt Avenue East, Bronx, NY 10468, Block 3322, Lot 29 - demolition notice
- 2879 Valentine Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458, Block 3305, Lot 59 - excavation notice

## Domestic Violence Community Conversation

Bronx Community Board 7 and Council Member Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) are hosting domestic violence community conversations in the near future (dates TBC) to help plan, develop and execute DV awareness, prevention and support programming in the district. Be part of the conversation and sign up at [bit.ly/4akOkSQ](https://bit.ly/4akOkSQ).

## Warming Centers

Warming Centers and buses are open to anyone seeking relief from the cold in The Bronx during the cold weather. For the latest list of locations and hours, visit [on.nyc.gov/warmingcenters](https://on.nyc.gov/warmingcenters). It includes DeWitt Clinton High School and North Central Bronx Hospital locally. Meanwhile, the FDNY is reminding res-

idents to clear snow from fire hydrants to ensure they can be accessed in an emergency.

## Animal Care Centers of New York City

Animal Care Centers of New York City (ACC) are appealing for blankets, sheets or towels of all sizes which they say are needed at their Manhattan and Queens shelters to keep pets warm. "Due to resource constraints, we are unable to pick up donations at this time, but we welcome donations with open arms and happy hearts at the shelter!" an extract read. ACC's locations and opening hours for each site can be found here: <https://www.nycacc.org/locations-and-hours/>.

## Summer Youth Employment Program

Applications are now open until Feb. 27 for the Summer Youth Employment Program for City residents aged between 14 and 24. SYEP provides career exploration opportunities and paid work experience. Find more information and to submit your application, visit [on.nyc.gov/YouthEmploy](https://on.nyc.gov/YouthEmploy).

## Higher Education College Fair

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson in conjunction with Bronx Higher Education Task Force will host a Higher Education College Fair March 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hostos Community College, C Building / East Academic Complex, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451 to showcase the academic and support services available at Bronx institutions of higher learning. Email [agaud@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:agaud@bronxbp.nyc.gov) to learn more or call (718) 590-6431.

## Primary Elections Key Dates

The change of address deadline so you can vote at the correct polling location is Monday, June 8. The voter registration deadline is Saturday, June 13. The mail ballot request deadline (requested online or by mail) is Saturday, June 13. Early voting begins Saturday, June 13.

The in-person mail ballot request deadline is Monday, June 22. The mail ballot postmark deadline is Tuesday, June 23. Primary Election Day is also Tuesday, June 23. Only voters enrolled in a political party can vote in that party's primary. The mail ballot receipt deadline is Tuesday, June 30, meaning this is the last day by which the Board of Elections can receive your mail ballot and have it counted.

## When to Contact 988

Call or text 988, or visit [nyc.gov/988](https://nyc.gov/988) for free, confidential mental health support in the following situations: if you or someone you know is worried about the negative impact drugs or alcohol is having; if you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or struggling with daily activi-

ties; if you are looking for mental health or substance use providers in your area; if you are having thoughts of hurting or killing yourself; or if you are concerned about changes in the behavior of someone you care about.

## Heat Season

The NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit is reminding New Yorkers that heat season runs from Oct. 1 to May 31 in New York City and landlords must meet legal requirements to keep homes safe and livable. Tenants in New York City have the right to heat and hot water. Water must be at least 120°F at all times. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., apartments must have heating of at least 68°F when the outdoor temperature falls below 55°F, and at nighttime, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the temperature in apartments must be at least 62°F, regardless of the outdoor temperature.

## NYC Public Interest

### Technology (PIT) Pop-Up

The NYC PIT Pop-Up will be open January through April, Tuesdays–Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. at the Oculus World Trade Center Transit Hub in Lower Manhattan, continuing to host interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and community programming. Plans are in the works to host CUNY-based, open data projects at the Pop-Up in support of Open Data Week in March 2026, and a week focused on Sonic Spaces in April 2026. The NYC PIT Pop Up is organized by the CUNY PIT Lab in partnership with BetaNYC, with support from the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) and the CUNY Office of Research. For more information visit: <https://nycpitpopup.org>.

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

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

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# Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

## EVENTS

The **32<sup>nd</sup> Bronx Parks Speak-Up** event will be held Saturday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lehman College Faculty Dining Room, Music Building, 250 Bedford Park Blvd, Bronx. There will be panel discussions on activating Bronx parks, getting from greenways to waterfronts, the importance of community gardens and more. For more information, visit [www.bronxspakeup.org](http://www.bronxspakeup.org).

Join NYC Parks for **Black History Month: Nature Poetry** and celebrate Black artistic and intellectual history on a poetry and nature hike Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon at Crotona Nature Center in Crotona Park, 1702 Crotona Ave Bronx, New York

10460. This is a free event. Attendees will enjoy the great outdoors while experiencing the nature poetry of some of the greatest African American poets, such as Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4qLflU7>.

The Bronx Music Heritage Center, 438 E 163rd St, Bronx, NY 10451, presents an Open Mic night, **"The Word on 163rd,"** hosted by Somebodies Mama Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. Entry is \$5 with a chance to win \$25 for the best original poem. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4qHly3C>.

## DANCE

In celebration of Black History Month, the Bronx County Historical Society's landmark exhibition, **"When the Bronx Moved: Histories of Dance, 1970-84,"** at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467, will be on display through September 2026. It chronicles the birth of global dance movements in the crucible of

The Bronx, where a generation of youth transformed streets, basements, and community centers into laboratories of kinetic innovation. The public is invited to an opening reception, Saturday, Feb. 28, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## LITERATURE

Join a **Book Talk** with photographer and editor Cengiz Yar at the Bronx Documentary Center, 614 Courtlandt Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451, Monday, Feb. 23, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. in conversation with journalist and producer Sangar Khaleel and photojournalist Victor J. Blue. There will be a presentation on "This Alabaster Grave," a powerful visual examination of Mosul and the lasting impact of war. The book explores the overwhelming destruction and pain faced by the Iraqi city of Mosul, within the context of its history and unique, now largely ruined, architecture. It questions the cost of the fight against ISIS and the global war on terror with a focus on the lives and city that bore the brunt of its destructive force. The photographs were taken

between 2015 and 2023.

## MUSIC

The Bronx Music Heritage Center, 438 E 163rd St, Bronx, NY 10451, presents a free event, **Rueda de Oro**, organized by Juan Ospina Sunday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. Learn the rhythms and dance of Colombian Bullerengue music, then join in the rueda (circle). Learn more at <https://bronxmusicall.org/>.

## MOVEMENT

Sign up for a 5K or 3K family, fun run/walk at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, April 25, and help save red pandas and other amazing wildlife. Enjoy a day at the Bronx Zoo with 10,000+ animals. Race day also includes free Bronx Zoo admission, star attractions and rides like Wild Asia Monorail, a DJ, music and cardio dance, games, activities and face painting, photo booths and wildlife characters, red panda T-shirts and medals, and free parking. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3OlgtAN>.

## Jeffrey Dinowitz & Ben Franklin Club Kick Off Reelection Campaigns

(continued from page 9)

financial crime advisory support. They said she has volunteered with several community organizations and in New York City at-large, including Kiwanis of Riverdale, Youth Leaders on the Move, Harlem Children's Zone, the NYC iMentor program, at various food banks and homeless shelters, and more. She is the former president of the Ben Franklin Democratic Club.

The slate said Edmondson, who was not present at the event, is running for reelection as female State committee member. They said she is described as a community leader, a former teacher and business owner from a proud military family, and that she is dedicated to giving back, believing that community is stronger when people work together. As reported, she is the owner of Female Fight Club, and a Riverdale Main Street Alliance board member.

Norwood News previously reported on questions that had been raised over some funding Edmondson previously received from the councilman in respect of the club. When we reached out for comment, we received a response, which we published, but the questions raised were never directly addressed. For more on that story, visit [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).

The slate went on to say that Edmondson strives to drive positive change in her community, was awarded The Business Council of New York State's 2025 MWBE Award, and one of her proudest achievements was honoring the legacy of northwest Bronx residents, Betty and Lloyd Adams, by facilitating the renaming of a local street in their memory.

The slate said Heller is running for re-election as male state committee



Photo courtesy of Jarrett Murphy

**SOME OF THE** striking nurses at Mount Sinai in Manhattan completed a 12-hour relay run on the picket-line around one of the Manhattan hospitals on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, logging over 30 runners, 333 laps, and 147 miles, most of it in a windy 35 degrees, according to Jarrett Murphy, a pediatric ER nurse.

member. They said he has been active in the community for many years, having served as the district manager of Bronx Community Board 8, and is the former president of the Association of Riverdale Co-ops/Condominiums (ARC). They said he has worked in public affairs at Montefiore/Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi/North Central Bronx Hospital, and the MTA. They said he and his wife live in Riverdale, where they raised their two now-adult children.

In conclusion, referring to the various threats [Jeffrey] Dinowitz said he experienced over his vaccine legislation, which he described as disgusting, the assemblyman said, "One thing I've learned in politics is never back down from things like that. Never give in. Never give up. Always stand your ground. It's the only way to get things done."

The Democratic primaries will be held June 23.

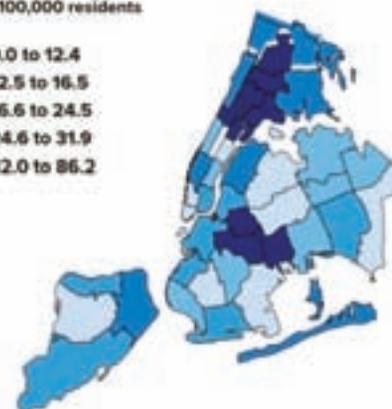
## Citywide Overdose Deaths Decline Though Remain High in Bronx

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Overdose deaths continue to decrease in New York City, according to the latest data from NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) officials. However, they say some neighborhoods, including those in parts of The Bronx, remain disproportionately impacted by the overdose crisis, as seen in the attached graphic. "These deaths are preventable," DOHMH officials say. "New Yorkers can get free naloxone and training in how to use it to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose." Learn more here: <https://on.nyc.gov/3pVScF5>. Read our prior coverage on overdose prevention from July 2025, entitled "Hope on Wheels" online on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org). More to follow.

### Neighborhoods in the Bronx, Upper Manhattan, and Central Brooklyn Have the Highest Rates of Overdose Death

Rate per 100,000 residents



April 1, 2024, to March 30, 2025



Source: NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

**CITYWIDE OVERDOSE DEATH** figures April 1, 2024 to March 30, 2025



### Kingsbridge Heights: Two Women Sought for Robbery and Assault

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photos who they say are wanted in connection with a robbery that occurred in Kingsbridge Heights. Police said that on Monday, Feb. 9, at around 3.30 a.m. in the vicinity of Davidson Avenue and West Kingsbridge Road, two unidentified people approached a

38-year-old man, punched him about the body, threw him to the ground, and kicked him.

"While the victim was on the ground, Individual #1 forcibly removed approximately \$300 from the victim's pants pocket," police said. "Both individuals then fled the location on foot westbound on West Kingsbridge Road. EMS responded and transported the victim to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condi-

tion."

The NYPD said Individual #1 is described as female, has a light complexion, is estimated to be between 25 and 35 years of age, has a medium build, is around 5 feet, 7 inches tall, has long, blonde hair, and was last seen wearing a beige, long-sleeve, crop top, beige leggings, and white shoes.

They said Individual #2 is also described as female, has a light complexion, is also estimated to be around 25 to 35 years of age, has a medium build, is around 5 feet, 10 inches tall, has long, brown hair, and was last seen wearing a jacket, blue jeans, and white shoes.

### Fordham Manor: Man Sought for Assault and Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen in the accompanying photo who they say is wanted in connection with a robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Sunday, Jan. 18, at around 1.30 a.m., in front of 105 East Kingsbridge Road, a 32-year-old male victim was approached by an unidentified person from behind.

"The person punched the victim in the face multiple times and threw him to the ground," police said. "The individual then removed an undisclosed amount of USC and a cellphone from the

victim's pants pockets." Police said the suspect fled the location on foot to parts unknown, and the victim sustained minor injuries but refused medical attention at the scene. They said the suspect is described as male, and he was last seen wearing a gray sweatshirt, a red and black jacket, light colored jeans, 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 Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

## Kingsbridge Heights: Two Teens Slashed/Stabbed, Attackers Sought

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Two teens were hospitalized on Wednesday, Feb. 11, after one was slashed and one was stabbed in the Kingsbridge Heights section of The Bronx, police said. An NYPD spokesperson said that on Feb. 11, at around 2.49 p.m., police responded to a 911 call regarding two males who had been assaulted in front of 2897 Sedgwick Avenue. The address is that of Peter's Deli which is located next to the side of Marie Curie High School. A few other businesses are located nearby.

"Upon arrival officers observed a 16-year-old male with a slash wound to the left side of the neck, and a 14-year-old male with a stab wound to the abdomen," a police spokesperson said. "EMS responded and transported both victims to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. There are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing." Norwood News asked the NYPD if the slashing was being investigated in the context of a fatal shooting of Christophe Redding, 16, at 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in Kingsbridge  
(continued on next page)



**TWO TEENS WERE** hospitalized on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, after one was slashed and one was stabbed outside Marie Curie High School on Sedgwick Avenue in the Kingsbridge Heights section of The Bronx, police said.

Photo by Síle Moloney

# CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Comptrol Book		Week of 02/02/26 - 02/08/26					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	1	0	- %	2	0	- %
Rape	0.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	3	3	0.0 %
Robbery	-38.5 %	28	39	-28.2 %	43	44	-2.3 %
Felony Assault	-35.0 %	55	65	-15.4 %	84	86	-2.3 %
Burglary	0.0 %	16	9	77.8 %	24	13	84.6 %
Grand Larceny	7.7 %	39	57	-31.6 %	53	67	-20.9 %
Grand Larceny Auto	33.3 %	14	22	-36.4 %	19	25	-24.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-18.9 %</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>-19.6 %</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>-4.2 %</b>
Patrol	-26.4 %	148	192	-22.9 %	216	235	-8.1 %
Transit	- %	4	0	- %	6	0	- %
Housing	- %	4	2	100.0 %	6	3	100.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	2	1	100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	2	1	100.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	4	2	100.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Other Sex Crimes	200.0 %	8	7	28.6 %	14	8	75.0 %
Petit Larceny	5.9 %	87	68	27.9 %	114	94	21.3 %
Mid. Assault	142.9 %	76	57	33.3 %	100	75	33.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

\* 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 Feb. 8, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of Feb. 8, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Comptrol Book		Week of 02/02/26 - 02/08/26					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	2	0	- %	2	0	- %
Rape	0.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	3	4	-25.0 %
Robbery	-33.3 %	10	9	11.1 %	15	12	25.0 %
Felony Assault	250.0 %	15	19	-21.1 %	19	25	-24.0 %
Burglary	-33.3 %	7	14	-50.0 %	13	17	-23.5 %
Grand Larceny	-9.1 %	32	37	-13.5 %	43	54	-20.4 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-50.0 %	22	19	15.8 %	29	24	6.3 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-4.0 %</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-11.9 %</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>-11.0 %</b>
Patrol	-8.3 %	65	95	-10.5 %	116	127	-8.7 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %
Housing	100.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	4	7	-42.9 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	4	0	- %	4	0	- %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	2	0	- %	2	0	- %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	1	4	-75.0 %	3	6	-40.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	12	3	300.0 %	18	3	500.0 %
Petit Larceny	0.0 %	76	72	5.6 %	116	92	26.1 %
Mid. Assault	100.0 %	29	32	-8.4 %	36	36	0.0 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %
Traffic Fatalities	- %	1	0	- %	1	0	- %

\* 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 Feb. 8, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of Feb. 8, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

(continued from previous page)

later the same day. We did not receive an immediate response.

It's possible a security camera affixed to Sedgwick supermarket on Sedgwick Avenue located near to and facing Marie Curie High School may have captured the assault since one person later told *Norwood News* that the assault happened in front of the side entrance to the school, and not in front of the deli.

*Norwood News* spoke to a manager at the supermarket on Saturday, Feb. 14, but he did not have access to view the camera and suggested we return when the owner was available. We will share any updates we receive. Several other business owners / employees in the area said they had either been absent on the day of the incident or had been inside working and had not seen what happened.

Norwood News asked NYC Department of Education for comment on the incident and were referred to the NYPD. It's unknown if the victims were students at the school or not. We

await a response from the NYPD.

One man in Peter's Deli, located next door to the school, said his deli had been full with students around the time the incident occurred, and he was busy serving them. A female resident said although "youth police / grief counselors" were available after the incident, she felt more support was needed from the school further down the line for students who had witnessed it.

"This has never happened. We need to tap in and check in and say, 'Are you guys good?' 'cause this is something that happens...." she said. "You guys are witnesses. You guys ran for your lives."

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

Comptrol Book		Week of 02/02/26 - 02/08/26					
		28 Day			Year to Date		
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Rape	-66.7 %	3	6	-50.0 %	3	8	-62.5 %
Robbery	8.3 %	43	27	59.3 %	61	37	37.8 %
Felony Assault	-17.6 %	59	62	-4.8 %	83	80	3.8 %
Burglary	-50.0 %	11	18	-38.9 %	17	23	-26.1 %
Grand Larceny	-5.6 %	56	70	-20.0 %	77	90	-14.4 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-80.0 %	15	13	15.4 %	18	23	-21.7 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-19.7 %</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>-4.6 %</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>-4.6 %</b>
Patrol	-20.3 %	178	192	-7.3 %	238	256	-7.0 %
Transit	-50.0 %	6	4	50.0 %	5	5	0.0 %
Housing	- %	3	0	- %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	1	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	1	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	-66.7 %	3	6	-50.0 %	4	8	-50.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	7	4	75.0 %	9	6	50.0 %
Petit Larceny	16.7 %	112	111	0.9 %	173	176	-1.7 %
Mid. Assault	260.0 %	76	42	81.0 %	103	61	68.9 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

\* 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 Feb. 8, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of Feb. 8, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

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## Public and Community Meetings

The next 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., at the DOE Building, 3100 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. 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, Feb. 24, 2026, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP NYC Public Schools, 2720 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto: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) general board meeting will be held in March. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list.

The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION monthly meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## Norwood: Car Overtakes on E Gunhill Road in Freezing Conditions

*(continued from page 6)*

Many were shocked to hear of it.

According to [reporting](#) by The Guardian, New York State is experiencing one of its longest stretches of freezing temperatures since 1960, with at least 17

people already dead across the City since the cold snap began, at least 13 of those linked to hypothermia, as of Feb. 7. Meanwhile, the news outlet also reported that the City estimated that 800 homeless people had been moved indoors, and quoted NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani saying,

“We have been taking every possible measure to get New Yorkers inside. This has been a full all-hands-on-deck approach.”

The NYPD Highway District Collision Investigation Squad investigates any criminal aspects of vehicle collisions, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the crash locations. There have been no traffic fatalities in the 52nd Precinct, where the car overturned, as of Feb. 8, according to the NYPD.

Many animal rescue organizations are encouraging New Yorkers to help street cats and dogs in whatever way they can to prevent them from freezing outside. (Squirrels eat unsalted nuts.)



Photo by Síle Moloney

**AT THE SITE** of a single vehicle, early morning car accident that took place on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at 325 East Gunhill Road in the Norwood section of The Bronx, a street sign is seen toppled over later on Sunday afternoon.



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# Christopher Redding Remembered

(continued from page 1)

ing. On Feb. 12, police released photos of four suspects and on Feb. 14, announced that pursuant to an ongoing investigation, an unnamed 17-year-old male was arrested at 2.45 p.m. in the confines of the 50th Precinct.

According to Christopher's mother, Champagne Christian, her son was born in Toombs County, Georgia, and moved to the New York City area when he was just one. She said the family spent time on Belmont Avenue and Honeywell Avenue, before settling in their current home in the Mt. Eden section of the borough.

Christian recalled her son's love of football and basketball and how her son played for several different football teams before joining the roster of the John F. Kennedy Knights on Nov. 5, 2025. According to the Kennedy Knights roster, Christopher, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, was a running back with the team and had played just two games with the Knights, a 36-31 win against South Shore High School on Nov. 7, and a season ending loss of 51-36 to Lincoln High School of Brooklyn on Nov. 15.

Christian went on to recall the outpouring of support she received from Christopher's friends amid their grief, telling *Norwood News*, "I've gotten a dozen calls from his friends." She said they had been posting photos and memories of Christopher "every minute of the day every day since it happened. They've been reaching out to me." She added, "His girlfriend has been a big help. She's been keeping me informed of a lot of things that's been going on."

Asked if she had been told of the arrest of one of the four suspects announced just a couple of hours earlier, Christian responded, "Yes, I know. The detective called me. Yes, they called me and told me that."

Recalling the fateful day her son died, Christian said, "My son, that day when he got out of school, he always got something to eat. He always called me or

his dad for money. I sent my baby his last \$25 and he told me he was going to Chipotle." She continued, "He was on his way back to his football practice and one of his friends called him from inside that McDonalds and after that, I got a call that my son was shot."

Asked how she was coping, Christian said, "Well, this is like the most I've been able to talk since it happened, but I want my son's story out there. I want everybody to know that my son was a phenomenal football player, and he had dreams of going to the NFL."

Christian continued, "The precinct is right next to McDonalds. I don't get it." She continued, "There was a cop car. He (Christopher) was walking with friends and I can't really remember his friend's name right now because my mind is so cloudy, but his friend told me he had to run to the cop car in order to get help for my son when they were just sitting in the car, and I know they had to hear those shots going off."

When told about a witness's statement that teens are often fighting in the area, and that police allegedly "don't get involved" because they're just kids, Christian replied, "That's not right. What are they there for then? I want to know what are the police there for? Aren't they there to protect us? To take care of our kids?"

Christian continued, "One of the people that he knows called my son and made him leave. He was on his way to practice, leave from what he was about to do to come help them and these are the repercussions that me and my family have to deal with because my son is so genuine to other people, so kind and always wanting to help everybody else."

Asked what she would say to the three additional teens sought by detectives for questioning, Christian replied, "Turn yourselves in. Everybody loves my son... and we're not going to rest until they're held accountable for what they did. And the police did not do their job. I feel like they did not do their job. How dare you hear gunshots, and you know this is a

time when these kids are supposed to be getting out of school. What job were you actually doing?" *Norwood News* reached out to the NYPD for comment on Christian's remarks. We did not receive an immediate response.

Besides the heartbroken parents, Christopher also leaves behind a brother and two sisters. On Friday, Feb. 13, *Norwood News* had spoken to a male acquaintance of the family who, along with his own son, was visiting Christopher's family. Asked how the family were doing, the adult friend said, "They're taking it pretty hard."

Asked what Christopher was like, the adult friend who declined to be

identified, said, "He was a very good kid. He just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, you know? His regular thing was to come home, go to school, come home. Actually, I think he was at football practice [the day he was killed]."

The man added, "I guess he was with a couple of friends and was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and then troublemakers came around and that's how that happened, but he was a good kid. He didn't deserve that at all. None of them deserved that. It's just a bad situation. We need more control over these young kids, you know because these young kids getting these hands on these weapons and nobody trying to figure out where these kids is getting these weapons from."

The man continued, "They have to get to the bottom of the line on that, first. How is it that they're getting their hands on these weapons?" In June 2022, *Norwood News* reported on a situation at a Harlem charter school that two Bronx students attended where a 17-year-old male student was found to have been in possession of a loaded 9 mm gun on the school campus and was arrested.

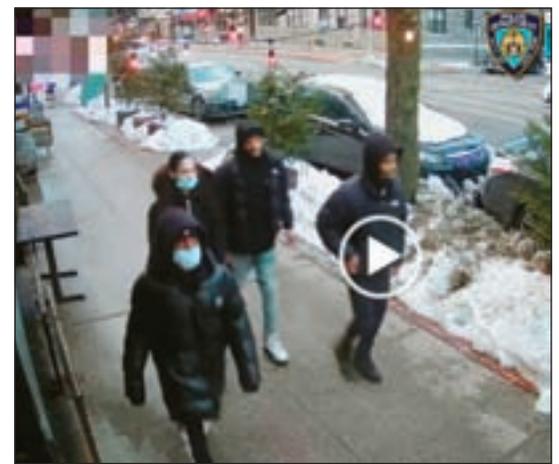
Regarding metal detectors at the Harlem school, the mother of the affected Bronx students later told *Norwood News* at the time, "We got another email [from the school], stating that they only scanned the high schoolers before entering the school and that's it." She added, "But there are siblings, and how do we know if the teens are not asking younger students who are not being scanned or checked to hold a weapon until they get in the building? We need stricter laws."

*Norwood News* later asked the school [part of a charter school group called DPPS] about the scanner situation and a spokesperson said, "DPPS has not implemented metal detectors indefinitely at its schools. They are using metal detectors / wand scanners this week at both high schools on 123rd street out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with NYPD and DOE school safety guidance. Only high school students are scanned."

When we recounted this story to Christopher's friend on Feb. 13, he said, "That's another thing that's going on too. You got a lot of these older guys that's handing these things down to these younger youth and knowing that if they do it, it's not so much consequences [jail time] as if an older person does it, so they're using them as pawns."

We asked the man if he was referring to older guys handing over guns to youth to simply carry them or to actually use them, or both, and the man said both. "Yeah, that's the world we're living in now," he said.

A vigil for Christopher, whose nickname was CJ, was held on Feb.



Video courtesy of the NYPD

**POLICE ARE APPEALING** to the public for help identifying these people who they say are wanted for questioning in connection with the murder of 16-year-old boy Christopher Redding and the nonfatal shooting of two other teens at Broadway and West 238th Street in the Kingsbridge section of The Bronx on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.

18, a week after he died at the location where he was shot, and was attended by friends, family, clergy, and elected officials, including Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, and members of the Kennedy Knights Football team.

Christopher's mother said, "My son was an amazing kid. He was an awesome son, and I want these kids to pay and there's still four other people out here. I want them picked up." Speaking of her son, Christian added, "He wasn't in a gang, my son was a good son."

After offering her condolences to the family, Clark told the crowd, "I take this personal. Your son was my son. My job is to protect the people of The Bronx; that's what I do all day, every day. I'm heartbroken over this." Clark added, "I met with the homicide team this afternoon to get a follow up on what's going on. Yes, you're right, we have to do more with our youth. I'm losing a generation of my young children to these shootings, to this senseless violence."

Christopher's father, Bryan Corley, called out NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, saying, "Mayor Mamdani, you said that the NYPD is doing a great job. Imagine your son getting killed and then you hear that the person who held your son at his last breath had to knock on a police door of a cop car that was right there, and they're sitting inside." It's unclear if Corley's comment in respect of the mayor was in the context of his son's investigation or a general comment. *Norwood News* is seeking to clarify this.

Speaking directly to the assailants, Christian added, "You broke me. You took everything from me. I don't get to see my son have kids. I don't see him getting married. I don't get to see him walking across the stage. I want justice for my son. Justice for CJ!"

The arrested teen is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. Meanwhile, a GoFundMe page has been created to help support Christopher's family. The link is as follows: <https://bit.ly/46L9asm>.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**POLICE ARE SEEN** at Broadway and West 238th street in Kingsbridge, The Bronx, after a multiple shooting on Feb. 11, 2026, in which Christopher Redding, 16, was fatally shot.

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