

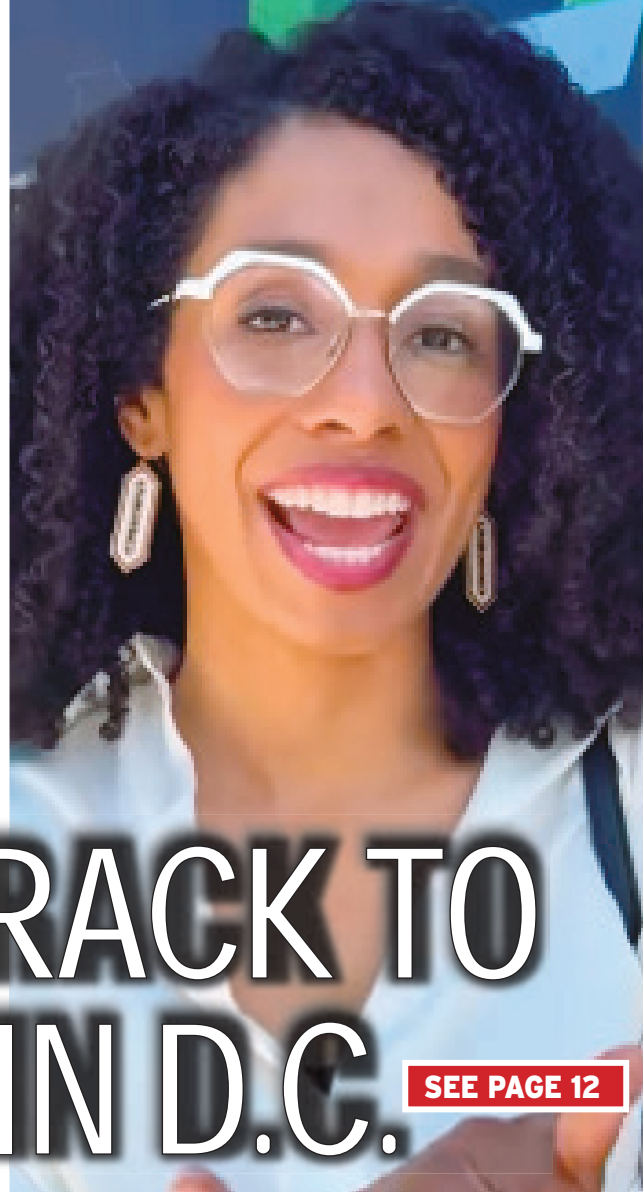


NORWOOD NEWS

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DAC ON TRACK TO JOIN AOC IN D.C.

SEE PAGE 12

Images (left to right) courtesy of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Darializa Avila-Chevalier respectively

SHOULD SHE WIN the general election in November 2026, Darializa Avila Chevalier (right), who won the Democratic primary in New York's 13th congressional district on June 23, 2026, beating longtime incumbent Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), she will join fellow progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) in Washington D.C. next year.



NYPD Sgt. Hit by Stolen Car, One Civilian Shot
pg 2



Voter Reaction to Primaries
pg 6



World Cup Fever Hits The Bronx
pg 6

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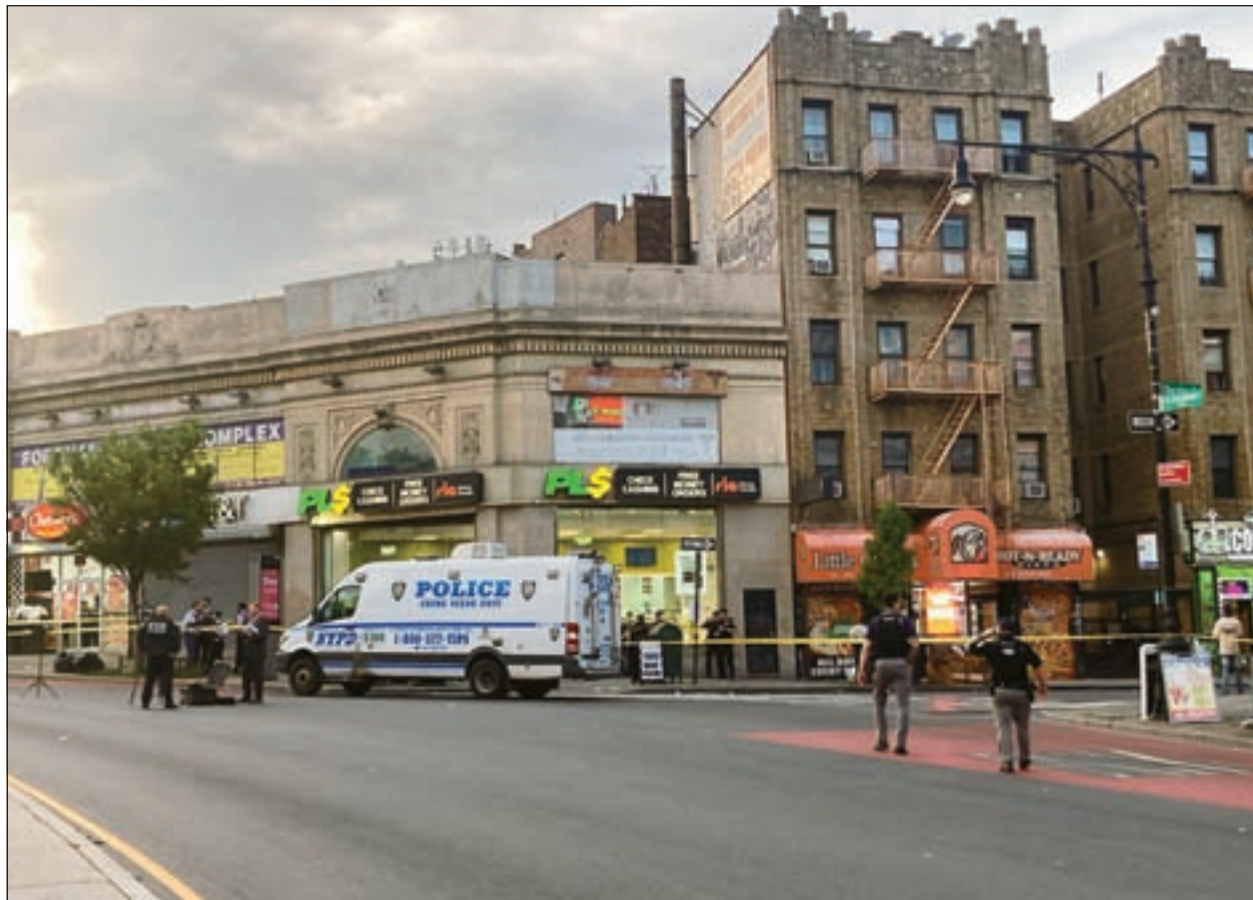


Photo by Sile Moloney

POLICE CORDON OFF the crime scene after an investigation by police into a stolen vehicle, which was seen by officers parked on East Fordham Road near Webster Avenue in the Fordham Manor section of The Bronx, resulted in an NYPD sergeant getting struck by the vehicle and the shooting by a police officer of the driver of the vehicle on Sunday evening, June 21, 2026.

NYPD Sgt Hit with Stolen Car, One Civilian Shot, Other Officers Injured

By **SILE MOLONEY**

An NYPD sergeant and a civilian driver were hospitalized on Sunday, June 21, after an investigation into a stolen vehicle in Fordham Manor resulted in the sergeant getting hit by the stolen vehicle and the driver getting shot by another police officer, police said. A 20-year-old man and an 18-year-old male youth have since been charged with various offenses, police said. Other NYPD personnel were also injured during the incident which took place on East Fordham Road between Webster Avenue and Marion Avenue, they said.

A police spokesperson initially said that at around 5.35 p.m. on Sunday, police approached a vehicle that was suspected to have been stolen. They said the vehicle subsequently moved forward and hit a sergeant at the scene and the vehicle driver was shot in the arm.

They said the sergeant and the vehicle driver were transported to hospital and are in stable condition. They said the driver and another vehicle passenger were taken into custody. They said the sergeant was first hit by the car, fell backwards and his head hit the street, and that other police officers were also injured, though their injuries appear to have been less serious.

One person was seen in social media footage of the incident being placed on

the ground and cuffed by police while the sergeant is seen lying on the street nearby surrounded by other police officers.

A press conference was held at the scene later with NYPD Assistant Chief Aneudy Castillo, the newly appointed commanding officer of Patrol Borough Bronx North, Det. Inspector Paul Muggeo, executive officer of the NYPD Force Investigations Division, and NYPD Deputy Chief Oswaldo Nuñez, executive officer of Patrol Borough Bronx North.

Castillo said that at 5.35 p.m. on Sunday, police received an alert from a license plate reader that a stolen vehicle, a silver Kia Sportage with New Jersey licensed plates, was traveling through Washington Heights in Manhattan. He said the car had been reported stolen on Saturday, June 20, from another area of The Bronx.

"A short time later, around 5.45 p.m., there was a subsequent alert that showed that the vehicle had traveled northwest and was going east across University Heights bridge," he said. "NYPD Aviation began tracking the stolen vehicle as it moved through The Bronx in order to notify units from the community response team about the stolen vehicle."

Castillo continued, "The units from the community response team located

the vehicle as it was traveling eastbound on West Fordham Road, crossing Cedar Avenue. Those units began to covertly follow the stolen vehicle for about one mile until it made a stop and a passenger got out of the car."

He continued, "The vehicle then resumes driving for about two blocks and ultimately stopped outside of 380-382 East Fordham Road [the location of the incident] at approximately 5.56 p.m. At that point, six unmarked NYPD vehicles surrounded the stolen vehicle that was stopped to prevent the car from fleeing the location. Multiple members of the community response team got out of the vehicle and surrounded the stolen vehicle, instructing the driver and the passenger to get out of the car multiple times."

Castillo continued, "As members of the NYPD were around the car, the driver of the stolen vehicle put the car into reverse, hitting one of the unmarked vehicles and ultimately hitting multiple members of the NYPD. He then put the Kia into drive and turned the wheels of the Kia to the right where the sergeant was standing. He drove the car into the sergeant who was thrown to the ground. Another officer jumped onto a parked vehicle to avoid being struck."

The assistant chief added, "The

(continued on page 17)



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INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DAVID GREENE



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on the NYPD's recent implementation of the split of the former Patrol Borough Bronx (344 employees) into north (275 employees) and south (275 employees) divisions, as announced earlier this year, bringing around 100 additional officers to each of the new north and south command centers. NYPD Assistant Chief Aneudy Castillo has been named as the new head / commanding officer of Patrol Borough Bronx North. Assistant Chief Brian C. Hennessy would be running Patrol Borough Bronx South (PBXS). Former NYPD Assistant Chief Benjamin D. Gurley had been appointed to run Patrol Borough Bronx North (PBXN), but on Sunday, May 24, Gurley was reportedly involved in an off-duty shooting in Rockland County. An NYPD spokesperson said of the incident, "On Sunday night, an NYPD executive was involved in an off-duty incident in the Town of Haverstraw. The Haverstraw Police Department is leading the investigation into that incident. The matter is also under review by the NYPD's Force Investigation Division and Internal Affairs Bureau. The executive's duty status is modified." Norwood News reached out to Gurley's union in efforts to reach his legal representation for comment on the incident. We did not receive an immediate response but will share any updates we receive. Gurley is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



"Well, I think it depends on what they focus on. More cops alone isn't really going to solve the problem. There's a lot of things where the cops don't respond right now, even when they're around. So, I guess it really depends on decision-making at the precinct level about what they are going to focus on; just having more cops is not the answer. The cops that we have now aren't even doing what they should be doing. They are not handling traffic properly; they're not doing citations. I see a lot of cops just standing around all over the borough."

David Knapp,
Riverdale
Photo by David Greene



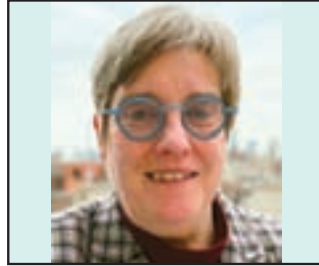
"If it helps bring down crime, I'm all for it. Unfortunately, crime has obviously been a rapid issue with The Bronx. It's one of the things we've been infamous about for so many years. The North Bronx actually has less crime, particularly once you get past Fordham (Road), but there's still a lot of problems. We get discounted at how many issues we really have in our community."

George Diaz, Jr.,
Norwood
Photo by David Greene



"Additional police presence may help with response and visibility, but real safety in Bedford Park and Norwood also comes from investing in community programs, youth opportunity, and quality of life."

Elizabeth Quaranta,
Bedford Park
Photo by Sile Moloney



"I did hear that, and I've been seeing a lot of police on White Plains Road from about East 219 Street up to East 233 Street. I think it is a good start, but I would like to see a bit more visibility up to East 241 Street."

Mary O'Shaughnessy,
Wakefield
Photo courtesy of Mary O'Shaughnessy



"I do like the plan; I hope it does work, but I don't think it is going to have a great impact because of attrition. Too many are leaving, and the [100] coming is just a drop in the bucket. I also think that a precinct as big as the 45th needs to be split into two. Logically, how can you cover emergencies from as far up as Co-Op City to Throggs Neck or Ferry Point or Westchester Square? Plus, there is Bay Plaza. The 45th Precinct is the largest precinct geographically. As far as splitting between north and south units, I really hope that helps each commander who now deals with a smaller zone instead of the whole Bronx."

Debby Kawalick,
Morris Park
Photo courtesy of Debby Kawalick

Editor's Note: Norwood News reached out to the NYPD for comment on this feature. We will share any feedback we receive. In early June, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch noted that overall citywide major crime was down in May, and the new Patrol Borough Bronx South command similarly saw a decrease in year-to-date index crimes in May. However, conversely, much of the Northwest Bronx (52nd, 50th and 46th Precincts) saw a rise in year-to-date crime in several major categories. Norwood News asked the commissioner if she had any comments in that regard during a press conference on Monday, June 15, 2026. "The crime declines that we have seen generally, in the borough of the Bronx, particularly in the South Bronx, have really been historic across the borough so far this year," Tisch said in part. "Of course, there are always going to be problem areas, problem precincts, and that's why we use the CompStat process (NYPD crime data collection tool), and we do deployments of officers to places where we're seeing crime go up." George Diaz Jr. ran unsuccessfully for New York State in A.D. 81 in 2022.

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NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Love & Pride Fuel FIFA World Cup 2026

Love and pride for heritage and culture is being witnessed across The Bronx amid the 2026 FIFA World Cup as the soccer tournament, hosted by the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, gets into full swing. On June 11, *Norwood News* spoke to Michelle Vazquez on the Grand Concourse in Bedford Park who was sporting a Mexican jersey and carrying some takeaway food into her home on the day Mexico won their first Group A stage game against South Africa 2-0. "I'm American but my parents are Mexican, from *Pueblo Tulcingo [de Valle]*," she said beaming and adding, "I'm actually surprised that they actually won today 2-0, so hopefully, they win the World Cup 'cause they really need it but I'm so happy!" Vazquez said her favorite players are Alexis Vega and Raúl Jiménez.

On Election Night, June 23, *Norwood News* spoke to a group of Columbians on Jerome Avenue in Norwood, who were also decked out in their team's jerseys and who were visiting the United States for the tournament. We asked them how Columbia's World Cup campaign in Group K was going. Speaking in Spanish and English, the fans said they were about to watch Columbia's next game against the Democratic Republic of Congo at 10 p.m. "We're excited!" one woman said. *Norwood News* asked if they were confident of a win. "We're going to win, 3-1!" one man predicted.

Columbia is in the same group as hotly tipped Portugal, DR of Congo, and Uzbekistan, who they already beat 3-0 in a friendly prior to the tournament, they said. Asked what Columbia's best export was, the man said, "*El Vallenato*, the music *Vallenato*, our own music, the *Cumbia* (music), the people!" Another fan shouted, "The food, the food!" One woman said with anticipation, "The last match is against Portugal!" Asked where they watched the games, they said in fan zones, including one in Queens. "In Queens, there's a lot of Columbian people," the woman said. As they posed for a photo, they said, "*Viva Columbia!*"

Meanwhile, one young employee who works in a deli on the corner of Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway in Norwood is watching the tournament closely and is confident Portugal will go the distance. For information about fan zones, transportation to the games, and more, visit <https://nynjfwc26.com/fan-event>. Front-page, third sidebar photo by Miriam Quiñones

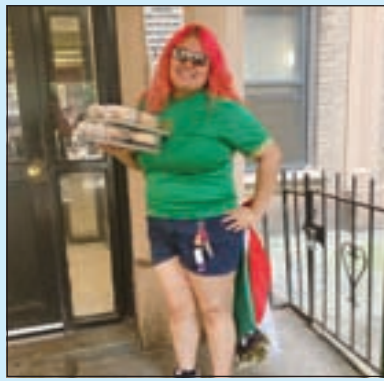


Photo by Síle Moloney

MICHELLE VAZQUEZ, a Mexican soccer team supporter, is seen on June 11, 2026, in Bedford Park.



Photo by Síle Moloney

A GROUP OF visiting Columbian soccer team supporters to the United States pose for a photo on Jerome Avenue in Norwood on Election Night, June 23, 2026.

New Head of Patrol Borough Bronx North

The NYPD said the latest new head of the recently implemented Patrol Borough Bronx North is NYPD Assistant Chief Aneudy Castillo. *Norwood News* has asked the NYPD for a biography of Castillo and will share further details as they become available.

At a street co-naming ceremony on Sept. 16, 2023, for the late NYPD Det. First Grade Jason Rivera, a rookie officer killed during a response to a domestic violence incident in Harlem on January 21, 2022, along with NYPD Det. First Grade Wilbert Mora, who also died, and Third Grade Det. Sumit Sulan, who was injured, then NYC Mayor Eric Adams said in part of Castillo, "We thank Inspector Aneudy Castillo and his team at the 34: NYDO, the DEA, PBA, the Department of Transportation, and all other city organizations and agencies and individuals involved in putting this event together."

According to the NYPD, the 34th Precinct covers the communities of Washington Heights and Inwood in Northern Manhattan, north of West 179th Street, covering two square miles, with 500 acres of parkland, including Inwood Hill Park and Fort Tyron Park.

Meanwhile, the website 50-a.org, which compiles complaints of misconduct made against members of police departments, published details of an allegation of verbal discourtesy made by a female Hispanic complainant against Aneudy as of November 2010, along

with the Civilian Complaints Review Board (CCRB) conclusion following their investigation into the complaint. The complainant was seemingly uncooperative.

In the published summary, Castillo was described as deputy chief at Patrol Borough Manhattan North (since February 2025), and it was noted that he had also served at the 34th Precinct, the 23rd Precinct, and the 115th Precinct. According to the NYPD, the 23rd Precinct covers East Harlem, or El Barrio, north of East 96th Street, and is primarily a residential area, with some small commercial districts.

Meanwhile, the 115th Precinct serves a northern portion of Queens, encompassing Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, and North Corona. The precinct patrol responsibilities also include LaGuardia Airport. According to the website, 50-a.org, Castillo commenced his service with the NYPD in July 2005.

Norwood News reached out to the CCRB for more information about the allegation brought against Castillo and were provided with the above summary (CCRB NYPD Officer History).

The former unified Patrol Borough



Photo courtesy of the NYPD

NYPD ASSISTANT CHIEF Aneudy Castillo has been named as the new head / commanding officer of the recently implemented Patrol Borough Bronx North

Bronx had a total employee count of 344. Under the new Patrol Borough Bronx North (PBXN) structure and new Patrol Borough Bronx South (PBXN) structure, **each** will have the same number of employees. This means a total employee count in **each** new borough command of 275 employees, comprising 253 uniformed personnel and 22 civilian employees.

Voters Share Reflections on Primary Day

By **SÍLE MOLONEY & MIRIAM QUIÑONES**

Norwood News spoke to some voters in and around Bronx Community District 7 in the North Bronx on Election Day to ask for their reflections and views on the primaries on June 23. We first spoke to some voters in the vicinity of Kingsbridge Road and Jerome Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights section close to P.S. 86 and P.S. 340 polling stations.

Asked if he wanted to say who he voted for, Herman, a resident living near Poe Park, said, "I'm a registered Democrat so I cast my ballot in the primary. I voted for Ritchie Torres for Congress." Asked if he wanted to say why he voted for Torres, he said, "Ritchie Torres has been vocal about getting federal resources into The Bronx, and I feel like he actually understands the working-class struggles here. We need people who don't just show up right before an election but are consistently visible in the community."

Norwood News asked what his top voting issue was. Herman said, "Honestly, it's a tie between housing affordability and public safety. Rent prices in The Bronx are getting entirely out of hand, and a lot of families I know are being priced out. We also just want to feel secure walking home from the Fordham Road subway station at night."

Norwood News also spoke to an-



Photo by Síle Moloney

ALESSIA, A VOTER and physician exits the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center temporarily erected polling site in Norwood off East Gun Hill Road after voting on Election Night, June 23, 2026.

other voter and Fordham resident who declined to be identified and asked if they wanted to say who they voted for. "Let the best person win. They all say this and that and once they get the vote, they do not follow up on what they said," the voter said. "Thankfully the ballot scanners were working perfectly fine today. The poll workers wrapped my ballot in a privacy sleeve. I slid it in, and the machine counted it on the first try: smooth sailing."

Asked if he was a first-time voter, the voter said, "Nope, I've been voting in municipal and federal elections

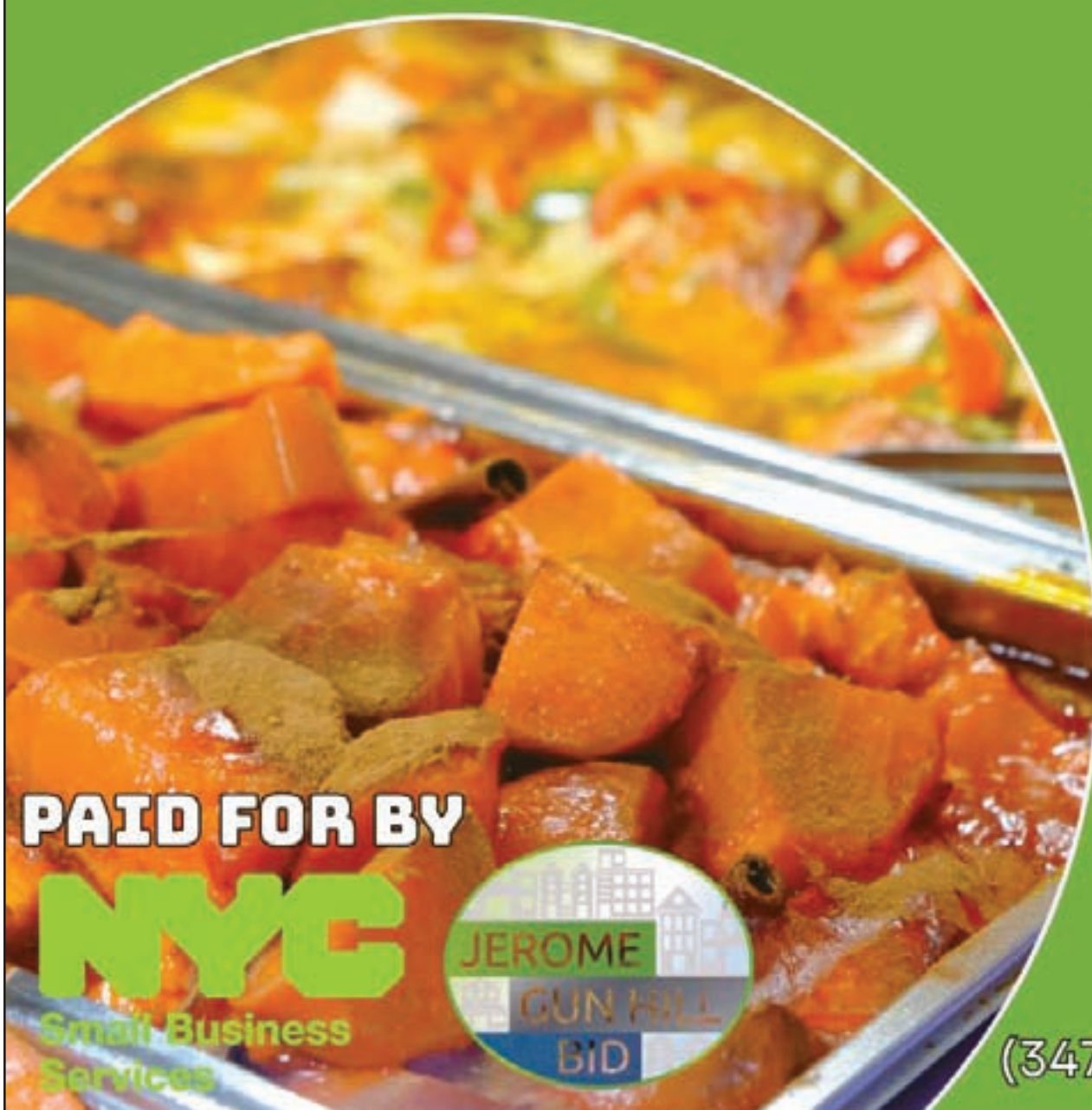
(continued on page 17)



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Opinion

Orange and Blue Sunset: The True Majesty from 1999 to 2026

By **MICHAEL COLON**

Just like the beginning of a Broadway play, the stage is bare and the curtains gently rise, causing the audience to lean forward in their seats with growing anticipation. Hands clap, voices cheer, and passion blends seamlessly with appreciation as the performers bring a story to life. The theater shines brightly as the actors showcase their art, creating an experience that captivates everyone watching.

In many ways, Madison Square Garden is a theater of its own, putting on a show every year called the New York City Knicks. If I may paint the picture for you, imagine a polished hardwood basketball court, painted in the colors of a city's long history of pain, perseverance, and triumph. The squeak of sneakers from some of the greatest athletes in the world becomes part of a beautiful dance centered around an orange basketball and a ten-foot hoop.

Now imagine a team dressed in orange and blue putting on a Broadway production filled with explosive athleticism, masterful skill, and emotion powerful enough to touch your soul. It is a story about heartbreak, joy, resilience, and overtime victories. The orange and blue jerseys glisten beneath the arena lights while sweat drips from the players as they fight to bring another victory to the Garden of hoop dreams.

As a kid growing up in the northern part of The Bronx and spending countless hours playing on the city's playground courts, I can confidently say that New York City embodies the idea of survival of the fittest. My love for basketball became my first true passion, and with that passion came my loyalty to my first sports team: the New York Knickerbockers.

I became a Knicks fan during the early 2000s, an era led by players such as Stephon Marbury, Jamal Crawford, David Lee, Nate Robinson, and Eddy Curry before eventually transitioning into the Carmelo Anthony years. Those teams shaped my childhood and adolescence, and many of my earliest memories of basketball are painted in orange and blue hues glowing from a television screen.

I always looked forward to turning on MSG Network and hearing Mike Breen call games alongside Walt "Clyde" Frazier. Breen's excitement and Clyde's signature rhymes became part of the soundtrack of my youth. I still remem-



Photo courtesy of the Kara McCurdy / Mayoral Photography Office

NEW YORK CITY Mayor Zohran Mamdani awards Keys to the City of New York to the New York City Knicks and honors them at both a ticker-tape parade along the "Canyon of Heroes" and a City Hall ceremony on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

ber the first pair of Starbury sneakers my grandfather bought me downtown. To many people they were simply a pair of affordable basketball shoes, but to me they represented a connection to the game and the team that had already become such an important part of my life.

Beneath the neon glow of those orange and blue lights, Knicks fans always wanted more. I remember Jamal Crawford's incredible scoring displays and his ability to make difficult shots look effortless. I remember David Lee's miraculous left-handed tip-in at the buzzer against Charlotte, a play that felt impossible even after seeing the replay. I remember the gravity-defying athleticism of Nate Robinson and the way he seemed to soar above players much taller than him. Later came the comeback victories led by Carmelo Anthony, the thunderous dunks of Amar'e Stoudemire, and the electrifying highlights provided by J.R. Smith. Those moments were more than sports highlights to me; they became cherished memories tied to specific moments in my life.

Basketball gave me an outlet when I needed one most. The court near the train tracks became a place where I could process my emotions, challenge myself, and temporarily escape the difficulties that life sometimes presented. Through the game, I found confidence, purpose, and a healthy way to express myself. Looking back now, I realize that the orange and blue lights of Knicks basketball illuminated something much deeper than wins and losses. They revealed how powerful sports can be in helping people endure difficult times and continue moving forward.

One of my favorite memories is when my grandfather took my younger brother and me to our first Knicks game against the Toronto Raptors while I was

a junior in high school. Walking into Madison Square Garden felt like entering a cathedral dedicated to basketball. The retired jerseys hanging from the rafters stood as reminders of the players who had proudly represented the franchise before my generation ever arrived. Just like the legends of Rucker Park and the countless playground players whose names may never appear in record books, those jerseys represented stories worth preserving and passing down.

Stories are ultimately what sports give us. They connect generations, neighborhoods, and communities. From Rucker Park to local courts with bent rims and missing nets, the Knicks exist as part of New York City's basketball culture. The team belongs not only to Madison Square Garden, but also to every player dribbling a basketball somewhere within the five boroughs. Whether it is a child dreaming of making the NBA, or an adult reliving memories from decades ago, the Knicks remain woven into the identity of the city itself.

As I write this essay, Game 1 of the 2026 NBA Finals is only a few days away. The match-up carries echoes of the 1999 Finals against the San Antonio Spurs, but this version of the story belongs to a new generation. The Knicks are led by Jalen Brunson, whose toughness, leadership, and relentless determination have made him the heart of the franchise. Standing across from him is Victor Wembanyama, the Spurs' generational talent whose extraordinary combination of size, skill, and potential has already inspired comparisons to some of the greatest players the sport has ever seen. Sports media continues to speculate about just how great Wembanyama's career may become, and there is a genuine possibility that those projections will prove accurate. If that happens, it

will only make this chapter of Knicks history even more memorable.

Regardless of how this Finals series ends, it has already reminded me of the magic that made basketball such an important part of my life growing up. It has reminded me of afternoons spent on playground courts, evenings spent watching games with family, and countless moments when hope felt stronger than logic. Sports have a unique ability to reconnect us with different versions of ourselves, and this Knicks run has done exactly that for me.

When I imagine an orange and blue sunset stretching across a summer evening sky, I imagine a city united by belief. I imagine the Knicks finally standing at the top of the basketball world while fans celebrate throughout the five boroughs. More importantly, I imagine what that victory would represent for the generations of supporters who remained loyal through decades of disappointment and rebuilding. Hope would no longer seem irrational. It would feel justified.

For every Knicks jersey worn with pride, every basketball dribbled on a city court, and every fan who continued believing through the highs and lows, the dream would finally feel complete. The story would not simply belong to the players on the court but to the people of New York themselves.

Go New York! Go New York! Go!

Editor's Note: Norwood News received Mr. Colon's op-ed / essay on June 7 but, due to space limitations, we were unable to include it in our last print edition. For anyone living under a rock, the New York Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs in five games on Saturday, June 13, in San Antonio, Texas, after a 53-year drought, crowning the team 2026 NBA Champions.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY
SÍLE MOLONEY

Share Your Ideas for the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood

NYC Parks is asking residents to share their ideas about how to improve the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood, as well as the reconstruction of the park. A virtual meeting was held June 3 but residents can still provide their feedback via the following link: <https://bit.ly/4vyaPLK>. For more information, contact Katerine Borrome at Katerine.Borrome@parks.nyc.gov or on (718) 430 1801. You can also visit nyc.gov/parks under the Capital Project Tracker section.

Fire Safety

Visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips. "During a fire, always close the door behind you!" fire officials say. "It helps contain smoke and flames, giving you precious time to escape." Sign up for a free smoke alarm here: <https://bit.ly/3Qgzvto>.

The FDNY encourages New Yorkers to use spray caps to open hydrants. "If you'd like to cool off with a hydrant, make sure you do it safely and legally, using a spray cap," an extract from the NYC Department of the Environment (DEP) website reads. "When hydrants are opened without a spray cap, they can use 1,000 gallons of water per minute (or more), reducing water pressure in the surrounding area, making it harder for the fire department to fight fires when necessary."

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The NYPD Community Affairs Bureau Youth Strategies Division has an Options Wellness Center located at Bergen Building, 1932 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, for youth aged 12-19 which offers homework help, a tech lab, gaming, music, chess, videography, fitness, art and young men & women leadership training.

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.

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Affordable Housing Lotteries

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

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EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES
\$40-\$50 per month	-\$480-\$600 per year	\$12-\$28 per employee / month	-\$144-\$336 per employee / year

Based on \$14.29 payroll tax savings on pre-tax benefits

10 employees =

\$120-\$280
per month saved

-\$1,440-\$3,360
per year

Dependent Care Savings (FSA)
Daycare, after-school programs, summer camps, elder care & more.

EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES
\$300-\$1,200 per year	-\$1,250 per year	-\$382 per year

Healthcare Savings (FSA)
Copays, prescriptions, dental, vision & more.

EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES	EMPLOYEE SAVES
\$100-\$600 per year	-\$250 per year	-\$76 per year

Example \$1,000 contribution

- Up to \$1,000 per year (\$12 maximum)
- Reimburses work-related care expenses
- Covers children under age 13 & eligible dependents

Example \$1,000 contribution

- Up to \$1,200 per year (\$12 maximum)
- Funds available upfront
- Use for eligible medical expenses

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**Ed Koch 59th Street Bridge**

While I agree with letter writer Richard Marias that Ed Koch's name should remain on the 59th Street bridge, I do not agree with his comment that Koch was not gay just because Bess Myerson was his companion. In those days, many people in the public eye did not admit to being gay because it was looked down upon by the general public. There were famous male movie stars who agreed to marry women in name only to protect their careers, not to feel stigmatized by the public, and not to lose roles. Rock Hudson is a prime example.

I believe Koch maintained a platonic rather than a romantic friendship with Myerson for the same reason. Bottom line is using his name was to honor his legacy. His sexual preference should have no bearing.

Judy Noy
Norwood

Calls to Remove Ed Koch's Name from the 59th Street Bridge

Richard Marias' letter on leaving Ed Koch's name on the 59th Street Bridge ignores the history of the renaming of the bridge and the real point of the story. Prior to Bill DeBlasio becoming mayor, those city councilpersons that had the favor of the city council speaker were rewarded with "lulus" (chairmanship of city council committees) worth \$10,000 annually apiece. This allowed the speaker to control the vote of the members of the council on key issues.

Christine Quinn, council chair in 2011, was influential in renaming the 59th Street Bridge "Ed Koch" in exchange for his endorsement. It wasn't much help. Quinn placed fourth in the primary. It should also be noted that one opinion poll indicated 59% of Queens residents polled were against

renaming the bridge.

While Koch's sexuality is not the point, Mr. Marias also cherry picks his facts to suit his opinion. While Koch guarded his private life, it's almost certain he was gay. Kissing Bess Myerson proves nothing, nor does his never having married make him a better or worse mayor. Jimmy Walker was corrupt but also a brilliant and effective mayor. He was also a brilliant and effective womanizer.

Nat Weiner
Parkchester

Editor's Note: According to a detailed New York Times article, Koch's sexual orientation was extensively documented and confirmed by close friends, years after his death. According to the article, during his later years, Koch even privately expressed deep loneliness and a desire to find a

male partner.

Destination Tomorrow, located at 452 E 149th Street, 3rd floor, Bronx, New York 10455, is The Bronx's designated LGBTQIA+ center and offers a range of resources to the community. Bronx walk-in hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The last client will be seen at 5 p.m. Call (646) 723-3325 or Fax (917) 580-6485. Check out our Out & About section for details of various Pride events in June.

Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.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.

Out & About

COMPILED BY SÍLE MOLONEY

EVENTS

A "Movies under the Stars" series will be held throughout the summer months in various Bronx parks hosted by NYC Parks, for free. "Jumanji" (1995) being screened in the Williamsbridge Oval Park in Norwood on July 16. The time is TBC. Contact NYC Parks at (212) 360 1430 for more information.

The Calpulli Mexican Dance Company will perform at Van Cortlandt Park on Sunday, June 28, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Founded in 2003 in New York City, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company celebrates

the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through dance-based programming including live music. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/>, and search for "Calpulli Mexican Dance Company" to R.S.V.P.

ART

Bronx Arts Space is accepting applications for art installations (all art genres) that envision a healing village and restorative justice at the site of the former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center in Hunts Point from both adults formerly housed at Spofford and other juvenile centers, and from youth "currently system-involved," including incarcerated youth, for an exhibit showing June 27 to Aug. 1. The deadline to apply is June 16. Partner

organizations are also invited to help with art therapy and more. For more information, visit bronxartspace.com.

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), 11 West 53rd Street in Manhattan is free for New Yorkers every Friday from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register for free tickets at <https://bit.ly/4e05IOB>.

MOVEMENT

The Bronx County Historical Society advises that the **25th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held on Sept. 23 at Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, 870 Shore Road, The Bronx, honoring Stagg Group. Reserve your spot early by calling (718) 881 8900.

The FIFA World Cup in soccer takes place from

June 11 to July 19, and the World Cup Fan Zone at Bronx Terminal Market will bring live match screenings, entertainment, food and fan-filled energy. Visit <https://bit.ly/4efj6xj> for more information.

Alongside Global Citizen, New York State, and New York City, a free **FIFA World Cup Final Watch Party** will also be held on the Great Lawn in Central Park on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Visit <https://bit.ly/4gd3zR8> for more information.

Join NYC Parks at NYPL Mosholu Library, 285 E 205th Street in Norwood each Friday in May at 10 a.m. for free **Low Impact Dance Fitness** classes designed to make you feel energized! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3OIUrIN>.

DAC on track to Join AOC in D.C.

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Darializa Avila Chevalier, 32, won New York’s 13th congressional district Democratic primary on Election Night, June 23, beating incumbent Congressman Adriano Espaillat, 71, chairman of the powerful Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington D.C. who has held the seat since 2017.

The win ends the Dominican American congressman’s five-term tenure in the People’s House and an almost three-decade career representing broadly the same community between State and congressional offices. Based on unofficial Election Night results, Avila Chevalier garnered 49% of the vote over Espaillat’s 45% and becomes the first woman to represent NY-13, which covers Northern Manhattan and some or all of the West Bronx neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights, Morris Heights, Fordham Manor and Fordham Heights.

According to her team, more than \$7 million in super PAC [political action committee] money was spent by Espaillat, the first formerly undocumented immigrant to be elected to Congress, in

efforts to defeat her. Avila Chevalier is an organizer and public defense investigator, and a self-described, working-class New Yorker who was recruited to run for Congress just last autumn by Justice Democrats, the same group who recruited fellow progressive Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), who also won her primary with 86% of the vote.

The 13th congressional Based on unofficial results, while Espaillat won The Bronx portion of the district with 4,987 votes to Avila Chevalier’s 2,709, the congresswoman-elect took Manhattan with 30,061 to Espaillat’s 25,445. Espaillat also won in every Bronx assembly district that falls within the Bronx portion of NY-13.

Earlier on Election Day, Avila-Chevalier was accompanied to the polls by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani who had endorsed her in the race. “Honored and thrilled to have cast my vote in community this morning!” she said. “Today, uptown and The Bronx has a choice: remain stuck in the status quo politics of the past, where our rent keeps rising and corporations keep get-

ting richer, or welcome a new day for us all. Polls are open until 9pm: make sure your voice is heard! <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc>”

The mayor had also rallied with Avila-Chevalier in Manhattan the night before Election Day, as well as with Bernie Sanders at a prior rally in Brooklyn on Thursday, June 18, along with several other progressive candidates running across the City in various races.

Reacting to her win, Avila Chevalier, who recently spoke to *Norwood News* about her campaign, said in part on Election Night, “I am so thrilled to have the support of my community, and I am so proud that they have put their trust in me to send me to Congress on their behalf.”

Avila Chevalier’s team said her victory is notable not only because of her status as a first-time candidate, but also because of what they described as “the deeply entrenched nature of the political machine she defeated.” Several videos shared on social media in recent days show the candidate being followed and yelled at by her critics, many of whom

appear to be Jewish and who take issue with her stance on the Israel Gaza War, calling her a “Jew hater.”

Avila Chevalier is a staunch supporter of Palestine, a friend and fellow Columbia graduate of Mahmoud Khalil and is frequently photographed wearing a keffiyeh (scarf). She frequently wore buttons and used the catchphrase “Babies not Bombs.”

In response to the apparent divisive nature of the race, on the night before the Election, Avila Chevalier shared a video message, saying in part that due to hatred brewing against her, she couldn’t stay silent. “In the final days of this campaign, I have been hit with attacks that use Haitian as a slur, a coordinated wave of islamophobia, lies about my identity, my faith and my family. Espaillat supporters are standing outside poll sites in the district shouting lies and slinging racial slurs,” she said.

She said people had contacted her family demanding to see her birth certificate, something she described as “a tired racist trope that every Black leader who dares to challenge power knows all
(continued on page 19)

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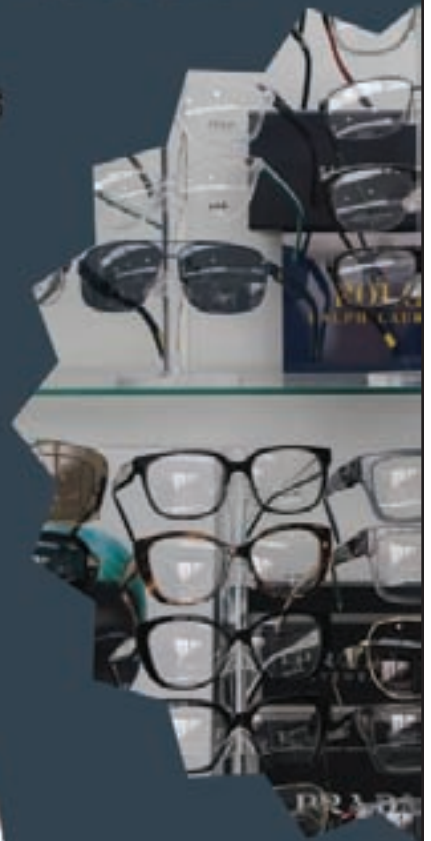


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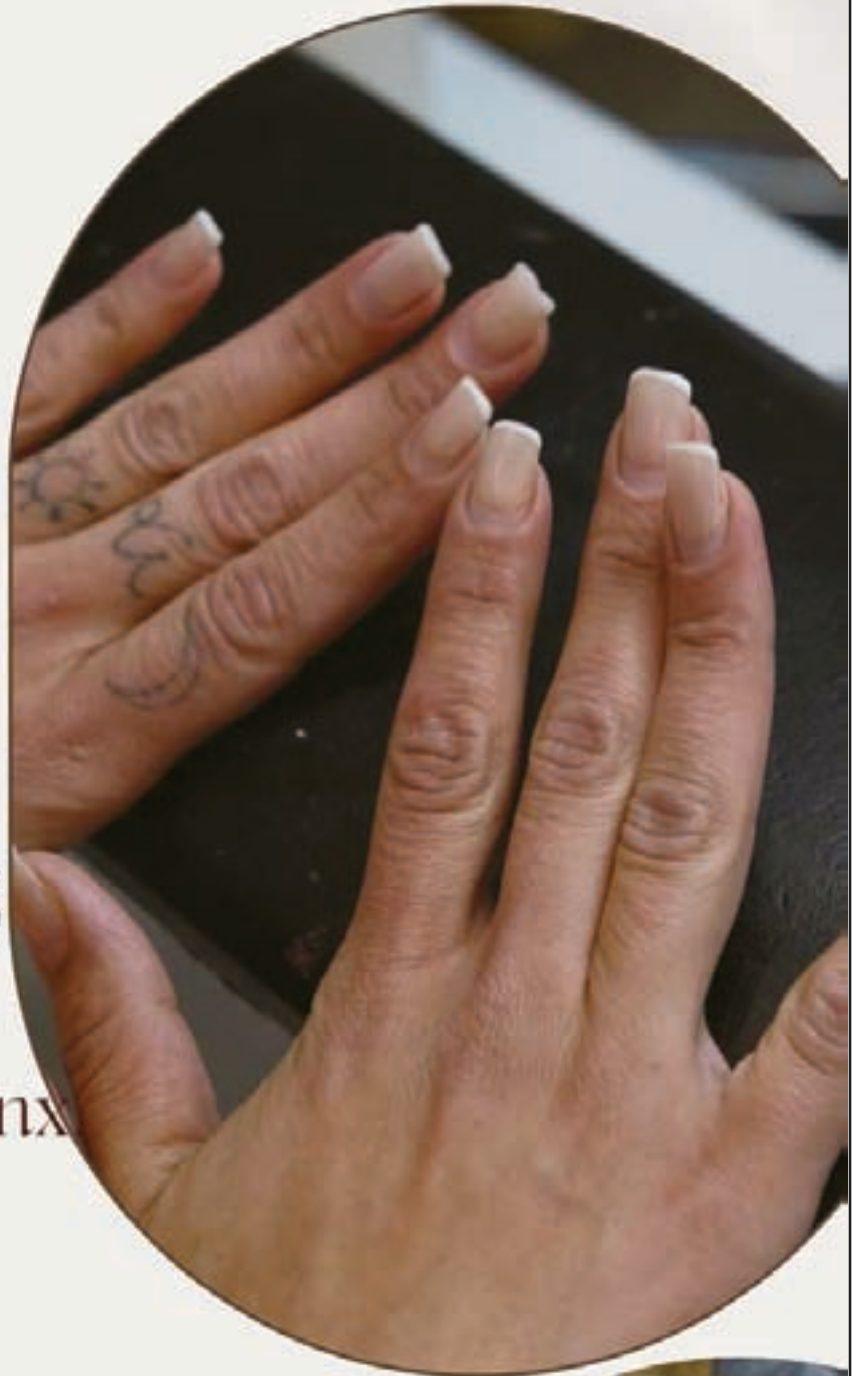


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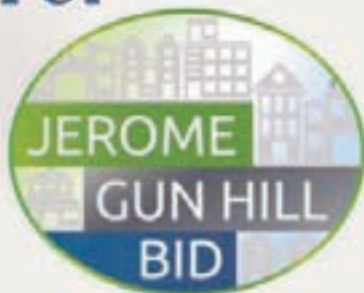
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CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx North Precinct: 046

CompStat Book Week of 06/15/26 - 06/21/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	
Murder	0.0 %	2	0	- %	7	2	250.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	27	24	12.5 %
Robbery	-11.1 %	43	34	26.5 %	216	194	11.3 %
Felony Assault	40.0 %	93	66	43.1 %	510	395	29.1 %
Burglary	50.0 %	18	15	20.0 %	100	82	22.0 %
Grand Larceny	-6.3 %	60	56	7.1 %	316	311	1.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-75.0 %	14	15	-6.7 %	91	127	-28.3 %
Total	6.1 %	233	187	24.6 %	1,267	1,135	11.6 %
Patrol	6.3 %	224	178	25.8 %	1,220	1,103	10.6 %
Transit	0.0 %	5	5	0.0 %	21	16	31.3 %
Housing	0.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	26	16	62.5 %
Shooting Victims -100.0 %	0	0	0	0.0 %	11	18	-38.9 %
Shooting Incidents -100.0 %	0	0	0	0.0 %	11	14	-21.4 %
UCR Rape* 100.0 %	5	3	66.7 %	35	30	16.7 %	
Other Sex Crimes - %	10	8	25.0 %	46	37	24.3 %	
Petit Larceny -5.9 %	67	95	-29.5 %	487	483	0.8 %	
Misd. Assault -23.5 %	117	90	30.0 %	546	449	21.6 %	
Hate Crimes 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %	
Traffic Fatalities 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	0	- %	

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

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 21, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

Patrol Borough: Bronx North Precinct: 050

CompStat Book Week of 06/15/26 - 06/21/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	400.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	22	10	120.0 %
Robbery	00.0 %	9	14	-35.7 %	53	55	-3.6 %
Felony Assault	00.0 %	20	16	25.0 %	127	106	19.8 %
Burglary	- %	6	5	20.0 %	36	67	-46.3 %
Grand Larceny	25.0 %	43	42	2.4 %	238	266	-16.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	250.0 %	35	23	52.2 %	128	127	0.8 %
Total	76.5 %	116	102	13.7 %	609	652	-6.6 %
Patrol	76.5 %	111	98	13.3 %	578	623	-7.2 %
Transit	0.0 %	1	0	- %	7	5	40.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	4	4	0.0 %	24	24	0.0 %
Shooting Victims 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	10	4	150.0 %	
Shooting Incidents 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	6	3	100.0 %	
UCR Rape* 0.0 %	4	2	100.0 %	29	14	107.1 %	
Other Sex Crimes - %	6	6	0.0 %	56	20	180.0 %	
Petit Larceny 0.0 %	109	113	-3.5 %	551	520	6.0 %	
Misd. Assault 28.6 %	38	30	26.7 %	204	154	10.9 %	
Hate Crimes 0.0 %	3	0	- %	9	0	- %	
Traffic Fatalities 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %	

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

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 21, 2026, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

Primaries 2026: Unofficial Election Night Results

By SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE

(71% to 27%).

Over half a million New Yorkers took to the polls on Election Day to cast their ballots in various State, congressional and judicial primaries. In the State Comptroller's Democratic primary, 522,994 New Yorkers cast their vote, while in the sole Republican Primary for State Assembly in A.D. 86 in The Bronx, 188 people voted. Total voting check-ins as of 6 p.m. for The Bronx totaled 44,965, while 4,359 Bronxites mailed-in their ballots.

Blake later said, "The Bronx is my forever love. Thank you for being a light. Our KAIROS will emerge. Grateful for every person who knocked, called, donated, endorsed and believed. Love you. Thank you!"

Meanwhile, Councilman Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) later said of his father's victory, "I am so incredibly proud of the Ben Franklin Club team. Our slate, led by [@JeffreyDinowitz](#), demonstrates time and again what it means to put community front and center, and to put work behind your rhetoric."

Conceding the assembly race on Election Night from The Bronx Alehouse at 216 West 238th Street in Kingsbridge, Evers said, "I'm really proud of the campaign we put out, and I'm happy because this campaign, with all of your help, we knocked 36,000 doors and we made 6,000 phone calls."

She added, "Because I wanted a real grassroots campaign, and I wanted to
(continued on page 19)

Patrol Borough: Bronx North Precinct: 052

CompStat Book Week of 06/15/26 - 06/21/26

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2026	2025	% Chg	2026	2025	
Murder	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %	4	3	33.3 %
Rape-100.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %	23	24	-4.2 %	
Robbery	-18.2 %	43	39	10.3 %	216	203	5.9 %
Felony Assault	0.0 %	83	87	-4.6 %	450	409	10.0 %
Burglary	50.0 %	20	18	11.1 %	99	100	-1.0 %
Grand Larceny	-63.6 %	59	64	-7.8 %	365	406	-9.9 %
Grand Larceny Auto	0.0 %	24	27	-11.1 %	113	142	-20.4 %
Total	-21.3 %	231	241	-4.1 %	1,270	1,287	-1.3 %
Patrol	-20.5 %	224	238	-5.9 %	1,244	1,287	-1.8 %
Transit	-50.0 %	7	3	133.3 %	23	20	15.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	3	0	- %
Shooting Victims 0.0 %	3	3	0.0 %	9	8	12.5 %	
Shooting Incidents 0.0 %	2	2	0.0 %	7	7	0.0 %	
UCR Rape*-100.0 %	2	6	-66.7 %	38	27	3.7 %	
Other Sex Crimes -66.7 %	11	10	10.0 %	49	64	-23.4 %	
Petit Larceny 50.0 %	166	114	45.6 %	971	777	25.0 %	
Misd. Assault -44.0 %	69	87	-20.7 %	457	436	7.3 %	
Hate Crimes 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %	
Traffic Fatalities 0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	1	2	-50.0 %	

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

Source: NYPD / CompStat

MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending June 21, 2026, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of June 21, 2026, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

TEXT US YOUR NEWS TIPS AT (646) 531 6858

University Heights: Woman 79 Tries to Gather her Groceries after She & Another are Shot

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

A 79-year-old woman who was shot on the street in broad daylight in University Heights on Wednesday afternoon, June 17, had tried to gather up her scattered groceries, even as emergency personnel were trying to get her into an ambulance and transport her to a local hospital, one witness to the aftermath of the incident said. Another younger man was also shot during the same incident.

The NYPD said that at 1.23 p.m. on June 17, officers responded to a 911 call “at the intersection of West 183rd street and University Place” [Avenue]. A police spokesperson said, “A 79-year-old female sustained a gunshot wound to the abdomen and a 26-year-old male sustained a gunshot wound to the left leg.” He continued, “Both were transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. No arrests have been made and the investigation remains ongoing.”

A trail of several red stains was seen on the sidewalk in the area where the shootings took place, but it was unclear if they were dried bloodstains or paint or potentially a mixture of both. [Nothing was painted red nearby.] The crime

scene had already been taken down at that point.

Norwood News spoke to some residents at the scene. Speaking in Spanish, one very gently spoken young male resident who said he was over the age of 18, who declined to be identified, and who was with his younger brother, told *Norwood News*, “I was at home [inside his building located at 2253 University Avenue] when I heard three shots.”

He continued, “As it was close, I heard a lady crying and I was worried. I went out to check it out and there was a woman there, shot.” Asked if he had called 911, he said, “When I exited, the police were already there, tending to the lady.” Asked if he could see where the woman was injured, he said, “I saw that she was injured down in the stomach [area]. I saw a lot of blood.” Asked if she was alone, apart from the police, he said “yes.” Asked if he had seen the other male victim, he said he had not.

Norwood News asked if he had gotten a shock and had been frightened to go out, the young man said, “Yes, because it was so close.” Asked if there were other people around, he said people gathered afterwards. *Norwood News* also asked if there were problems

in the area, generally. The young man said, “In the afternoon, it’s calm. Nothing much happens. Today, yes, it surprised me.”

Norwood News asked if he had any idea what had prompted / caused the shooting. The young man said, “I think they wanted to get someone else and maybe the person [woman] was around there.” Asked if he knew either of the victims, he said he did not.

Another older male resident, Edwin Aguila said he also heard the shooting but hadn’t seen it. “I heard the shots in my house,” he said adding, “Any bullet doesn’t have a name.” He said he saw on the Citizens’ App that the woman who got shot was his mother’s friend and that the day before she had asked his mother if she would accompany her to the store on the next day. He said when his mom found out, she was worried for the



Photo by John Norwood

THE NYPD’S BEARCAT armored vehicle is seen parked at the intersection of Perry Avenue and East Mosholu Parkway North in Norwood after a man, apparently armed, refused to open his apartment door at 3039 Perry Avenue to police on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

woman. “Kinda got a little emotional. Started crying...” he said.

As he said the words, Aguila’s own voice cracked a little. “She wanted to come outside and I told her, ‘No. Stay (continued on page 18)

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NYPD Sgt Hit with Stolen Car, One Civilian Shot, Other Officers Injured

(continued from page 2)

driver then continued his effort to escape, reversing backwards. With the sergeant on the ground in front of the Kia, and multiple additional officers in close proximity to the car, the officer on top of the parked vehicle discharged his firearm at the driver."

He continued, "The driver of the Kia was struck and was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he is in stable condition. The sergeant who was hit by the Kia and multiple members of the NYPD were taken to local hospitals, where they are being treated for various injuries and are in stable condition."

Castillo added, "This incident was captured on body worn camera footage, and is being investigated by the Force Investigations Division. The subject who was driving the stolen vehicle, was arrested in February of this year for shooting at another male in the same precinct (46). He was charged with multiple felonies, including attempted felony assault, reckless endangerment, and criminal possession of a firearm."

Asked if the suspect had said anything to the police during the incident, the assistant chief said that was still under investigation. The number of officers involved in the incident and whether there were weapons in the vehicle was also still under investigation, Castillo said. Asked how many times

the driver was struck, Castillo said it was still under investigation but at least once in the arm.

Asked for the ages of both the sergeant and the victim, Castillo said he did not have that information yet. Another police source later said the driver was 18 and that both the driver and the passenger had been taken into custody.

Police later said the six cars had surrounded the stolen vehicle before officers had gotten out of their cars and instructed the driver of the stolen vehicle to get out of the stolen car. Police highlighted that at the time of the incident, a police pursuit was not in progress and the stolen vehicle had been parked.

Police said the prior assault (shots fired without injury) for which the driver had been arrested, and for which he later posted bail, happened on Jan. 24 at 1617 Nelson Avenue in Morris Heights. They said he was arrested on Feb. 9. The Bronx District Attorney's office later said he had allegedly confronted a friend for having talked to his (the shooter's) girlfriend. He allegedly fired one shot but missed. They said, nonetheless, the act earned him an indictment for attempted murder.

One person at the scene said he heard one gunshot and then saw a police officer on the ground. Later, Norwood News spoke to a summer student

at Fordham University called Michael who lives locally and is waiting to see if he'll be accepted onto one of their other programs. Michael said he didn't see what happened but had been in the area earlier and heard it.

"All I heard was something like cars... I don't know how to make the sound, but kind of like.. screeching and all I heard was then a loud crash, but I didn't know what was happening because I was down over there by the (Metro North) train," he said. "I didn't really hear much afterwards though." Asked if he came up the hill to see what had happened, Michael said, "I didn't come up because I'm not going to risk it and endanger my life. I left afterwards. I didn't want to be there because I felt unsafe."

Police said on June 23 that pursuant to an ongoing investigation Angel Robles, 20, from Highbridge was arrested on Monday, June 22, at 9.30 p.m. in the confines of the 46th Precinct. They said he was charged with criminal possession of a weapon (a loaded gun).

Later, on June 23, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Jayden Mendoza, 18, from the Castle Hill section of The Bronx was arrested the same day in the confines of the 46th Precinct, and at 5.30 p.m., he was charged with attempted murder. Both people arrested are presumed innocent

unless and until convicted in a court of law.

June marks Gun Violence Awareness Month. One teenager, whose name we are not disclosing, who Norwood News spoke to at the scene on Sunday, said, "I heard some kid shot a cop, and the only thing I would say is that I'm not surprised, because it's New York and there's a lot of people that's, like, crazy. We can't do nothin' about it."

Asked how he felt about policing, the teen said, "I feel like the police should be like everywhere, every street, in the cars, on foot, everywhere because there's a lot of violence, a lot of gun violence and stuff like that."

Asked if he trusted the police, he said, "Yeah. They even need to get more stronger [tougher] with [implementing law and order]." As we were speaking, the teen gave 45 cents to a man who appeared to be undomiciled sitting on a nearby bench, adding, "You might make a dollar."

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/>, or on X @NYPDTips.

All calls are strictly confidential.

Voters Share Reflections on Primary Day

(continued from page 6)

since I turned 18. I try never to miss a primary because in New York City, that's usually where the real decisions are made." Norwood News asked for his thoughts on early voting given he didn't vote early and waited until Election Day, the man said, "I think having the 9-day early voting window is a fantastic thing for the city, especially for people with crazy work schedules or kids."

He added, "Personally, I just prefer the tradition of waking up and hitting my local spot on the actual Election Day. It makes me feel more connected to the neighborhood momentum, even if the lines are a little longer."

At Montefiore Mosholu Community Center in Norwood, a temporary tent had been erected in the parking lot in order to make voting accessible to the public, since there was an accessibility issue to have the polling site in the main building, according to one official.

We were informed that 203 voters had shown up to vote on the day and that there had been no machine breakdowns and all went smoothly. We asked one young female voter who declined to

say who she voted for, what her top voting issue was and she said, "Definitely getting ICE [U.S. Department of Immigration, Customs & Enforcement] out of New York, definitely protecting women's rights, definitely defunding the genocide in Palestine." We asked if she felt there had been sufficient information out in the public domain about the candidates. She said she felt there had been.

We also spoke to Alessia who is a resident of Norwood and asked her if she wanted to say who she voted for. "I voted for progressive candidates who are interested in building up The Bronx and supporting Bronx communities," she said. Asked what her top voting concerns were, she said, "I would say making The Bronx safer, making The Bronx more affordable for its population where The Bronx is the most deprived borough in New York. Cost of living is obviously a concern for everyone in New York City, but I think particularly important here [we understand because of the lower average salary], making housing affordable and creating community spaces."

Alessia added, "The Bronx is the greenest borough but there's a dearth of safe community spaces I think and things like food deserts are a concern to me, being able to get healthy food. I'm a physician so I see a lot of patients, and these are the things that I wish I could provide for them so I'm voting for candidates who I hope can effect those changes." Asked, as a physician, how she felt about public safety, given the high crime prevalent in the northwest Bronx, Alessia said she did

see a lot of injuries.

"But the vast majority of what I see day to day has more to do with the social determinants of health. We obviously see trauma, gang violence, that kind of thing but much more often, I see the long-term effects of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and those are things that can be positively affected by having some place to exercise, having access to good food, having safe, affordable housing so I looked for candidates who prioritized those things." She said she didn't feel there was sufficient information available about the candidates prior to the election for the average person, even though she, herself, was someone, who sought it out proactively.

We also spoke to Butta, 28, a voter, community organizer, Hip Hop and R&B artist, at Tracey Towers's poll site in Bedford Park. Butta, whose Instagram is @butta.nyc, regularly organizes giveaways among other activities to uplift her community, she said, partnering with other collaborators to finance her mission.

"Voting is also another big thing, where I feel like some people have to see that voting is cool." We asked if, in her experience, young people didn't think it was cool. She said, "I think sometimes people try to ignore politics and it's very important in the times that we're living in to make sure your voice matters."

She added, "Voting can change who is elected in a lot of areas. I think at 28, a lot of people do think that it matters. I think that, more so, younger people than me [don't vote]. I don't want to say everyone



Photo by Silé Moloney

BUTTA, A HIP hop artist and voter poses for a photo at Tracey Towers in Bedford Park on Election Night, June 23, 2026. She was accompanied to the polls by her mom who she said she looked up to, among others, for inspiration, and their dog.

my age thinks it matters but I'll have conversations with some people, and they'll be like, 'I don't vote,' and it's like why wouldn't you? Your voice matters and it's important. A lot of the things that we're voting for is important and one vote can change a lot."



Asked what her voting issue was, Butta said, "So many but one thing I noticed here is when it comes to inner city neighborhoods and how we're being treated compared to downtown in Manhattan, in terms of availability of resources. I live in a food desert. Things like that is what I look forward to changing and [resources] being added to different communities, and not just Manhattan."



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Public and Community Meetings

The next 52nd **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will take place in September after the summer hiatus. 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 in September, after the summer hiatus. Contact KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 (CB8)** general board meeting will be held in September after the summer hiatus. Contact BX08@cb.nyc.gov to be added to the distribution list, and check <http://www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8> for any updates.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** is on summer hiatus. The next meeting will be held in September (date TBC) at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South, Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact bedfordmosholu@verizon.net.

University Heights: Woman 79 Tries to Gather her Groceries after She & Another are Shot

(continued from page 16)

inside.' I will let you know what's going on." He said of the woman, "Her bag that she had, she walks with it for her food." *Norwood News* informed Aguila that the police said the woman was stable. "A lot of people at night-time, they be like popping fireworks and you don't know if it's shots," Aguila said.

We asked if he knew his mom's friend and Aguila said, "She's always by herself. She always leaves the house to go by herself. It was kind of not nice that she wanted to bring her stuff with her." Asked if he meant she was trying to gather her shopping / groceries even after being shot and as emergency services were taking her to the hospital, Aguila said yes. "I don't know where they took her stuff," he said.

Aguila asked if anyone had been caught. We informed him that the police said the investigation was ongoing, but there were no arrests yet. He mentioned that there was a school around the corner. "Imagine if it would have been school kids walking around. If they're doing that shoot out by daylight, what happens if there are kids walking out and getting shot? That's why they should be having police officers standing at every corner... more police just to be alert and watching."

Two police officers were seen stand-

ing on a block of West Fordham Road between Aqueduct Avenue and University Avenue about a 5-minute walk from the crime scene later that evening.

On June 13, a 31-year-old man was hospitalized following a stabbing in Norwood. On June 16, an emotionally disturbed patient picked up a knife inside Montefiore Medical Center's ER in Norwood. There were no injuries.

On June 16, the NYPD's BEARCAT armored vehicle responded to an incident at 3039 Perry Avenue in Norwood, near Mosholu Parkway after a man, originally believed to have been armed but who police later confirmed was unarmed, refused to open his apartment door to police. Police eventually pulled out the door and the man, who locals believe may be a veteran, was taken into custody without further incident. Police said being taken into custody doesn't necessarily mean arrested and he may be being treated medically.

A few days prior to the stand-off between the man and police, on June 7, a bomb threat had been phoned into nearby Bronx High School of Science in Bedford Park. The school was evacuated but the incident resulted in zero injuries, fortunately. Read more about these last two incidents on www.norwoodnews.org.

**David Greene and Miriam Quiñones contributed to this story.*



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DAC On Track to Join AOC in D.C.

(continued from page 12)

too well.” Referring to Espaillat, she asked why a supposed progressive (gestured air quotes) congressman was following in the steps of former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and U.S. President Donald Trump. She went on to suggest that it was because Espaillat could no longer run on his own record/merit.

She alleged Espaillat played a similar game with late Congressman Charlie Rangel, who preceded Espaillat in NY-13, seemingly claiming his Latino supporters were traitors to the Latino community, and with State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31), who represents Northern Manhattan and the West Bronx, who had endorsed Avila Chevalier, for “daring to run” in what Espaillat’s team allegedly called “a Dominican district.”

Avila-Chevalier continued, “I am proudly Dominican. I am a proud Black woman. I am a proud Muslim woman, running for Congress in a district that is home to Black and Caribbean and Dominican families who have built this community together for generations, and the smear campaign against me, is not politics. That is racism dressed up and unleashed by my opponent.

She continued, “So, instead, he’s trying to pit us against each other because a fractured electorate is the only kind that he can still win, but here’s what he’s up against: Harlem and Washington Heights have been family for generations. Black New Yorkers and Dominicans have lived side by side for generations. We eat together, we prayer together, we raise our kids together, and many of us carry both of those identities, including me, and we don’t stand for his hate.”

Avila Chevalier went on to say that at the same time Espaillat was taking money from landlords who were raising rents, from ICE contractors, and from “White, right-wing lobbies like AIPAC [the American Israeli Political Action Committee].”

She asked voters if they wanted more cynicism from someone who shared donors with the president or a fighter in office who will “not be intimidated by hate, and will always put the needs of working people first.” She added, “The choice is yours, New York.”

According to her campaign, Avila Chevalier’s victory “made it clear that New Yorkers are ready for a new generation of leadership: one that prioritizes a politics of unity and solidarity rather than divisiveness, and one that seeks to

uplift all people community-wide.” They said the victory also made it clear that “people power” had won out over big money.

In total, her campaign team said nearly \$7 million was spent by pro-Espaillat PACs and super PACs, more than twice the less than \$3 million spent by organizations and groups supporting Avila Chevalier’s campaign.

They said AIPAC and DMFI were key players backing Espaillat. DMFI is a sales and marketing company specializing in travel and transportation. Her team said that in addition, Espaillat’s campaign was funded by “more than \$115,000 from ICE contractors, nearly \$250,000 from real estate lobbies, \$78,000 from corporate PACs, and in the 2025-2026 cycle alone, over \$1450,000 from AIPAC directly, bringing the total amount of money Espaillat accepted from AIPAC throughout his career to more than \$676,000.”

They said despite this, Espaillat’s campaign “rich with corporate money but lacking in people power was rejected wholesale.” They said New Yorkers chose a politics of “hope and of life” with Avila Chevalier and rejected the status quo politics that they said had left uptown and The Bronx behind for far too long.

Avila Chevalier also campaigned on affordability. During one debate, the candidates were asked when was the last time they had visited the Dominican Republic. Avila Chevalier said around four years ago. Beaming, Espaillat responded, “I go there three times a year.” Avila Chevalier said she couldn’t afford to go every year.

Her campaign said that Avila Chevalier refused AIPAC money, corporate PAC money, and crypto money. They said her campaign was always powered by the people, fighting for the people, and on Election Day, voters made it clear that her campaign was also the choice of the people.

Avila Chevalier’s campaign team added that she was not only the first challenger candidate in NY-13 history to pass the \$1 million raised mark in campaign contributions, but she also raised that sum as a first-time, working-class candidate from more than 10,000 individual donors, and with an average donation of just \$66.

The incumbent conceded the race on Election Night, with Bronx City Councilman Oswald Feliz (C.D. 15) seen standing behind him. Espaillat had sup-

ported Feliz since he first ran for office and attended his first swearing in ceremony. Speaking in both English and Spanish, Espaillat said in part to the crowd, “For the last 30 years, this community has given me the privilege to represent you. We have worked together to achieve many things, to accomplish many things and together, our families move forward in this neighborhood. Tonight wasn’t our night.”

A person in the crowd responded, “It’s ok!” Espaillat continued in part, “But I love you anyway!” Upon hearing news of the congressman’s concession, Avila Chevalier’s supporters were seen jubilant in a video posted to social media by NY1, and broke into chants of “DSA (Democratic Socialists of America), DSA!”

Norwood News spoke to two Espaillat surrogates, a man and a woman, inside the lobby of Tracey Towers Mitchel

Lama housing complex in Norwood on Election Night after poll closure, and asked them how the campaign had gone. Speaking in Spanish, one said, “Fairly successful. We achieved a lot of support, principally the Dominican community that were supportive in a massive way.”

According to Avila Chevalier’s team, the candidate is building power for all New Yorkers, not just the wealthy and well-connected. On Election Night, after winning, she also said in part, “For too long, uptown and The Bronx have been overlooked, let down, and neglected. That ends today. We deserve leadership in Washington that will fight tooth and nail for every single one of us, and I can’t wait to get to work with our community to deliver on that promise.”

Norwood News reached out to Espaillat’s team for comment on this story. We did not receive an immediate response.

Primaries 2026: Unofficial Election Night Results

(continued from page 15)

talk to every single voter and hear what was on their mind, and do my best to represent them, this is the beginning of our movement. I need to give more stats...” She said 90% of donations that she received for the campaign were from in-district people.”

Evers continued in part, “I was one of only five candidates in the State for assembly who maxed out in the first round of public matching funds, and I’m really proud of my endorsements, and most of all, I am so proud that I call myself a Working People’s Party champion.”

In the race for State Committee in A.D. 81, Johanna Edmondson (31%) and Michael Heller (29%) were reelected and in the District Leader race for A.D. 81, Abigail Martin (30%) and Ben Jackson (27%) were also reelected. Heller, Edmondson, and Jackson are members



Photo courtesy of Councilman Eric Dinowitz
THE DINOWITZ SLATE celebrates victories for Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81) center, for Michael Heller and Johanna Edmondson for State committee (A.D. 81) and for Ben Jackson for District Leader (A.D. 81) on Election Night, June 23, 2026, at an undisclosed location.

of the Ben Franklin club, while Martin is a member of the Unity Democratic Club. For more election results and coverage, visit www.norwoodnews.org.



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