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City Health-Care Staff Must Be Vaccinated Or Be Tested Weekly

Those Who Don't Comply As of Aug. 2 Will Get Unpaid Suspension

By CRYSTAL LEWIS

NYC Health + Hospitals employees and clinical staff at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as of Aug. 2 will be required to either get vaccinated against the coronavirus or be tested weekly, a mandate that could set a precedent for other city workers including educators, Mayor de Blasio announced July 21.

As this newspaper went to press five days later, he announced that the requirement would be extended effective Sept. 13 to all other municipal workers, "people who work in offices and people who work on the front lines."

Despite the fact that the city's public-hospital system became the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic during the height of the crisis in April 2020, vaccination rates among 40,000 NYC H+H employees have lagged. About 60 percent of staffers in the system have been vaccinated so far, compared to 73 percent of health-care workers across the state. Counting private-sector facilities, the hospital-employee vaccination rate is 70 percent.

Wary of 'Delta'

City officials believe that increasing vaccination rates is the key to combating the highly contagious Delta variant, which accounted for 41 percent of citywide samples tested during the past four weeks and has contributed to an uptick in cases.

"Today we announce something new, a COVID safety requirement for our health workers. The workers we depend on the most and the workers who are the most vulnerable," Mr. de Blasio said last Wednesday. "Every single one of those employees has a choice: get vaccinated—the better choice—or get tested weekly...This is about keeping people safe and stopping the Delta variant."

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MAYOR DE BLASIO: Don't make us suspend you.

Rules Cops Had Grounds for Search

Judge Tosses Gun-Suppression Motion Following Bronx Arrest

By RICHARD KHAVKINE

A man's arrest on Federal gun charges following an early-morning stop and subsequent frisk in The Bronx last year by NYPD officers was lawful, a U.S. District Judge has ruled.

Judge Paul A. Engelmayer, of the Southern District of New York, July 15 dismissed contentions by Michael Hagood, a Brentwood resident, that officers violated his Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures after they uncovered a loaded semi-automatic in his fanny pack following a brief scuffle.

Blue in Blood 'Hood

About 1 a.m. October 14 last fall, Mr. Hagood, then

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Photo courtesy of NYPD Police Service Area 7

ONE LESS 9: Officers from a Bronx Public Safety Team found this loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun in a Brentwood man's fanny pack following a stop in The Bronx last October. A U.S. District Judge tossed out a suppression motion alleging that the cops' stop, arrest and search violated the man's Fourth Amendment rights.

Pledges End to Triple Tours

DOC's Schiraldi Announces Broad Package of Reform Initiatives

By RICHARD KHAVKINE

Vincent Schiraldi is moving fast.

Not yet two months into his tenure as Correction Commissioner, he has instituted a number of fixes to what many consider an utterly broken system. Among the priorities of a wide-ranging initiative that will touch nearly all aspects of jail life that he is calling #NewDay-DOC are an end to triple shifts for Correction Officers and doing away with the housing of inmates according to gang affiliation.

COBA Reserves Judgment

In a long note July 16 to commanding officers outlining "a comprehensive post-pandemic recovery plan," Mr. Schiraldi, who succeeded the retired Cynthia Brann June 1, said his observations and discussions with staff and union leaders since his appointment revealed to him a "dedicated, determined, and committed" team of professionals "who I deeply believe can help return DOC to its leadership position as the nation's best, most-decent, most-professional, and most-well-respected corrections agency in the country."

Jail unions, particularly the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association, have long been calling for an end to triple tours and the housing together of members of the same gang.

But while Benny Boscio, the COBA president, said he



VINCENT SCHIRALDI: Long on reforms, short on time?

appreciated the Department of Correction's recognition that remedies were long past due, he said he would reserve judgment for now on the agency's reform package.

The union filed suit July 13 against the DOC and the state Department of Labor, alleging that DOC had created "unsafe and and unhealthy work environments" by denying meals, bathroom breaks, breast-feeding accommodations and access to water and protective equipment. It also alleged that the department failed to fix broken jail doors.

'Must See Action, Results'

"While we are pleased to see that the Department is finally beginning to acknowledge the problems that have led to the worst crisis facing our jails in years, such as ending triple shifts and breaking up gang-affiliated housing areas, it can only be a new day for us when we

see action and results, not just empty promises and lip service," Mr. Boscio said in a statement. "It should never have taken our lawsuit, exposing a hostile and unsafe work environment, to force the Commissioner to release this plan. We will continue to hold this agency accountable to ensure they follow through with the implementation of this plan."

The DOC, though, said that the #NewDay plan was already weeks in the works at the time the union filed suit.

The plan looks to address many of the complaints and concerns outlined in the union's Article 78 action, including "accelerating" repairs of broken cell doors throughout the system's jails.

But among the most-pressing of issues will be the addressing of staff triple tours, the number of which increased as COs were increasingly laid up by the coronavirus and retirements also climbed.

Making Job Less Punishing

#NewDay will require that all eligible staff work double shifts before triples are assigned. It also envisions the realignment of staff tours. The Department will also provide car service home for staff working triples. Officers working triples will also be provided sleeping space following their tours as well as catered meals.

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Mental Health Therapy Aides, Trainees With State At \$33G-\$46G

Openings in Queens And The Bronx

HS Diploma, Background Checks Required

The state Office of Mental Health is offering online recruitment examinations through Aug. 16 for Mental Health Therapy Aides and Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainees for positions in Queens and The Bronx. Salaries range from \$33,631 to \$46,103.

The Position

Mental Health Therapy Aide and Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainee

provide direct-care services, treatment, rehabilitation and support to individuals diagnosed with mental illness who receive services in an institutional or community-based setting. They help individuals to participate in games and recreational programs; coach and encourage individuals to develop daily living skills; and provide a clean, safe and comfortable environment.

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'It Should Be Members' Choice'

Uniformed Unions: Don't Make Vaccine Mandatory

By BOB HENNELLY

A suggestion by the chair of the City Council's Committee on Hospitals July 21 that Mayor de Blasio's just-announced plan to have municipal hospital workers and Health Department employees either be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing for the coronavirus starting Aug. 2 be applied to all city workers drew vociferous objections from several uniformed-union leaders.

Council Member Carlina Rivera, who is reportedly seeking to become Speaker next January, said of the new policy, "If this effort is successful, we should seriously look at similar rules and mandates for all municipal workers. If health-care workers and CUNY students have to take serious precautions and ultimately be vaccinated, far more New Yorkers should be able to follow the same rules."

Unions: Don't Force Them

Several union leaders strenuously objected to their members being compelled to be vaccinated or endure weekly testing.

Detectives' Endowment Association President Paul DiGiacomo, who has lost seven members to the virus, the most-recent one in May, said his rank and file knew "all too well the dangers associated with the coronavirus,"



CARLINA RIVERA: Proposal triggers objections.

but "every Detective should have the right to choose whether or not they receive the vaccine. This is not about politics, but about the personal rights of our members to not be forced in any way into making a decision based on a risk of punishment by the city."

Oren Barzilay, president of Emergency Medical Service Local 2507 of District Council 37, which represents Emergency Medical Technicians, said Ms. Rodriguez's proposal amounted to "taking away our freedom of self-determination. No one should tell me or us what's good for us; it's nothing less than an invasive intrusion."

His colleague representing EMS officers, DC 37 Local 3621 President Vincent

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THE NEWS INSIDE

Council Health Chair Wants Masks Back

City Council Health Committee Chairman Mark Levine has called for a return to indoor mask-wearing because of a recent spike in coronavirus cases caused by the Delta variant. Asked whether this could set back the city's recovery, he replied that 'to open up our economy, we have to blunt this new wave.'

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Razzle Dazzle

Trying to Coax Holdouts Into Doing Right Thing

Some union leaders protested the Mayor's new health-care policy, but two retired union leaders said it was necessary because too many employees with frequent public contact had balked at being inoculated. 'I'm extremely disappointed, but not surprised,' said Ed Ott.



Ott

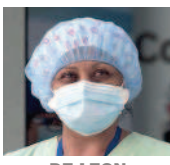
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Low Salaries a Factor

Expiring Before Retiring A Hazard for EMTs

The deaths of three Emergency Medical Technicians since the early days of the pandemic who had stayed on the job, even though they qualified years earlier for full pensions, because their allowances were too small to live comfortably on placed a new focus on the gap between their pay and that of other uniformed workers.

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DE LEON

Cite Older Preventive Steps

Health-Care Unions Say Vaccine Not Only Tool

The leaders of several health-care unions where some members have resisted being vaccinated said there were proven ways of limiting the spread of the virus through the Delta variant, including better ventilation and personal protective equipment like masks.

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Photo courtesy of Marc A. Hermann/MTA

RETURN OF THE MASK: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority July 20 announced that top staffers and volunteers would resume handing out masks in the subways and on trains amid a spike in coronavirus cases believed to have been caused by the Delta variant. Mayor de Blasio, however, rebuffed a call for a reinstatement of the city's indoor-masking requirement, saying the focus should be on increase vaccinations.

Mayor Demurs, Says Focus Should Be on Vaccinations

Council Health Chair Says Virus Spike Should Spur Return to Masks Indoors

By BOB HENNELLY

A dramatic spike in coronavirus cases has prompted the Chairman of the City Council Health Committee to call for reinstatement of the indoor-mask mandate as was recently done in Los Angeles after a bigger surge there.

"The daily caseload in New York City has tripled in the past week to over 500 a day, almost overwhelmingly driven by the highly contagious Delta variant," Manhattan Councilman Mark Levine said during a July 19 phone interview.

'Protect Our Recovery'

Asked if the mandating of masks might set back the city's efforts to reopen the economy, he replied, "In order to continue to open up our economy, we have to blunt this new wave, and I see a measure like mask-wearing as protecting our economic recovery."

While COVID cases are up considerably, local public-health officials have said that increase has not yet produced an uptick in deaths or hospitalizations on a scale that would require the return to indoor masking.

"Every expert I talk to expects hospitalizations to start increasing imminently,

as they have everywhere else where they have seen similar circumstances," Mr. Levine said.

At the time he spoke, deaths nationally had spiked by 22 percent, close to 300 a day, although that's well below the average of 3,000 daily in January. In the city and the state, the daily death toll has remained in single digits.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has endorsed action by local governments, including Los Angeles, hit by a surge in cases to deviate from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

'Very Reasonable Step'

"In areas where there are low numbers of vaccinated people, where cases are rising, it's very reasonable for counties to take more mitigation measures, like the mask rules coming out of LA," he told ABC News. "And I anticipate that will happen in other parts of the country—and that's not contradictory to the guidance the CDC issued."

The day Mr. Levine sounded the alarm, the American Academy of Pediatrics called for all school staff, as well as students older than 2, to wear masks in school regardless of their vaccination

status. The CDC has called for mask-wearing only by those who haven't been vaccinated.

Last month, the World Health Organization issued a global advisory that fully vaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and follow other virus protocols to slow the spread of the Delta variant first identified in India.

In May, both Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio brought state and city policies in line with the CDC's, relying on the honor system.

The Mayor rejected Mr. Levine's call for a return to indoor masking shortly after the Councilman raised the issue.

Banking on Vaccine Rise

"No. Simple answer, no," Mr. de Blasio told reporters. "Right now, we've got, again, 4.8 million New Yorkers who have had at least one vaccine dose. That number grows by thousands and thousands of people every day. That's the ballgame. That's where we make the impact. The thing that actually stops COVID."

Mr. de Blasio said that masks "have value unquestionably, but masks are not going at the root of the problem; vaccination is."

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Paying Teachers to Make Home Visits for Pitch UFT Launches Campaign to Ease Parents' Back-to-School Worries

By CRYSTAL LEWIS

The United Federation of Teachers is ringing in a door-knocking campaign to encourage families to feel comfortable with students returning to classrooms full-time in the fall.

Earlier this year, Mayor de Blasio announced a full return to in-person instruction, with no plans to offer online classes. For many students, September will mark the first time they've

stepped foot inside a classroom since the beginning of the pandemic, since over 60 percent of the city's 1 million public-school students participated in remote learning full-time during the past school year.

Took Emotional Toll

Many students are facing learning loss and mental-health struggles because of the pandemic. And getting families to feel comfortable

with the return to full-time in-person instruction could prove to be another challenge. That's why the UFT has initiated a campaign "to encourage a return to in-person learning for all students during the 2021-2022 school year," according to an email to members.

The union is paying its members \$25 an hour to make home visits to parents. "There is no substitute

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Photo courtesy of Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

IT'S COOL TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL: The United Federation of Teachers is starting a door-knocking initiative to help families to feel comfortable sending their kids back to in-person classes this fall. The goal of the program is to rebuild relationships with parents, since the majority of students took remote classes full-time during the previous school year.

Union Initiates Article 78 Action

COBA Sues Correction, Alleging An 'Unsafe Work Environment'

By RICHARD KHAVKINE

Citing a litany of shortcomings, including a "failure to provide a safe and healthy work environment," the union representing Correction Officers has filed suit against the Department of Correction.

The union's Article 78 action, which also names the state Department of Labor, says the department has subjected COs "to unsafe and unhealthy work environments" by denying meals, bathroom breaks, breast-feeding accommodations, and access to water and protective equipment. It also alleges that the department failed to fix broken jail doors.

'Continued Indifference'

The suit, filed in Queens Supreme Court July 13, also says the DOC has unnecessarily created an unsafe environment for COs by housing members of the same gangs together, which it claims violates the City Charter.

The union's president, Benny Boscio Jr., blamed the "continued indifference" of agency officials for what he said were "deplorable working conditions"—the worst, he said, he had seen in his 22 years with the department.

He said the state of affairs for Officers was particularly lamentable given their critical role in ensuring that the coronavirus pandemic did not overrun the facilities.

"Here we are a year later, and rather than supporting our officers and providing them with basic rights all workers are afforded, this

agency has created a hostile and unsafe work environment, which has led to over 1,000 Correction Officers resigning over the past two years," Mr. Boscio said in a statement announcing the lawsuit.

The DOC deferred comment on the suit to the city's Law Department, whose spokesperson said it was reviewing the matter and would respond in court.

Schiraldi: Triples to End

But Correction Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi, addressed—coincidentally, the department said—some of the complaints and concerns outlined in the suit when he detailed a DOC initiative called #NewDayDOC that launched July 16.

For instance, he said that repairs of broken jail doors would be fast-tracked and that triple tours would end "as quickly as possible," in part by requiring that all eligible staff work double shifts before assigning triples, and realigning staff tours. Commissioner Schiraldi, who succeeded Cynthia Brann June 1, said the agency would also implement a plan "to break up gang housing," starting with young adults.

"As you can see, #NewDayDOC increases safety and fair accountability for everyone," he wrote in a memo to staff.

The union submitted several affidavits from Correction Officers in support of its action.

COs: Get No Breaks

One Officer, Bernadette Uniberg, a 45-year-old assigned to the Otis Bantum

Correctional Center on Rikers Island, said that while she was previously given a 40-minute meal break during her 8-hour shift, she is now constantly being denied breaks of any sort despite being compelled to work substantial overtime.

"I am now being forced to regularly work consecutive double and triple tours with no prior notice and not being afforded any meal period, bathroom break or access to food or water," the 5-year DOC employee wrote.

Several of the affidavits also attested to a shortage of officers.

But while the DOC expects to graduate a class of 400 Officers later this year, Mr. Schiraldi and the union have recently engaged in a heated back-and-forth, with the Commissioner saying that some officers were falsely claiming to have been sickened by the virus and using that as an excuse to not come to work, thereby cutting into available staff. Mr. Boscio called Mr. Schiraldi's insinuations "disgraceful" and "an insult."

Hire COs or Pay Price

The union leader is calling for thousands more COs to be hired or face the prospect of increasingly violent jails. As of the end of June, there were 7,651 Correction Officers, about 600 fewer than a year ago, even as the jail population increased, Mr. Boscio said, after thousands of inmates were released in the early days of the pandemic.

The city's borough-based jail plan, however, envisions even fewer COs on the rolls.



SEEKING REDRESS: The city's Correction Officers' union, alleging what its president called 'deplorable working conditions' in Department of Correction jails, including those on Rikers Island, above, has filed an Article 78 action against the agency and the state's Department of Labor. Among other complaints, the union says COs are being denied meal and bathroom breaks, breast-feeding accommodations, and access to water and protective equipment.

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Photo courtesy of Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

MORE THAN ONE ANSWER: Carmen De León, president of District Council 37's Local 768, called a mandate for city hospital workers to either get a coronavirus vaccine or receive weekly tests a fair policy. The local's parent union, as well as the New York State Nurses Association, have encouraged their members to get inoculated but opposed mandatory vaccinations as a condition of employment, with NYSNA Executive Director Pat Kane criticizing hospitals that have enacted such mandates while simultaneously not doing enough to provide adequate personal protective equipment and other safety measures.

'Shouldn't Threaten People's Jobs'

Health-Care Unions Say Vaccine Not The Only Tool to Cope With COVID

By CRYSTAL LEWIS

As the city applies pressure to increase vaccination rates among its health-care workers with a mandate that they either get vaccinated or take weekly coronavirus tests, unions representing those employees argued that vaccinations were just “one piece of the puzzle” to lower COVID rates.

Two of the unions representing workers in the city's health-care system, District Council 37 and the New York State Nurses Association, have opposed mandatory coronavirus vaccinations as a condition of employment. Several private hospitals across the city and state, including New York Presbyterian, have moved to implement such requirements.

A Sense of Urgency

But with the city facing a spike in COVID cases due to the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, city officials are looking to quickly vaccinate as many New Yorkers as possible.

To increase vaccination rates in municipal hospitals, where about a third of staffers remain unvaccinated, Mayor de Blasio July 21 announced a new COVID safety policy, effective Aug. 2: NYC Health + Hospitals staff and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene clinical employees will be required to show proof of vaccination or opt into weekly testing.

“I think [the policy] is absolutely fair,” said Carmen De León, president of DC 37's Local 768, which represents thousands of H+H staff

including Respiratory Therapists, Physician Assistants and Public Health Advisers. “My personal view, whether or not I'm president of Local 768, is that it should be up to every individual whether or not to get vaccinated. I think weekly PCR testing is a fair trade-off.”

Ms. De León, a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Harlem Hospital, added that she had not yet been vaccinated because of allergies to certain drug ingredients, and said she was still considering whether to get inoculated.

Can't Afford to Lose Staff

The union leader also called on hospitals to reconsider vaccine mandates because many facilities were already facing staffing shortages.

Sharon Braxton, president of DC 37's Local 436, which represents Public Health Nurses and Public Health Epidemiologists in the city Health Department, noted that there were other methods that could be used to lower the COVID positivity rate. “Many of my members are looking at utilizing all tools. Mandated testing is one tool,” she said. “[Personal protective equipment], social-distancing—all public-health interventions are other ways to try to stop this spread. That's where our focus is as Epidemiologists.”

Ms. Braxton pointed out that the city managed to decrease its COVID positivity rate last year thanks to people wearing face-masks and social-distancing well before mandated testing or vaccinations were available.

NYSNA, which represents

about 42,000 nurses, including 8,500 Registered Nurses at NYC H+H, also called for “a multi-pronged approach” to control the spread of the virus.

Other Key Components

“Vaccination is an important piece of the puzzle in ending the COVID-19 epidemic, but it is not the only piece,” said NYSNA President Nancy Hagans. “Based on our front-line experience battling the pandemic for more than a year, NYSNA nurses believe we must focus on education and vaccination in under-served and under-vaccinated communities, limiting everyone's exposure by wearing well-fitting masks, maintaining social distancing, and improving ventilation in all workplaces and indoor spaces.”

In a recent survey of NYSNA members across the state, 83 percent of those who responded had been vaccinated. But the union has adamantly objected to hospitals implementing mandatory vaccinations for staffers “while simultaneously lobbying to relax PPE standards, frivolously contesting COVID-19 Workers' Compensation claims and OSHA citations, and actively cutting corners on health and safety protocols,” said its executive director, Pat Kane.

“The way to build back trust and incentivize further vaccination among health-care workers is to finally meet our broader health and safety demands, not to threaten us with job loss,” she added.

Levine Urges Return to Masks Indoors

Continued from Page 2

Health Commissioner Dave Chokshi echoed that assessment, saying, “Look, the Delta variant is concerning, as we've talked about. It now makes up about 69 percent of the cases that we're sequencing. But our concern is primarily for people who remain unvaccinated, which is why the single-most-important thing that we can do to keep individuals, as well as our communities, our city safe, is to get as many people vaccinated as possible.”

Dr. Chokshi added that “there are some settings where the mask mandate, particularly indoors, remains in effect. This includes public transit, it includes schools and other high-risk settings, like our congregate settings and in health-care facilities, and in those places, we do want people to continue wearing their masks regardless of their vaccination status.”

Uniformed Staff Lag

The debate over the mask mandate played out even as dozens of neighborhoods lagged behind the city's



MARK LEVINE: Delay puts most-vulnerable in jeopardy.

overall 58.1-percent vaccination rate, putting unvaccinated residents in those areas at a much-higher risk of infection.

The city's uniformed services also lag considerably behind the city vaccine rate.

It was not until July 22 that Mayor de Blasio met his June 30 target of inoculating 70 percent of the city's population. Governor Cuomo last month announced the state had met that target.

“This is an extremely dangerous time to not be vaccinated in New York City, so our first message has to be to implore everyone who

has not gotten the vaccine to do so immediately,” said Mr. Levine, who recently won the Democratic nomination for Manhattan Borough President. “But we are going to need to take additional measures to protect people in crowded indoor settings, even those that are vaccinated where there is evidence the virus can transmit.”

Can't Trust Honor System

He cited “children who can't get vaccinated, people that are immune-compromised,” as among the most-vulnerable. He said he was also concerned about the reliability of the honor system, remarking that it put workers at risk who “will spend all day potentially being exposed to people with the virus. They are working at checkouts at supermarkets, taking tickets at a movie theater.”

Mr. Levine said it was his impression that the rates of mask usage were “dropping noticeably in delis, in subways. Informally, I would say we are seeing probably 30 percent of people not wearing masks on the subway.”

Low Salaries Limit Pension Allowances

Expiring Before Retiring: EMS Pay Gap Leads Some to Work to Death

By BOB HENNELLY

Earlier this month, the FDNY honored the life of Emergency Medical Technician Richard Seaberry, 63, with a departmental funeral paying tribute to his 30-year career of helping thousands of New Yorkers when they needed help the most.

At the time of his death, Mr. Seaberry was in the middle of moving with his family to Atlanta, where he hoped to retire and spend time with his granddaughter.

Had to Delay Retirement

But according to colleagues and the union that represented him, he was like hundreds of other

veteran EMTs whose relatively low salaries, compared to other city uniformed employees, kept them working long past the time when they qualified for a full pension.

Mr. Seaberry, who died from the coronavirus in March 2020, was also a 9/11 World Trade Center responder, whose family told the Daily News he had continued to suffer with respiratory issues from his work on the pile. Yet the father of two kept working until September 2019, when took a medical leave.

“Yes, for a guy like Rich, who never went beyond that EMT level, where they are making that lower salary, it's very hard to walk away from the job after 25 years, especially if you

want to continue living in New York,” said Emergency Medical Service Capt. John Burke, who knew him his entire career, which centered in Queens.

Experience Matters

Mr. Burke said Mr. Seaberry worked overnight tours, most recently out of Fort Totten in Bayside, where his decades of experience made him an anchor for a job that was increasingly filled by inexperienced EMTs, some of whom quickly sought promotion to the better-paying job of firefighter.

“We know from all of the medical research white papers and the statistics, the

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The Chief-Leader/Michel Friang

THEY'VE GOT TROUBLES OF THEIR OWN: Some veteran Emergency Medical Technicians wind up dying on the job because their salaries are so low in comparison to senior Police Officers and Firefighters that their pensions would make it tough to get by if they retired once eligible, leading them to stay on even if their health is deteriorating.

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Rights and Responsibilities

Despite all the commotion about Mayor de Blasio's attempt to prod city workers into finally getting vaccinated, he has given them a fallback option that should squelch the grumbling that this is an incursion on the rights of the holdouts to decide for themselves.

Anyone who's undergone the nose-swab test for the coronavirus knows that it causes nothing more than brief discomfort. If you think that's a better option on a weekly basis than getting vaccinated twice in a four-week period, that's your choice, and it's hardly an untenable one.

Those who think this is asking too much—and they range from a few union leaders to the dissident factions in some unions—have lost sight of what public service means. Those working for the city do so knowing there will be parts of their jobs that aren't always easy, but are necessary.

Some work in dangerous environments. Some go out in horrible weather conditions to perform live-saving work that would be challenging even on bright, sunny days. Some of them must submit to a drug test as a condition of being hired, and then are tested randomly before they receive tenure, or as a requirement if they are involved in a vehicle accident or other controversial incident.

As much as life is returning to normal, the city is still getting through a crisis. Virus cases which dropped sharply since the vaccine became available have suddenly shot upward, with the Delta variant proving particularly contagious. And the surest way to prevent this new wave from bringing terrible consequences to large numbers of people is to get more New Yorkers vaccinated. Federal statistics are pretty definitive: 99.2 percent of deaths from the virus lately have occurred among those who weren't vaccinated.

It is puzzling that the inoculation rates of several uniformed forces rival the low numbers in its poorest neighborhoods, where lack of solid information about the effectiveness of the vaccine may make residents wary. But for those who deal with those people, failure to be vaccinated themselves means all parties involved are being placed at risk. Emergency workers accept risk as part of their jobs. That doesn't mean those citizens they serve should have to embrace danger by accepting their help.

A former president of Emergency Medical Service Local 2507 of District Council 37, Pat Bahnken, phrased the issue with disbelief in his voice: "I should not have to get a vaccine because it may affect another person's life?"

It might seem easy for him to say, nearly a decade removed from taking heat from union members leery of the vaccine.

But Vincent Variale, the president of the EMS officers local, did a good job of balancing the equities, telling this newspaper's Bob Hennelly, "I am not for people being fired or forced to put something in their system that is still experimental, but if you choose not to be vaccinated, you have to take precautions, including regular testing...We are health-care professionals, and we deal with sick people every day. And what if we had a patient with a compromised immune system and we had COVID and did not know it? That could end up killing them."

The best step, as the Mayor said, is to get vaccinated. He has offered workers—for now those employed in city hospitals and the Health Department—the chance to instead undergo weekly tests.

And those who refuse will not be fired, as some private employers have done—they will get 30-day suspensions to ask themselves what they thought they were getting into when they chose public service.

A Win for the Good Guys

A Federal Judge recently ruled that a search by four Bronx cops that turned up a gun a man was carrying in his fanny pack was legal because they had grounds to move a stop to a frisk.

The officers passed Michael Hagood last fall when one thought he saw the outline of a gun in his fanny pack. When they ordered Mr. Hagood to stop, he tried to flee. During the struggle, one cop felt what he thought was a firearm in the fanny pack. A search produced a 9mm. gun.

The suspect's attorney sued, arguing that cops lacked a legal basis for the search. Judge Paul Engelmayer ruled against him, noting several circumstances that he said provided the officers with reasonable suspicion to stop him and, once he looked to flee, advance to the frisk stage.

This was stop-and-frisk as it was designed to be, rather than the travesty that Police Department commanders turned it into for the first decade of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 12 years in office. During that period, there were too many cases when cops violated the Constitution with groundless searches that antagonized communities of color and wasted time that should have been spent on productive police work.

Instances like this case are a reminder that when done right, stop-and-frisk is an effective tool.

FOR THE RECORD

After House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy chose two of ex-President Donald Trump's most-fervent House supporters among his five selections for the special committee investigating the Jan. 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi rejected them to, in her words, "protect the integrity of the investigation."

Mr. McCarthy countered the next day by saying he would withdraw all of his choices, which would mean that when the committee had its first hearing July 27, the sole Republican on the panel would be Liz Cheney, the former third-ranking Republican in the House whom her colleagues booted after she continued to criticize Mr. Trump's role in inciting the insurrection. She had been appointed by Ms. Pelosi.

Ms. Cheney, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, told reporters outside the Capitol, "This must be an investigation that is focused on facts, and the idea that any of this has become politicized is really unworthy of the office that we all hold and unworthy of our Republic."

She continued, "The rhetoric that we have heard from the Minority Leader is disingenuous. The attack on this building on Jan. 6 was the worst attack on this capital since 1814. It was an attack on our Constitution... the American people deserve to know what happened. The people who did this must be held accountable."

Congressman McCarthy had accused Ms. Pelosi of "an egregious abuse of power" in rejecting two of his selections. But Jim Banks of Indiana and Jim Jordan of Ohio both made clear after they were picked that they would look to play obstructionist roles on the panel.

Mr. Banks issued a statement saying Ms. Pelosi created the panel "solely to malign conservatives and to justify the left's authoritarian agenda." Both he and Mr. Jordan had joined most GOP House Members in voting against creation of a bipartisan panel a couple of months earlier.

Mr. Jordan, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Mr. Trump just before he left office, told Newsmax that the panel, which will initially hear testimony from Capitol Police Officers and District of Columbia officers who were brutalized by the mob Mr. Trump had whipped into a frenzy, amounted to "Impeachment, Round 3. This is to go after President Trump."

Ms. Cheney said of Mr. McCarthy, "At every opportunity, the Minority Leader has attempted to prevent the American people from understanding" what occurred on Jan. 6.

On the evening of July 21, we got an unexpected call from our friend The Bomber, who got that nickname for his success blowing up racetrack tote boards with betting scores. Among the matters he mentioned was his amazement at getting 3-1 odds that afternoon on a 2-year-old in Saratoga's Rick Violette Stakes who had previously run faster than any of his three opponents.

Our curiosity increased considerably when we discovered that the name of his winner was Run Curtis Run—and the only logical conclusion was that it was inspired by Curtis Sliwa's mayoral bid.

The horse is owned by Michael J. Caruso and Michael J. Dubb, a developer known as "The Condo King" who is a board member of the New York Racing Association. Mr. Sliwa told us in a phone interview the following day that he and Mr. Dubb became friends after being introduced by a mutual acquaintance and discussing their experiences in Bushwick—Mr. Dubb building houses there in the 1980s, Mr. Sliwa patrolling its crime-ridden streets and subways with the Guardian Angels.

Mr. Dubb named the horse for him, and "I know it's had two races and won both. Let's hope it's a precursor for my mayoral run. I won the Republican primary; hopefully I have as much luck as Run Curtis Run in my second race."

Mr. Sliwa did not look to pad his campaign fund by betting his namesake, saying an uncle's long-ago travails trying to pick winners—then dodge Brooklyn bookies when he didn't—convinced him it was a losing proposition.

Razzle Dazzle

Trying to Coax Holdouts Into Doing Right Thing



By RICHARD STEIER

"It's the only way you're gonna return to normal," Pat Bahnken said of the de Blasio administration's suddenly intensified efforts to get more of its workers vaccinated, particularly—and somewhat surprisingly—health-care and uniformed employees. "You don't want young, healthy people to be carriers across the city. From a virology standpoint, you could be running around setting fires all over the city and then running around trying to put them out."

But, said the man who headed District Council 37's Emergency Medical Technicians Local 2507 for nearly 13 years starting in 1999, the easy solution of compelling those who for whatever reason hadn't gotten vaccinated—which included half the members of his old local—by making it a condition of their continued employment, wasn't quite that simple.

"I think," Mr. Bahnken continued, "it's horrible, though, if the city breaks out the baseball bats. These are the people who carried the water for you when the city was burning."

He was referring to EMTs' pivotal role in getting those stricken with the coronavirus during the early days of the pandemic to city hospitals or treating them in their homes, with the risk of their being infected so high that the Fire Department gave them the sole responsibility for handling such cases out of concern that if firefighters responded, they could spread the disease to entire companies that shared quarters.

Mr. Bahnken was speaking July 20, a couple of hours before Mayor de Blasio sent up a flare indicating he would announce the following day that health-care workers at both the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and at the 11 institutions run by NYC Health+Hospitals starting Aug. 2 would either have to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. Those who chose neither option would be suspended without pay.

A Tactical Middle Ground

When he rolled out the city's plan in some detail, the Mayor was asked by one reporter whether this wasn't giving workers "an easy out" to avoid vaccination while not being nearly as aggressive as San Francisco, which is requiring all its municipal employees to either be inoculated or tested weekly.

Mr. de Blasio noted that in San Francisco, the program will not be implemented until September in the wake of some early objections. He also contended that for those employees on the fence about the vaccinations, some would decide that getting two shots a month apart was preferable to a weekly nose-swab to check whether they had the coronavirus.

"Others," he added, "may start with the weekly testing and come to the conclusion it's a lot of energy they have to put into it; it's just easier to get vaccinated."

When another reporter asked why cops and Teachers were being exempted, given the extensive contact each group has with members of the public, the Mayor replied that he was considering extending it to them eventually, but "we had to get started in the most-important place."

Left unsaid was that the Police Benevolent Association and the United Federation of Teachers both have enough clout, and enough members likely to object to anything they viewed as compulsory,

Continued on Page 6

Current Pension Topic

An After-Tax Roth IRA Has Its Advantages



By JOEL FRANK

For the Career Civil Servant (CSS), is it better to invest pre-tax or after-tax? Will the CSS be in a lower or higher income tax bracket during retirement compared to the tax bracket while working?

Let's take a look at Bob's situation. He is a Teacher and plans to retire at 65 after 40 years of service. He intends to contribute the maximum to the Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plan of the City of New York. He is looking forward to a taxable pension + taxable (85 percent) Social Security + taxable Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from his pre-tax 457(b) account.

When these three income

streams are viewed in the aggregate, Bob will, clearly, have more income during retirement than while working. At age 28, Bob decides to stop contributing to his pre-tax 457(b) account and begins to contribute to his after-tax Roth 457(b) account.

Susan, age 45, has \$250,000 in her pre-tax 457(b) account and recognizes that she should stop making contributions to the pre-tax account in favor of investing in the after-tax Roth account. She also wants to transfer the pre-tax balance of \$250,000 to her after-tax Roth account.

How is this done? The

Continued on Page 6

Tax Strategies

Are You Eligible for The Saver's Tax Credit?



By BARRY LISAK

Formerly called the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, the Saver's Credit gives a special tax break to low-to-moderate-income workers who are saving for retirement. Contributors to a traditional or Roth IRA, 403(b), 457 and 401(k) plans are eligible to claim the Saver's Credit, a tax credit worth up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for married couples. Workers can claim this credit in addition to the tax deduction they also get for their retirement-account contributions. According to one survey, only 12 percent of American workers with annual household incomes of less

than \$50,000 are aware of the Saver's Credit.

Here are five things the IRS wants you to know about the Saver's Credit:

Income limits. For the 2021 tax year, the Saver's Credit applies to individuals with a filing status and income of:

- Single, married filing separately, or qualifying widow(er), with income up to \$33,000;
- Head of household with income up to \$48,750;
- Married filing jointly, with incomes up to \$66,000.
- As a rule, the lower your income,

Continued on Page 9



CHARLES LAVINE: Sees intimidation attempt.

Assembly Judiciary Chair: Cuomo Tries To Taint 2 Probes

By RICHARD STEIER

The Chairman of the Assembly committee leading an inquiry into whether Governor Cuomo should be impeached for sexually harassing numerous female aides July 21 accused his Communications Director of trying to "undermine the investigation and send profoundly negative signals to witnesses" by criticizing Attorney General Letitia James, whose office is conducting a parallel probe.

Judiciary Chair Charles Lavine, a Long Island Democrat, was incensed by a tweet a week earlier by Rich Azzopardi, the Governor's chief spokesman, that mentioned that Ms. James "may run against the Governor."

Cites Previous Warning

Mr. Lavine noted that last March 15, early in the Assembly's probe, he wrote Mr. Cuomo a letter "expressly advising: 'in so sensitive a matter, it is both obvious and imperative that neither you nor anyone associated with you engage in intimidation, retaliation, or any attempt at intimidation or retaliation against any complainant or potential witness.'"

He said that Mr. Azzopardi's reference to Ms. James crossed that line, writing, "It is obvious that attempts to demean the Attorney General serve as well to undermine the investigation and send profoundly negative signals to witnesses."

An outside attorney representing the Governor, Paul J. Fishman, responded that it was Assemblyman Lavine whose remarks were inappropriate.

He noted in his letter that Mr. Azzopardi's tweet had not mentioned Ms. James's investigation, which is being conducted by two outside lawyers—a former U.S. Attorney in Manhattan and an employment-discrimination expert—and was aimed at rebutting criticism from Transport Workers Union International President John Samuels, once a staunch

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MANSION OF MENACE?: While a lawyer for Governor Cuomo claims a tweet from a top aide was falsely branded an attempt to demean Attorney General Letitia James and intimidate potential witnesses in two investigations of his conduct, one Assembly Democrat said it was typical of tactics emanating from the Governor's Mansion: 'He's trying to discredit people that have accused him.'

Assembly/Cuomo Clash

Continued from Page 4

Cuomo ally but a harsh critic for more than two years.

Cited Support of AG

Trying to put the tweet in context, Mr. Fishman quoted it at length: "Samuelsen is an extortionist who is trying to undo pension reform. We also understand that he is a political supporter of Tish James and she may run against the Governor, and he wants more benefits in his contract."

Mr. Fishman's letter stated that it was "both implausible and unreasonable" to conclude that Mr. Azzopardi's comments were meant to "demean" Ms. James or intimidate witnesses.

And, he added, "Punishing executive officials about important issues of public policy is not merely inappropriate, it is fundamentally inconsistent with the core values of our nation's founders."

But Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, a Democrat representing Schenectady, suggested Mr. Cuomo himself was not guided by such lofty sentiments.

'He Discredits Accusers'

He told Spectrum News, "This is exactly what they've always done," referring to the Governor and his aides. "It's the bullying. It's the intimidation. It's the trying to discredit people...He's trying to discredit people that have accused him,

and he's been doing this all along, and enough is enough."

More than a half-dozen women, most of them either past or present aides, have accused Mr. Cuomo of sexually harassing them, either through inappropriate comments or unwanted touching. In the most-explicit case, he was accused by a woman still working for his office of luring her to the Executive Mansion late last year on a pretext, and then reaching inside her blouse and grabbing her breast.

It had been reported that a few days before Mr. Lavine's letter, the outside attorneys conducting the investigation on behalf of the Attorney General had questioned the Governor about the claims against him at an undisclosed location.

In an interview with this newspaper following Mr. Azzopardi's tweet, Mr. Samuelsen had scoffed at being called an extortionist, saying it was a reference to his attempts to revise the Tier 6 pension plan, which he pointed out he had been seeking to do since shortly after its adoption in 2012, even when his relationship with the Governor was a strong one.

Noting that he had severed ties with Mr. Cuomo after he accused TWU members of engaging in possibly criminal behavior to pad their salaries with overtime—a claim that has not resulted in any charges—Mr. Samuelsen added, "With friends like this, who needs enemies?"

Drunk Nearly Three Times Over Firefighter Charged With Manslaughter in Crash

By BOB HENNELLY

A city Firefighter faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted on multiple charges related to a June 30, 2020 motor vehicle crash that killed a motorist in Jackson Heights, according to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

A Queens grand jury has indicted Firefighter John DaSilva, 31, of Staten Island, who was accused of driving with a blood-alcohol level almost three times the legal limit, with additional charges of aggravated vehicular homicide and vehicular manslaughter.

Suspended Without Pay

Mr. DaSilva, a six-year veteran, was suspended without pay for four weeks by the FDNY. Any potential departmental charges will be held in abeyance, pending the resolution of the criminal case.

"Because of the defendant's alleged recklessness and selfish choices, another driver is dead, and his loved ones left mourning a senseless loss of life," DA Katz said in a statement.

On July 21, Mr. DaSilva was arraigned before Queens Supreme Court Justice John Zoll on a nine-count indictment. The judge ordered him to return to court Sept. 30.

According to the District Attorney, "around 12:23 a.m. on June 30, 2020, the defendant was driving a Jeep Grand Cherokee at approximately 64 miles per hour heading eastbound on 35th Avenue toward 95th Street in Jackson Heights" when the vehicle "allegedly barreled into Grady



MELINDA KATZ: 'Reckless, selfish choices' caused death.

Romero-Duarte's car as the victim was completing a left turn onto 35th Avenue from 95th Street."

A Fearsome Impact

Prosecutors said the force of the impact caused the victim's 2017 BMW to spin counter-clockwise, colliding with four unoccupied and parked cars on 35th Avenue. Mr. DaSilva's Jeep came to a standstill only after it hit a fifth parked vehicle near the southeast corner of 35th Avenue and 95th Street.

Both Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Romero-Duarte were transported to the hospital, where Mr. Romero Duarte died.

"According to the investigation, a medical professional secured a blood sample at that time, which allegedly showed DaSilva had a blood alcohol level of 0.22—nearly three times the legal limit," the DA's Office reported.

A call to Mr. DaSilva's attorney was not returned.

Letters to the Editor Unions Pick Wrong Fight

To the Editor:

The headline for Crystal Lewis's July 23 Chief-Leader article reads, "As Hospitals Move to Mandate COVID Vaccines for Staff, Unions Push Back."

Federal officials early in July reported that 99.2 percent of recent coronavirus deaths were of people not vaccinated. The number of vaccinated people dying is 0.8 percent. Nothing's 100 percent. But you can't get much closer than that.

The only legitimate reason to refuse a vaccine is if you have a unique medical condition that makes it likely that it will kill you. As for religious objections, I have a vaccinated friend who is such a strong believer that he says, "I don't believe there's a God. I know there's a God." He knows the Bible thoroughly and knows of no passage where God says, "Don't get vaccinated. Die!"

So if union leaders want to push back against anything, let it be contracts that don't keep up with inflation and poverty wages.

RICHARD WARREN
Retired transit worker

'Snafu' Lies With Elections Bd.

To the Editor:

In response to The Chief-Leader's recent story on the WFP ballot line ("Signature Snafu Keeps WFP Off November Ballots in Most Races"), we felt it important to underscore the significance of the New York City Board of Elections' decision.

There was no "signature snafu." After several of our staff got sick with COVID-19 last cycle, we decided to utilize electronic signatures for our Certificate of Authorization, in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order. Our documents were accepted by every BOE in the state and followed the law to the letter.

Our city prides itself on leading the way on voting rights, yet the NYC BOE has broken with the State Supreme Court and Governor's Executive Order in booting our candidates from the ballot and denying people a choice in November.

Seeing the NYC BOE leadership take the extraordinary step of removing WFP candidates from the ballot line without doing their homework on the election laws and based on their (inaccurate) gut sense of the rules has shaken our faith in the ability of the BOE leadership to administer fair and impartial elections. It's clear they're holding our party to a different set of standards. We hope they will come into compliance with election law and fully restore our candidates to the ballot for the general election.

SHARON CROMWELL
Deputy Director,
New York Working
Families Party

Cuomo Slippery, Shameless

To the Editor:

Shameless and heartless people appall us. Andrew Cuomo is one of those people. His character and conduct have been repeatedly exposed by his responses to a number of credible young women (some of whom worked for him) who accused the Governor of sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and presiding over a toxic workplace.

The Cuomo narrative began with an apology. He was sorry his behavior made anyone uncomfortable. Then came the attack on two of his accusers. In the next stage, Cuomo tried to limit any inquiry to a review, and later to an investigation, both of which would have been headed by Judge Janet De Fiore, one of his closest allies. When these efforts failed, the Governor was forced to request in writing that an investigation be carried out by Attorney General Letitia James.

James hired Joon Kim and Anne Clark, two experienced and well-respected outside lawyers, to head the investigation. They have carried out a thorough inquiry over the last four months, using

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their subpoena power to interview a number of relevant witnesses and collect a multitude of records pertinent to the case.

Cuomo initially, at his news briefings and endless photo ops, refused to answer any questions about the accusations, saying there was an ongoing investigation and he had confidence in the Attorney General. However, as the investigation has neared its completion, Cuomo and his aides have made unsubstantiated charges against the Attorney General and her office. They claim that the investigation is politically motivated, James wants to run for Governor, and information is being leaked.

Cuomo now insists he's guilty of no "wrongdoing." This is inconsistent, for example, with what he didn't say about Charlotte Bennett, one of his accusers, never denying her account in which she said that he made "sexual advances in his Albany office." (The New York Times interview with Bennett was the impetus for the Attorney General's investigation.)

On the one hand, if Cuomo has done nothing wrong, then all of these women either misunderstood his behavior and that of key aides, or they are lying about both. If we take Cuomo at his word that he's innocent, why are he and those aides trying to discredit the Attorney General's investigation before the findings have been released? Wouldn't these exonerate him?

On the other hand, if these women are telling the truth about the Governor and his office, he is incapable of taking responsibility for his actions and believes he's above the very harassment law that he signed a few years ago.

The Trump presidency has demonstrated what happens when elected leaders feel they're above the law, abuse their power, and believe they should not be held accountable for their actions.

If the findings of Attorney General James's report reject Cuomo's version of events, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie hopefully will do what's fair and join the rest of the Assembly in voting to impeach the Governor, clearing the way for his trial in the State Senate.

HOWARD ELTERMAN

Hard Slap to Jails Staff

To the Editor:

The NYC Department of Correction has added an additional First Deputy Commissioner position to its ranks. Stanley Richards, vice president of the inmate support group The Fortune Society and a convicted felon, has been appointed to the second-ranking job in DOC. His responsibilities will include training and development of staff, the C.A.R.E unit which gives assistance to staff in need of help, and much more.

In the 1980s, Mr. Richards was a Rikers Island inmate for 2.5 years. He also served 4.5 years of a 9-year sentence in state prison for robbery. According to the Daily News, Mr. Richards sold drugs, and personally used marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. He robbed other drug-dealers and civilians to support his drug use.

He has turned his life around and become a professional in the workplace and seems to be a decent, respectable man. His comeback in life is admirable. He appears to be a role model. However, what he shouldn't be is a First Deputy Commissioner in a law-enforcement

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UFT 'Return' Campaign

Continued from Page 2

for in-person instruction. NYC educators want their students physically in front of them this fall," said UFT spokeswoman Alison Gendar. "They know parents have questions, and so this is just one way educators are reaching out to families to address their concerns."

The UFT's parent union, the American Federation of Teachers, provided \$5 million in grants for affiliates around the country as part of its "Back To School For All" campaign to rebuild relationships with families ahead of the upcoming school year.

"With every door knock and every conversation, we are trying not only to bring students back to school, but to heal the fractures in our communities," AFT President Randi Weingarten said.

Upstate Affiliate, Too

New York State United Teachers obtained one of the grants, and similar door-knocking campaigns are being launched in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Yonkers. The UFT's program includes 10 four-hour shifts, and a one-day training session.

Even though the union supports a full return to in-person instruction, UFT President Michael Mulgrew has called for an online option for students who were severely immunocompromised.

Council of School Supervisors and Administrators President Mark Cannizzaro said that his union "has always insisted that the city make decisions based on the input of public-health experts. Given the situation is ever-evolving, we expect there will be further



RANDI WEINGARTEN: Initiative has dual purpose.

conversations about what limited opportunities may be available for some students to engage remotely in the fall."

But even with a recent uptick in coronavirus cases because of the Delta variant, the Mayor has resisted calls from some parents to offer remote learning in the coming school year.

'We Need Them Back'

Mr. de Blasio highlighted the growing number of vaccinated New Yorkers and a low rate of COVID transmission in school as reasons why the plan for an exclusively in-person school year was full-speed ahead.

"We need our kids back in school so they can get healing from everything they've been through, so they can get back on track educationally," he said during a July 20 press briefing. "We need our kids back in school, where there are trained professionals to help them with physical health, mental health, where there are social workers, counselors, where there's food, meals for them... The goal is to have every single child back in school."

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Not-So-Subtle Persuasion: Coaxing Holdouts Into Doing the Right Thing

Continued from Page #

that politically it made sense to wait on bringing them under the policy. Health-care workers, whose jobs pivot largely on up-close encounters with people, a large number of whom would figure to be vulnerable to infection, were an obvious choice to start the process.

DC 37, which represents many of the affected workers at both H+H and the Health Department, has raised objections to making vaccination a condition of employment, with its chief spokeswoman, Freddi Goldstein, telling the New York Times that “the union does not believe it’s the place of the employer to mandate it.”

Internal Friction

But the different viewpoints among city workers—which accounts for unions’ reluctance to seem too eager to require vaccinations, even though many of their older members would welcome it—were reflected late last month. That was when Eddie Rodriguez, the president of DC 37’s second-largest local, Clerical-Administrative Employees Local 1549, lamented that 911 operators he represents were being supervised by superior officers in the NYPD who rarely wore masks.

“NYPD management and uniformed employees at 911 and in the precincts have not adhered to masking and distancing protocols in place previously” despite complaints by his local, he said in a statement.

DC 37 is not likely to be publicly airing grievances from some of its members who are vaccinated about co-workers who are not. That doesn’t mean such tensions don’t exist.

Ed Ott, a labor historian who’s a former executive director of the AFL-CIO New York City Central Labor Council, when asked about the large numbers of health-care workers who have not been vaccinated, said, “I’m extremely disappointed, but I’m not surprised. We’re gonna have to educate the hell



Photo courtesy of Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

HAS TO BE A BIG SHOT: After patiently waiting for many key city employee groups to get vaccinated in greater numbers and being disappointed, with just 60 percent of municipal hospital workers having been inoculated, firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians hovering at 50 percent and cops and correction officers trailing further behind, Mayor de Blasio has begun to turn up the pressure. NYC Health+Hospitals staff and Health Department employees by Aug. 2 must either get vaccinated or agree to weekly testing if they don’t want to be suspended without pay, and he hinted that cops and Teachers are among the groups that may be ordered to follow.

out of people: it’s not some abstraction or conspiracy where people are out to get them” by touting unsafe vaccines.”

He said he understood concerns among some city workers that the vaccines have not gotten final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but argued that the risks of getting inoculated were far smaller than those posed from the virus—something borne out by Federal officials noting that among recent deaths from the virus, 99.2 percent of them involved people who hadn’t been vaccinated.

“Some people say they won’t get the vaccine for three years,” Mr. Ott said. Speaking as someone who’s at greater risk because of his age, he added, “For some of us, this vaccine seems like a liberating thing. ‘Senior’ seniors, they seem to get the message.”

Religious Suspicions

But he contended that ultra-religious groups, including Orthodox Jews, Pentecostal

Christians and some Catholics who got information about the vaccine from sources that were “not necessarily the mainstream,” were wary of government machinations.

“Some of these religious people think they’re going to put a microchip in them to know where they are,” he said.

Mr. Bahnken has heard the same claims, and was even more incredulous that public employees could buy into them. “If anyone believes there’s a microchip [in the vaccine], they are not mentally fit enough to work for the city,” he said.

Mr. Ott said it was easier to understand why half of firefighters have not been inoculated despite the close contact they have with anyone they rescue from a blaze, explaining, “Firefighters in a crisis situation, generally they are masked in one form or another. Ambulance workers are in a different situation: they’re treating patients who were pulled out of the fire, maybe giving them mouth-to-mouth, and then being with those patients in the enclosed

area that’s an ambulance. You take the EMS guys—it would be more logical if they were standing outside the hospitals saying, ‘We’re not going in there until we get vaccinated.’”

Mr. Bahnken said that if the city at some point compelled EMTs to get vaccinated, “There may be a legal argument against it, given that these vaccines are under an emergency authorization” from the FDA, with final approval not expected to come until September.

But from a practical standpoint, he said, significantly increasing the inoculation rate is “the only way you’re gonna return to normal.”

‘People Should Get It’

He said his wife had gotten the Pfizer vaccine and his daughter received the Moderna one. Mr. Bahnken got the Johnson & Johnson single injection, which has been the most-controversial one because of serious after-effects for some who received it, but said that he had not suffered any of them.

“When you look at it in the context of all the vaccinations that have been given and the small number of problem cases,” he said, “it’s no different than the side-effects for someone taking an over-the-counter medication. The logical aspect of it: I think people should get the vaccine.”

Mr. Ott said that police officers—just 41 percent of whom have gotten the vaccine—were in a different category in terms of which ones should feel urgency about getting vaccinated, explaining, “I think it depends on the nature of the work they’re doing.”

There were cops who last summer bristled over criticism that they often weren’t wearing masks on the street, countering that during the protests here that followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, some of those with whom they tussled were not wearing masks and no charges were brought against them for being in violation of the city’s

masking requirement. Mr. Ott in defense of the cops said that the complaints about their disdaining masks involved outdoor situations, where the risk of infection was smaller.

Another factor may have been that more than a quarter of the uniformed force contracted the coronavirus by mid-spring last year, more than a month before the Floyd protests.

Mr. Bahnken said there was reason to mistrust city officials’ motives, contending, “They’re trying to protect their employees not out of benevolence, necessarily,” but to ward off lawsuits, whether they involved employees contracting the virus or civilians to whom they may have spread it. That might sound cynical, he said, except that last year “they had no problem telling people they had to work after they tested positive for COVID” if they were showing only mild symptoms of the disease.

False Sense of Immunity

And one danger, he said, was that having survived the worst of the pandemic without contracting the virus, some EMTs may be convinced they’ll survive if they’re stricken, and therefore don’t need to be inoculated.

“They believe it’s just a cold, it’s just the flu, it’s not that bad,” he said. “And for 90-95 percent of them, it may not be bad, and they’ll make a full, speedy recovery. But how many people do those people infect in the meantime?”

Mr. Bahnken also questioned the mentality that would lead some employees to tough it out while focusing solely on themselves. “I should not have to get a vaccine because it may affect another person’s life?” he asked, disbelief in his voice.

He continued, “People do have a certain right to refuse some medical treatments. But if your job requires you to treat people who may be vulnerable, in the end, I don’t know if that claim prevails [in a lawsuit]. You may be throwing for the

end zone in a Hail Mary.”

And, Mr. Bahnken said, the employer can counter, “I also don’t have to let you come here to work.”

New York Presbyterian has already taken that position, although it won’t require its first shots until Sept. 1. NYU Langone plans to adopt it once the FDA grants full approval to the vaccines, except for employees who qualify for medical exemptions.

Better to Be Respected

Mr. de Blasio is trying to gently nudge his health-care workers in that direction, and sounds as if he’ll be expanding the requirement to other city workers before the summer’s over.

Mr. Ott said he didn’t think the Mayor was overly concerned about union objections, explaining, “He’s not running for anything.”

But, he said, “I think he’s in a very difficult situation. I think what he’s going to try to do is go in the direction of restricting the activities of workers and what they can do if they’re not vaccinated: ‘You want to do buildings-and-grounds, that’s OK, but if you have patient care or you do lab work, you can’t do that work if you’re not vaccinated.’”

Those who really care about their jobs will decide that holding out against the vaccine isn’t worth it. There’s a loss of freedom involved, but that’s the case in a lot of public-sector jobs under more-ordinary circumstances. And Mr. de Blasio, who in his final months in office knows he can upgrade or diminish his legacy, seems to have come around to the realization that it’s more important to safeguard the health of those who work for the city and the people they serve than to make a last stab at endearing himself to employees.

That’s what being a leader is about.

“None of this is easy,” Mr. Ott said. “I don’t envy the Mayor.”

Judge: Stop-and-Frisk Passes Muster

Continued from Page 1

39 years old, was standing on Webster Ave. in Morrisania in between parked cars speaking with two acquaintances.

Four NYPD officers patrolling the neighborhood, which has been beset by violent crime, most of it gang-related, spotted the trio, but zeroed in on Mr. Hagood, who was wearing a fanny pack wrapped tightly across his chest and, conspicuously in known Blood territory, a bright blue sweatshirt.

At least one of the cops, all four of whom were assigned to Police Service Area 7’s Public-Safety Team, thought he detected the outlines of a gun in the pack. The officers would later testify that as they passed by, Mr. Hagood seemed unnerved and appeared to freeze with a “deer-in-the-headlights” look.

That only increased their suspicion that he was carrying a firearm. They moved to stop and question him.

Although boxed in by parked cars and all four officers, Mr. Hagood turned to flee, the officers would later say, and while he initially struggled to get free of their grasp, he was soon subdued and handcuffed, but not before one of the officers felt what he believed to be a firearm inside the fanny pack.

Two Packs, One ‘Nine’

Their suspicions were confirmed once they opened the pack: Inside they found two packs of cigarettes and a loaded Hi-Point semi-automatic 9mm pistol.

The suspect was taken to PSA 7 and, following questioning and a pat-down, the two other men were released.

Mr. Hagood, who served four-and-a-half years in state prison following a 2009 conviction on drug-possession charges, was also subsequently freed. But less than two months later, he was rearrested following a grand jury indictment on a Federal charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

‘Screams for Suppression’

The defendant, through his attorney, would later contend



PAUL ENGELMAYER: Reasonable suspicion existed.

that the officers had no right to search him or even to arrest him. The complaint, his attorney said during his Dec. 10 arraignment, “screams for a suppression hearing.”

Mr. Hagood and his attorney contended that the officers lacked reasonable suspicion to stop him, frisk him or pat down his pack. The lawyer further argued that even if they were justified in stopping his client, his de facto arrest when he was handcuffed lacked probable cause, and that therefore the officers’ search of his pack and recovery of the gun was the result of an unlawful seizure.

Judge Engelmayer, though, citing several precedents, including the 1968 case that gave its name to what would become known as a Terry stop, found the officers had acted within constitutional bounds when stopping and searching Mr. Hagood and then seizing the 9mm handgun.

The Judge said the officers were justified in seizing Mr. Hagood since they had a reasonable suspicion that he was engaged in illegal activity based on several factors, including that the fanny pack’s outline suggested it contained a gun and that he seemed nervous on seeing police roll by in their patrol car.

‘More Than Just a Bulge’

The Judge also noted that where the arrest took place is known as a high-crime area punctuated by gang violence. That Mr. Hagood was wearing blue, a rival color in Blood territory, also suggested suspicion, he wrote.

“An observation of a generic ‘bulge’ under a suspect’s clothing is usually insufficient to supply reasonable suspicion that the item underneath is a form of contraband,” the Judge wrote, before citing precedent: “But where more is seen, the calculus changes, and observation of an outline [of a firearm] can significantly contribute to a finding of reasonable suspicion...Such is the case here.”

The NYPD did not respond to a request for comment regarding the ruling.

Judge Engelmayer, in outlining his reasons for why the so-called Terry stop was justified, alluded to a very recent case, also out of the Southern District, where a Judge suppressed discovery of a firearm by Yonkers police. In that case, police had cited the apparent weight of a fanny pack, rather than any outline.

Judge Goes for the Gun

To make the distinction, and “desirous of subjecting to proof” one officer’s judgment, Judge Engelmayer himself put on the fanny pack with the 9mm inside and found that the firearm “was easily—in-deed, dramatically—visible.”

The Judge was therefore “firmly persuaded” that the gun’s outline was visible, that it was seen by the officer, “and that this observation and the consequent (and correct) perception that the pack housed a gun prompted the officer to immediately stop the patrol car to enable further investigation.”

That Mr. Hagood wore the fanny pack across his chest, as had other similarly charged defendants, rather than across his waist, and that he became agitated when the officers drove by, convinced Judge Engelmayer that the officers met the reasonable-suspicion threshold, he wrote.

That Time of Night

He also noted that the officers “credibly testified” that their experience as cops, and especially their familiarity with the area’s propensity for violent gang activity, “reinforced their suspicion that Hagood possessed a firearm.”

“Although the officers did

not expressly testify that the time of night (1 a.m.) contributed to their suspicion, Officer Migliaccio did testify that he was able to observe Hagood more closely because there were ‘not a lot of cars on the road or obstructions,’” he wrote. “And case law supports that a late-night hour may support suspicion of wrongdoing.”

The Judge concluded that “the same facts” provided the officers with reasonable suspicion that justified their subsequent protective frisk, which led to the discovery of the weapon.

“That is because the crime which the evidence reasonably indicated Hagood was committing was gun possession,” he wrote.

The Judge found arguments from Mr. Hagood’s attorney that his arrest was unlawful because they lacked probable cause “unpersuasive” given, in part, that “assembled evidence” before he was handcuffed “gave the officers probable cause to conclude that Hagood possessed a firearm.”

CURRENT PENSION TOPICS

Continued from Page 4

457(b) Plan allows Susan to do “in-plan” transfers (roll-overs) to her Roth account. The amount of the transfers is up to Susan. She decides to transfer \$25,000 annually until the entire pre-tax balance has been moved into the Roth account. Each \$25,000 transfer is taxable income. Why? Because only after-tax money may be invested in the Roth account.

Are deferred-comp Roth accounts subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) starting at age 72? Yes, they are. The RMDs, however, are tax-free because the distributions came from the Roth account. The earnings, however, generated by the re-investment of the RMDs are subject to tax. Is there a way to avoid the RMD and, thus, the taxes generated by the re-investment of the RMD? Yes, there is. Once eligible, roll the deferred-comp Roth balance into a Roth IRA.

ADVANTAGES OF THE ROTH IRA

1. Contributions are made

with after-tax dollars.

2. Contributions may be withdrawn, tax-free, at any time.

3. The *earnings* generated by the contributions may be withdrawn tax-free, provided the Roth IRA has been open for at least five years and the owner has attained age 59.5.

4. At age 72, the Roth IRA is not subject to RMDs.

5. The Roth IRA owner need not make any withdrawals during his or her lifetime.

6. Items 1-5 applies to the spouse-beneficiary of a Roth IRA.

7. A non-spouse beneficiary of a Roth IRA must empty out the account by the end of the 10th year following the death of the Roth IRA owner. These withdrawals are tax-free.

Mr. Frank is a fee-only Retirement Financial Planner and a retired city high school Teacher of Accounting. He can be reached by phone at (732) 536-9472, or via email at rollover@optonline.net.



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WE ONLY HAVE ONE BEAT—YOURS.

As of Aug. 2, City Health-Care Staff Must Be Vaccinated or Tested Weekly

Continued from Page 1

Staffers must provide proof that they've been fully vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID testing the first week-day of next month. Those who refuse will be suspended without pay, the Mayor stated.

"I think some people may say immediately, 'Okay, let's just get vaccinated,'" he said. "This could be the moment that really moves them. Others may start with the weekly testing and come to the conclusion...it's just easier to get vaccinated."

Health Commissioner Dave Chokshi called the measure "one of the most important steps that we can take at this stage in our vaccination campaign."

Concerned About Patients

NYC H+H President and CEO Mitchell Katz noted how important it was for health-care employees to get inoculated because many of the patients they worked with were immunosuppressed.

The Mayor said he hoped the requirements introduced by the city "will be emulated by public and private health-care systems all over America."

Several private hospital systems, including New York Presbyterian, have implemented vaccination requirements barring religious or medical exemptions. More than 150 workers at Houston Methodist were fired or resigned after refusing to comply with a vaccination mandate, while six supervisory employees at RWJBarnabas Health in New Jersey were



TWO CHOICES, ONE GOAL: Mayor de Blasio announced that NYC Health + Hospitals staffers and clinical employees at the city Health Department must get vaccinated against coronavirus or receive weekly testing beginning Aug. 2. The policy was implemented because more than one-third of city hospital workers were not yet vaccinated, and the Mayor and city health officials hoped that this would push health-care workers to get inoculated.

Photo courtesy of Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

fired for the same reason.

Many unions representing health-care workers, including the New York State Nurses Association, have opposed mandatory vaccinations as a condition of employment.

The Mayor previously voiced hesitancy about mandating vaccinations. However, he and Dr. Katz believed that giving health-care workers the option to either be vaccinated or receive routine testing struck a balance between union concerns and the urgency created

by the Delta variant.

'Appreciate the Choice'

"I think there is appreciation that we are giving workers a choice; that they need to be vaccinated or to have weekly testing and that the testing will be available at our facilities so that people can access that testing without difficulty," Dr. Katz said.

District Council 37, which represents thousands of employees at NYC H+H and

DOHMH including Nurses Aides, Respiratory Therapists and Public Health Epidemiologists, helped members schedule vaccination appointments and hosted virtual townhalls with city health officials to educate members about the vaccine. But the union also told City Hall that it opposed mandatory vaccinations.

"District Council 37 supports and has been encouraging of more testing," said spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein. "Of course with all

things, we'll need to see how the testing is being implemented, but our primary concern is the safety of our members and their patients, and testing gets to that."

Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union, which represents Licensed Practical Nurses at NYC H+H, has taken a strong stance against vaccination requirements.

'Shouldn't Threaten Them'

"We commend Mayor de Blasio's position of not making vaccination a condition of employment," said union President George Gresham. "The health and safety of our members and their patients remains our top priority, which is why we encourage our members to get vaccinated. However, there are other cooperative avenues that can be taken to address the concerns of both labor and management. Threatening our members' freedom of choice and livelihood is not one of them."

When asked whether the policy would be extended to Teachers and other city workers, the Mayor indicated that requiring vaccinations or routine testing may be "the wave

of the future."

"We are definitely looking at other possibilities, but we're not there yet," he said July 21.

But he also suggested that vaccination efforts would become more aggressive.

"If we don't see vaccination numbers continue to go up, we're going to push in every way, if we don't see them go up fast enough. And if we don't see progress against the variant, we're going to consider a range of options," Mr. de Blasio said.

Expanding the policy to schools could add a layer of protection for students under 12 who were ineligible to be inoculated. Students and staff have already experienced routine COVID testing during the previous school year, the United Federation of Teachers noted.

"Masking and a rigorous testing regimen of more than 1.3 million in-school tests last school year have helped keep public schools among the safest places in New York City during the pandemic," a spokeswoman for the union said. "These same protections are in place for summer school, and we will be working with the city, state, and our own independent medical experts on safety protocols for this fall."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 5

agency.

Mr. Richards's criminal past prohibits him from being a correction officer or a police officer. If he applied for either job, his application would automatically be rejected. Yet he is our FDC and in position to be designated the Commissioner when our Commissioner takes a day off or uses vacation time.

So many of the DOC uniformed staff have been fired for committing lesser crimes than he did. In many other cases, staff have been fired for policy violations that don't even rise to the level of a crime.

The Department of Correction is the equivalent of a sinking ship struggling to stay afloat. Inmates are wreaking havoc on a daily basis, largely because there are little to no consequences for their criminal and unruly behavior. Our demoralized, battered staff have been abused and disrespected for years now in this horrible chaotic environment. This appointment is another cold, hard slap to our faces while we are down in power and in spirit as we struggle through the darkest era in the department's history.

In spite of continuously rising crime, hundreds of

Continued on Page 11

Uniformed Unions: Don't Make Vaccine Mandatory

Continued from Page 1

Variante, took a more-measured stance. Referring to the fact that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not yet given final approval to the vaccines, he said, "I am not for people being fired or forced to put something in their system that is still experimental, but if you choose not to be vaccinated, you have to take precautions including regular testing to ensure you don't pass on this deadly disease."

'We Deal With Sick People'

He continued, "We are health-care professionals, and we deal with sick people every day. What if we had a patient with a compromised immune system and we did not know it? That could end up killing them."

Several labor leaders said that their vaccine-leery members said that because they'd already had the virus, they believed they retained enough antibodies to ward off another infection.

Uniformed Firefighters Association President Andy Ansburo, an early proponent of the FDNY vaccine program, said he would fight any move to make it compulsory. He noted that one Firefighter was recently in a hospital intensive-care unit with double-lung pneumonia as a result of the virus, but he had yet to see evidence showing serious illnesses for those who already had the disease.

"There may be a Delta variant infecting people a second time, but are they being

hospitalized?" he asked.

Last December, Dr. David Prezant, the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer, said there was a broad scientific consensus that those individuals who had survived an earlier bout with the virus should also be vaccinated.

San Francisco All-In

In June, San Francisco city officials announced that all 35,000 municipal employees would be required to be vaccinated or risk losing their jobs.

That mandate will not take effect, however, until the FDA gives full authorization to the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. It has been estimated that this might happen by September.

San Francisco officials defended the mandate on the grounds that police, firefighters, EMTs and even code-enforcement officials come into daily contact with members of the public.

Carol Isen, San Francisco's Director of Human Resources, told the New York Times, "We believe this step is a simple one to take. It's safe, it's very effective, and it's going to guarantee the safety of all."

The de Blasio administration's push for increased vaccination among health-care workers came after its effort to vaccinate 70 percent of city residents by the end of June fell short and the more-contagious Delta variant of the virus surged while the rate of people seeking inoculation slowed.

At the Mayor's July 21 press briefing, he was asked by reporters, in light of the Delta

variant, why he did not opt to follow San Francisco's lead and include all city workers.

Will Do So Sept. 13

"We're going to be looking at that," he responded, and five days later announced the policy would cover all workers as of Sept. 13.

In San Francisco, over 70 percent of eligible residents have been vaccinated, a threshold Mr. de Blasio announced July 22 that the city had finally reached, although some poorer city neighborhoods were below 50 percent and just half of firefighters and EMTs had been vaccinated, with the rates even lower among cops and correction officers.

In the NYPD, where just 43 percent of officers have been inoculated, spokeswoman Jessica McRorie said, "Since vaccines became available, we have encouraged our employees, especially those who have contact with the public, to get vaccinated. We have made vaccinations available at multiple times and at multiple locations to ensure that as many of our employees as possible get the vaccination. The NYPD has produced and distributed two videos encouraging NYPD personnel to be vaccinated and two more videos are in production."

Hindered by 'Rumors'

Sergeant McRorie added, "That said, our newest internal messaging focuses on addressing rumors, misinformation and concerns with

vaccination. While we have stopped short of compelling uniformed officers to be vaccinated by rule—which would likely face lengthy legal challenges—we have focused our efforts on strong education and encouragement."

The NYPD has lost close to 60 members to the virus.



Photo courtesy of FDNY

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Dr. David Prezant, the Fire Department's Chief Medical Officer, was vaccinated against the coronavirus late last year in the early stages of the drive to get the workforce inoculated. Union leaders say one reason that half of city firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians have declined to be vaccinated is that they believe having had the virus they have enough antibodies to protect them from being reinfected. Dr. Prezant said the medical community believes even those employees should get the vaccine to protect themselves and others with whom they come into contact.

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Low Pay Leads Some EMTs to Work Until Death

Continued from Page 3

more exposure to that kind of experience, the better you are going to be at delivering emergency medical care and the little nuances required for an effective and rapid intervention," he said. "If they [newer hires] are working with people that haven't learned all those lessons, they can't in turn teach them."

Captain Burke, a 33-year EMS veteran, said that years of practical experience makes all the difference during the so-called "Platinum 10," explaining, "Especially with a trauma that's going to require a surgery, if we can be off the scene within 10 minutes of our arrival with a critical patient, the chance of their survival is that much better."

Traveling Farther

Over the arc of the two men's careers, the job became increasingly challenging in Queens as one hospital and emergency room after another closed.

"So, where we are in Queens, right around the corner from H+H's Queens Hospital, in that neighborhood alone we lost Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital," Mr. Burke said. In addition, he said, the borough also lost St. John's Hospital and Parkway Hospital.

"The loss of hospital beds and loss of those emergency



OREN BARZILAY: Low pay deters retirements.

rooms is a real stressor for us, because you are traveling a greater distance to get a patient to the ER, which leaves your coverage area exposed with fewer ambulances. And then there's the travel time back for the units," he said. "It's a real issue out on the Rockaways, where they lost Peninsula Hospital and now there is only one hospital serving that entire area."

"For three decades, EMT Seaberry bravely served the City of New York, responding to thousands of medical emergencies," said Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro. "He was there so often during New Yorkers' most-desperate moments. So many lives continue to be lost to COVID-19. Our department has now lost 10 extraordinary people who dedicated their lives to serving others in the

FDNY."

Mr. Seaberry's not living to see retirement is, sadly, not unique.

Such a case touched City Council Member I. Daneek Miller personally with the virus-related death of EMS Instructor Idris Bey, 60, another 9/11 WTC veteran who was an EMS Instructor when he was felled by the virus.

"We grew up together," he said. "We converted to Islam together, we studied together."

'Couldn't Get 3/4s'

He said Mr. Bey started his civil-service career with the Department of Correction, then spent 27 years with EMS. "He was in 9/11 but couldn't get the three-quarters pension to retire on, like police and fire get to do, so he continued to do what he loved as an EMS instructor at Fort Totten," Mr. Miller said, referring to a disability pension worth 75 percent of final average salary.

The Queens Council Member, who chairs the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, has long been a leading advocate for EMTs getting pay parity with firefighters.

On Dec. 23, the same day that EMS workers began receiving the coronavirus vaccine, the city confirmed the COVID-linked death of Evelyn Ford, a 27-year EMS Dispatcher who was 58.

"She was hanging on hoping to get to 30 years," said Oren Barzilay, president of DC 37's Local 2507, which represents EMTs, Paramedics and Fire Inspectors, who was her former partner.

Victims of Pay Gap

Ms. Ford was assigned to the Emergency Medical Dispatch unit, which coordinates the FDNY's response to major emergencies from serious fires to mass-casualty events.

At the time of her death, Mr. Barzilay texted, "She took pride in her work, she was dedicated, professional and well-respected by her colleagues."

During a July 20 phone interview, he said the plight of those three union members underscored the consequences of the pay gap with other emergency-responder titles.

"When you have such low pay and your pension is 50 percent of this minimum [annual] wage—let's say \$50,000—the state gives you half that, so we have members retiring on \$2,000 a month," Mr. Barzilay said.

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TAX STRATEGIES

Continued from Page 4

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Eligibility requirements. To be eligible for the credit, you must be at least 18 years of age, you cannot have been a full-time student during the calendar year and cannot be claimed as a dependent on another person's return. Additionally, if you have taken any distributions or withdrawals from a retirement account in the past two years (i.e., 2019 or 2020) your Saver's Credit will be reduced or eliminated.

Credit amount. If you make eligible contributions to a qualified IRA, 401(k) and certain other retirement plans, you may be able to take a credit of up to \$1,000, or up to \$2,000 if filing jointly. Because the tax break is a credit instead of a deduction, it's a better deal. Tax deductions reduce taxable income, but credits reduce your tax bill dollar for dollar. The credit is a percentage of the contribution amount, with the highest rate for taxpayers with the least income.

Double tax benefits. The Saver's Credit is in addition to other tax benefits which may result from the retirement contributions. For example, most workers at these income levels

may deduct all or part of their contributions to a traditional IRA. For example:

Jill is single and earned \$16,500 in 2021. Jill contributed \$1,000 to her traditional IRA in 2021. Jill is entitled to a 50-percent tax credit on her contribution = \$500. Also, her contribution is tax-deductible and since she is in the 12-percent bracket, she will receive an additional \$120 tax deduction. In the end, Jill contributed \$1,000 into her IRA and reduced her taxes by \$620. Yes, she gets a double-tax benefit for her contribution!

Forms to Use. To claim the credit, use Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions. You can only claim the Saver's Credit if you use Form 1040 or 1040NR to file your Federal tax return.

For more information, see IRS Publication 590, "Individual Retirement Arrangements."

Barry Lisak is an IRS Enrolled Agent, meaning that he has passed special U.S. Treasury Department exams that qualify him to represent clients dealing with audits or tax-resolution cases. Any questions can be directed to him at (516) TAX-SAVE, or mrbarrytax@aol.com.

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CSEA, one of New York State's largest unions is seeking resumes for a Labor Education Specialist. While based in our Albany, New York headquarters the position requires travel throughout New York State.

Under the direct supervision of the Director of Education and Leadership Development, the Labor Education Specialist designs, develops and implements education and training programs that meet the needs of officers, stewards and members in regions, locals and units. The Labor Education Specialist is part of the field services available to the regions, locals, units and members and as a professional staff member is responsible for statewide workshops and trainings, regional education committee meetings and regional events on an as needed basis.

Qualifications Bachelor's Degree in labor relations, political science, human resources, public administration or other related field desired with a minimum of 18 months of full-time direct labor relations experience in a unionized environment OR an acceptable combination of education and direct labor relations experience as determined by CSEA. A Certificate of study in Labor Relations may be substitutes for some amount of acceptable full-time experience in a unionized environment.

Note: Candidates must possess and maintain a valid New York State Driver's License and personal vehicle for business use in order to be appointed and continue in the position.

Salary is \$56,629. The position offers a career ladder with satisfactory performance.

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- You must reside in New York City within the 5 boroughs
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- Must have a valid NYS 8 and 16hr security guard license
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 7

thousands of our friends and neighbors fleeing NYC, and jails that are out of control and largely ruled by the inmates, we continue on with this failed political, anti-law-enforcement movement.

JOSEPH RUSSO
President,
Assistant Deputy Wardens,
Deputy Wardens Association

DOC Suppresses Speech

To the Editor:
On July 20, a city correction officer was suspended without pay for 30 days because while off-duty he left a voice message for some co-workers criticizing the Department of Correction and that recording somehow found its way onto social media.

The charges to follow will most likely include “Bringing Discredit to the Department” and “Conduct Unbecoming an Officer.”

In the voice message to his colleagues, the correction officer said that the jails were “crazy,” there are “no doctors in the clinic,” “the department does not have your back,” “this is the worst I’ve ever seen,” and “it’s a useless battle.”

This action by DOC is a clear violation of the First Amendment right to free speech. Although they will not state it publicly, management knows it has utterly failed. DOC has been publicly criticized by the press, politicians, the Federal monitor, special-interest groups, and inmates, but apparently they draw the line when the criticism comes privately from a frustrated and over-worked correction officer. Upper management becomes intolerant of the criticism and lashes out.

This is DOC’s come-uppance.

The officer did not divulge confidential information, he did not speak publicly, he did not slander anyone, he did not represent himself as the agency spokesperson. Furthermore, he spoke the truth, much of which has been reported by the media for several years and regularly agreed upon by others.

Now you know why when DOC staff speaks to the media, their identity is concealed. DOC has a cold-blooded and merciless approach to discipline like that of abusive parents.

The First Amendment protects individuals from the government’s infringement on freedom of speech, and DOC is an extension of NYC government.

This is an abuse of power and a clear constitutional violation designed to intimidate DOC staff into silence, as if silence is the solution to this administration’s

failures.
DOC’s top civilian management is currently in a bunker mentality. Trespassing on an individual’s constitutional right to free speech can now be added to this administration’s infamous legacy.

MARC BULLARO
Retired Assistant Deputy
Warden

Garcia for First Deputy

To the Editor:
Your thoughtful and well-written “Razzle Dazzle” column (July 16 issue) focusing on the extraordinary turnout of enrolled Democratic voters who cast their Primary Day ballots, is a testament to Kathryn Garcia’s background as a clear-eyed, problem-solving governmental executive.

As Eric Adams gives possible thought to the selection of Deputy Mayors to assist him in governing New York City, could there be anyone who presently appears better-qualified to serve as First Deputy Mayor than his Brooklyn neighbor Kathryn Garcia?

As New York City undertakes to reinvent itself after the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped that the cadre of Deputy Mayors and departmental commissioners will bring vigor and vision to the Mayor’s leadership team.

ROGER B. ADLER, ESQ.

Cheaters Shouldn’t Prosper

To the Editor:
A Department of Education investigation that should have taken two weeks was fast-tracked and therefore took only two years.

Khurshid Abdul-Mutakabbir, the Principal of Maspeth High School, ran a many-faceted, deeply-rooted cheating scandal. It was massive and it was brazen. It showed contempt for his students and the concept of merit.

The DOE is seeking to terminate this fraudster. At last.

How much longer could they have slept on it without arousing suspicion? They had to act, as the public-relations fallout could be deferred no longer.

“Our schools must have the highest standards of academic integrity and we are working quickly,” assured spokesperson Katie O’Hanlon.

Judging from years of news reports and bloggers’ posts that included testimony from staff members, the substantiation was so voluminous that it could have filled the belly of a cargo plane.

Abdul-Mutakabbir ran Maspeth High for 10 years. If the Office of Special Investigations didn’t go back beyond 2019, a reasonable person might hypothesize that it should have.

It was found that this school leader altered grades, gave credit for non-existent courses, awarded advanced Regents Diplomas, and drafted staff members into the illegal disservice of aiding students on crucial state exams.

This may be the tip of an iceberg. No wonder the school boasted a 99-percent graduation rate and netted the Principal a national Blue Ribbon award and reputation for educational excellence.

Why wasn’t he removed from his position, pending a determination, when grave allegations were lodged, as has been the case with many Teachers over comparatively trivial matters?

The DOE has always had a dual standard for disciplining supervisors and subordinates.

What is wrong with a system that tempts dishonest Principals to boost their careers by means of fictional success?

The announced decision to terminate him sounds sincere, but in the past, such supervisors have sometimes resurfaced “off the radar” with new titles, assignments and equal pay with less responsibility, occasionally as mentors to other administrators!

The Department of

Education mollicoddles grifters above a certain rank.

A few years ago, after two decorated former NYPD Detectives were convicted of crimes, the guilty verdicts of many of the defendants they “brought to justice” by tainted testimony and false witness were thrown out.

Similar action should be taken to expunge adverse entries in the performance files of Maspeth High staff members who were whistleblowers or otherwise resisted the Principal’s machinations.

Abdul-Mutakabbir should forfeit his state license and be permanently ineligible for employment as an educator.

And he should be civilly sued by betrayed students, some of whom had the courage to bring abuses to light rather than benefitting from unearned credit.

Let’s not assume that outrages at Maspeth High School were unique and unprecedented. They are likely happening right now, though probably to a lesser degree, and will likely be replicated in the future.

As long as corrupt Principals can afford to pay the price of the exposure of their sins, they will persevere.

RON ISAAC

MTA Needs a Bigger Ark

To the Editor:
Super Storm Sandy in 2012 resulted in extensive flooding damage to the NYC Transit subway system. In the aftermath, the Federal Transit Administration provided billions in discretionary funding under the Super Storm Sandy Recovery and Resiliency program to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

This supplemented over \$1 billion in annual FTA formula funding that has grown to \$1.5 billion today. NYC Transit should have learned from Super Storm Sandy which of the 471 subway stations and 36 subway lines were most vulnerable to flooding or located in flood zones. Remedial actions should have been completed years ago.

Fast-forward to 2021. After spending emergency funds on upgrading and adding sump pumps, securing thousands of subway entrances, elevator shafts and street-level air vents, there are still too many subway stations and lines subject to flooding after major rainstorms.

Based upon one recent storm, it appears NYC Transit still needs to do more. Consider adding new pump rooms. Improve coordination with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to ensure there is adequate storm-water and sewage-system capacity adjacent to stations and tracks. Purchase additional mobile pumps and pump trains.

Are there additional capital improvements in the current \$51-billion Five-Year 2020-2024 Capital Plan to deal with flooding? If not, why not program additional Federal or local funds to deal with this periodic problem?

What capital improvements are included in the pending MTA 2020-2040 Twenty-Year Capital Plan to deal with this? Governor Cuomo and MTA Chairman Foye promised to release this document by December 2019. It is now 19 months late. Subway riders should not have to deal with continued inconveniences every time there is a major rain storm.

LARRY PENNER

(Mr. Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office)

Trump Undermines His Case

To the Editor:
Donald Trump is suing Facebook, Twitter and other companies for suspending or banning him from these social media sites. He said they have violated his First Amendment rights. Where is Trump’s suspended attorney (in N.Y. and Washington D.C.), Rudy Giuliani, when he needs him to lie about

Continued on Page 14

584 Eligibles

Child Protective Specialist List Established

The Department of City-wide Administrative Services established a 584-name list for Child Protective Specialist on May 5, 2021. The list is based on Exam 0330, which was recently held.

Readers should note that eligible lists change over their four-year life as candidates are added, removed, reinstated, or re-scored.

Some scores are prefixed by the letters v, d, p and s. The letter “v” designates a credit given to an honorably discharged veteran who has served during time of war. The letter “d” designates a credit given to an honorably discharged veteran who was disabled in combat. The letter “p” designates a “legacy credit” for a candidate whose parent died while engaged in the discharge of duties as a NYC Police Officer or Firefighter. Finally, the letter “s” designates a “legacy credit” for being the sibling of a Police Officer or Firefighter who was killed in the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

0330 CHILD PROTECTIVE SPECIALIST

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Katherine Orobona | 98.75 |
| 2 Terry Patterson | 97.50 |
| 3 David R Bowles | 96.25 |
| 4 Iliana Diaz | 96.25 |
| 5 Chaneil N Yeard | 95.00 |
| 6 Lavada S Rade | 95.00 |
| 7 Kamilla Nesterenko | 95.00 |
| 8 Keisha O White | 95.00 |
| 9 John D Melendez | 95.00 |
| 10 Nakeshia C Streete | 95.00 |
| 11 Danisha Bueno | 95.00 |
| 12 Dalia Sarryeh | 95.00 |
| 13 Ralika Calvente | 93.75 |
| 14 Andrea Canova | 93.75 |
| 15 William S Hopkins | 93.75 |
| 16 Donnee C Mosley | 93.75 |
| 17 Seong Hong | 93.75 |
| 18 Erica A Arrington Rober | 93.75 |
| 19 Stephanie D Kilgannon | 93.75 |
| 20 Luis F Hurtado | v93.75 |
| 21 Bryan Chan | 93.75 |
| 22 Heather Zezeck | 93.75 |
| 23 Candyce Jones | 93.75 |
| 24 Rey Jonathan Mitchell | 93.75 |
| 25 Eliza Washington | 93.75 |
| 26 Kevin He | 92.50 |
| 27 Mayrelis Guerrero | 92.50 |
| 28 Christopher A Perez | 92.50 |
| 29 Shevona S Linton | 92.50 |
| 30 Brianna L Palmer | 92.50 |
| 31 Alexis Velazquez | 92.50 |
| 32 Danielle S Bardwell | 92.50 |
| 33 Nikia C Miller | 92.50 |
| 34 Alekos Mesiouris | 92.50 |
| 35 Amanda F Colon | 92.50 |
| 36 Maybelle T Santana Allen | 92.50 |
| 37 Rocky R Tishma | 92.50 |
| 38 Barbara A Griffin | 92.50 |
| 39 Eryka L Johanson | 92.50 |
| 40 Jeffrey Fang | 91.25 |
| 41 Ebony A Wilkerson | 91.25 |
| 42 Nile O Wurm | 91.25 |
| 43 Chanet K Timothy | 91.25 |
| 44 Asime Bregu | 91.25 |
| 45 Sebastian M De La Cruz | 91.25 |
| 46 Salvatore Barbarino | 91.25 |
| 47 Ashley Gopaul | 91.25 |
| 48 Jesus Dominguez Jr | 91.25 |
| 49 Joshua J Demasio | 91.25 |
| 50 Darlene Ellison | 91.25 |
| 51 Andrew L Dillo | 91.25 |
| 52 Lisa M Maiorini | 91.25 |
| 53 Mahfuza Haque | 91.25 |
| 54 Cecily C Sweet | 91.25 |
| 55 Laura Cabrera | 91.25 |
| 56 Neil Thomas | 91.25 |
| 57 Davia-Ann Fletcher | 91.25 |
| 58 Ashley Vereen | 90.00 |
| 59 Amina R Williams | 90.00 |
| 60 Ashley D Mezquida | 90.00 |
| 61 Christopher L Hayes Jr | 90.00 |
| 62 Sarah Sarjuprasad | 90.00 |
| 63 Michelle N Devoll | 90.00 |
| 64 Rachelle N Crosby | 90.00 |
| 65 Kara Gibson | 90.00 |
| 66 Shamika Fingall | 90.00 |
| 67 Treasure Pray | 90.00 |
| 68 Delphine Uwanomen | 90.00 |
| 69 Whitney S Wallace | 90.00 |
| 70 Kernisha O Jno-Lewis | 90.00 |
| 71 Aislín Gonzalez | 90.00 |
| 72 Mohammed A Rafi | 90.00 |
| 73 Kadian D Gbadu | 90.00 |
| 74 Christina Chery | 90.00 |
| 75 Jazmine S Davis | 90.00 |
| 76 Quintin Long | 90.00 |
| 77 Linmari J Fong | 90.00 |
| 78 Fontae Washington | 88.75 |
| 79 Alexander Sarmiento | 88.75 |
| 80 Kurine Herbert | 88.75 |
| 81 Mandell Deck | 88.75 |
| 82 Janine A Omess | 88.75 |
| 83 Samantha J Rossan | 88.75 |
| 84 Eric Rweyemamu | 88.75 |
| 85 Alvaro D Gomez | 88.75 |
| 86 Kionte S Thompson | 88.75 |
| 87 Yamilex Pena-Cruz | 88.75 |
| 88 Tanisha Q King | v88.75 |
| 89 April J Jones | 88.75 |
| 90 Bianca Signez | 88.75 |
| 91 Valerie Johnson | s88.75 |
| 92 Nataly Grebyonkina | 88.75 |
| 93 Wanda M Mcmillan | 88.75 |
| 94 Jason Scheid | 88.75 |
| 95 Ana K Molina | 88.75 |
| 96 Pajtesa Rexhepi | 88.75 |
| 97 Shamara C Beckford | 87.50 |
| 98 Reginald A Howard | 87.50 |
| 99 Lashawnda Merrick | 87.50 |
| 100 Charisse Felder | 87.50 |
| 101 Denicia D Braun | 87.50 |
| 102 Jazmyn Michel | 87.50 |
| 103 Olivia T Segota | 87.50 |
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| 127 Claire C Charles | 87.50 |
| 128 Dominic J Buono | 86.25 |
| 129 Fallune M Rodriguez | 86.25 |
| 130 Shandra Billingslea | 86.25 |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------|
| 131 | Megan N Troeller | 86.25 |
| 132 | Darlot Starks | 86.25 |
| 133 | Nia Bailey | 86.25 |
| 134 | Sandra McKay | 86.25 |
| 135 | Charlia Lloyd | 86.25 |
| 136 | Amanda R Huebler | 86.25 |
| 137 | Tahmida Haque | 86.25 |
| 138 | Samantha A Boodhai | 86.25 |
| 139 | Laurencia C Porter | 86.25 |
| 140 | Barbara Eloi | 86.25 |
| 141 | Daniela C Mesquita | 86.25 |
| 142 | Moru Liang | 86.25 |
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| 144 | Sonia Farman | 86.25 |
| 145 | Alyssa Ducasse | 86.25 |
| 146 | Tess-Marie R Davis | 86.25 |
| 147 | Emylie R Salcedo | 86.25 |
| 148 | Mykala Hobson | 86.25 |
| 149 | Chelsea Coombs | 86.25 |
| 150 | Jennifer B Lopez | 86.25 |
| 151 | Karen Piatta-Elfenne | 86.25 |
| 152 | Wendy T Danin | 86.25 |
| 153 | Francesca E Adonis | 86.25 |
| 154 | Toriann K Bellings | 86.25 |
| 155 | Priscilla V Badalamenti | 86.25 |
| 156 | Rikeisha Davis | 86.25 |
| 157 | Beiyi Liu | v86.25 |
| 158 | Alexandra A Romero | 86.25 |
| 159 | Stephanie M Santiago | p86.25 |
| 160 | Daquisha T Freeman | 86.25 |
| 161 | Roselly Rivera | 86.25 |
| 162 | Cekira R Bush-Miguel | 86.25 |
| 163 | Anna Trykon | 86.25 |
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| 175 | Lisa Marie Basciano | 85.00 |
| 176 | Gabriel Cortes | 85.00 |
| 177 | Danisha Eaddy | 85.00 |
| 178 | Michael J Orecchio | 85.00 |
| 179 | Katherine M Festagallo | 85.00 |
| 180 | Kesha L McFarlane | 85.00 |
| 181 | Kiana A Johnson | 85.00 |
| 182 | Reyna S Yoplac | 85.00 |
| 183 | Victoria Baronov | 85.00 |
| 184 | Tasha Gore | 85.00 |
| 185 | Sancha McLean | 85.00 |
| 186 | Stephan Yianh | 85.00 |
| 187 | Paul M Watson | 85.00 |
| 188 | Peppy Simon | 85.00 |
| 189 | Tyasia Moody | 85.00 |
| 190 | Liliane Cellerier | 85.00 |
| 191 | Phylicia Aspinall | 85.00 |
| 192 | Daphnee Joseph Gabriel | 85.00 |
| 193 | Elizabeth L Pagan | 85.00 |
| 194 | Shatisha Jennings | 83.75 |
| 195 | Aneshia Y Lynch | 83.75 |
| 196 | Stacy Infante | 83.75 |
| 197 | Michael Ziegler | 83.75 |
| 198 | Maria E Sanz | 83.75 |
| 199 | Donna L Deans | 83.75 |
| 200 | Latoya S Jackson | 83.75 |
| 201 | Laura M Lugo Pimentel | 83.75 |
| 202 | Patricia Torres | 83.75 |
| 203 | Dean A Whylie | 83.75 |
| 204 | Nyla Herbert | 83.75 |
| 205 | Marlene Nunez | 83.75 |
| 206 | Latisha S Bush | 83.75 |
| 207 | Donald L Murphy | 83.75 |
| 208 | Brianda Penafort | 83.75 |
| 209 | Teyana Williams | 83.75 |
| 210 | Tempestt Tucker | 83.75 |
| 211 | Rene A Alvarez | 83.75 |
| 212 | Samara D Martin | 83.75 |
| 213 | Sanam I Shaikh | 83.75 |
| 214 | Jasmine A Basabe | 83.75 |
| 215 | Ammara Khan | 83.75 |
| 216 | Aimee Manzueta | 83.75 |
| 217 | Jillian A Sauberman | 83.75 |
| 218 | Amreen Hossain | 83.75 |
| 219 | Ashley K Nandlal Jagroo | 83.75 |
| 220 | Krysea M Sheen | 83.75 |
| 221 | Amonnie Jackson | 83.75 |
| 222 | Alicia P Shannon | 83.75 |
| 223 | Helenne L Bernadel | 83.75 |
| 224 | Trevor J Mackay | 83.75 |
| 225 | Shannon Wilson | 83.75 |
| 226 | Ebony L Smallwood | 83.75 |
| 227 | Megan Williams | 83.75 |
| 228 | Sharon Flores | 83.75 |
| 229 | Lineth Lopez | 83.75 |
| 230 | Aileen D Tadeo | 83.75 |
| 231 | Elizabeth M Egan | 83.75 |
| 232 | Christine D Byrd | 83.75 |
| 233 | Nicola Osaghae | 83.75 |
| 234 | Cassandra Damour | 83.75 |
| 235 | Jasmin Corona | 83.75 |
| 236 | Zakeeba N Lewis | 83.75 |
| 237 | Kolawole S Ogunsulire | 82.50 |
| 238 | Anthony J Dolan | 82.50 |
| 239 | Shantale J Tartt | 82.50 |
| 240 | Wai Ling Kan | 82.50 |
| 241 | Tahoesse Germain-Lozada | 82.50 |
| 242 | Michelle L Joseph | 82.50 |
| 243 | Paulette Hernandez | 82.50 |
| 244 | Kimberly-Ann O Brady | 82.50 |
| 245 | Aladiah Mercy | 82.50 |
| 246 | Roman Mkrtichyan | 82.50 |
| 247 | Sherice Webley | 82.50 |
| 248 | Inzaman Khan | 82.50 |
| 249 | Donna-Marie Hemmings | 82.50 |
| 250 | Daniela Paulino | 82.50 |
| 251 | Tayna Orta Feliciano | 82.50 |
| 252 | Veronica James | 82.50 |
| 253 | Anthony Anjion | 82.50 |
| 254 | William Pai | 82.50 |
| 255 | Aaliyah Cottle | 82.50 |
| 256 | Zawar Shah | 82.50 |
| 257 | Rubby Sejour | 82.50 |
| 258 | Steven Stome D Joseph | 82.50 |
| 259 | Anjelica M Nurse | 82.50 |
| 260 | Jahyr Ramirez | 82.50 |
| 261 | Gabriela M Reyes | 82.50 |
| 262 | Kristian Crawford | 82.50 |
| 263 | Tyesha Williams | 82.50 |
| 264 | Johanna Flores | 82.50 |
| 265 | Arielle Lloyd | 82.50 |
| 266 | Kerisha Campbell | 82.50 |
| 267 | Chelsea Lawrence | 82.50 |
| 268 | Gospel C Onyeike | 82.50 |
| 269 | Bettyann John-George | 82.50 |
| 270 | Angela M Gonzalez | 82.50 |
| 271 | Simone Odusanya | 82.50 |
| 272 | Ashantia A Hayden | 82.50 |
| 273 | Camille S Beckford | 82.50 |
| 274 | Jerissa S Cribb | 82.50 |
| 275 | Cassandra Bocassini | 82.50 |
| 276 | Stephanne L Chacha | 82.50 |
| 277 | Megan Ryba | 82.50 |
| 278 | Guadalupe A Rojas | 82.50 |
| 279 | Julie B Jean Baptiste | 81.25 |
| 280 | Alina Lee | 81.25 |
| 281 | Jeannette A Menos | 81.25 |
| 282 | Tyrone W Schuyler | 81.25 |
| 283 | Peter A Soneye | 81.25 |
| 284 | Mirquella Cespedes | 81.25 |
| 285 | Tyese M Thompson | 81.25 |
| 286 | Temidayo Saka | v81.25 |
| 287 | Marlene Gautier | 81.25 |
| 288 | Lina Quezada | 81.25 |
| 289 | Constance Mercedes | 81.25 |
| 290 | Umair Abid | 81.25 |
| 291 | Nicole Arenella | 81.25 |
| 292 | Urshawana Chandler | 81.25 |
| 293 | Jaymes Hernandez | 81.25 |
| 294 | Miguel A Gonzalez | 81.25 |
| 295 | Debbie Desmangles | 81.25 |
| 296 | Jocelyn Feliciano | 81.25 |
| 297 | Rita Zeng | 81.25 |
| 298 | Lupita Palma | 81.25 |
| 299 | Jenny Badree | 81.25 |
| 300 | Maurice Jones | 81.25 |
| 301 | Jasmine Lawson | 81.25 |
| 302 | Keymonni White Pendarvis | 81.25 |
| 303 | Alabor Legree | 81.25 |
| 304 | Erica Chize-Bankhead | 81.25 |
| 305 | Tunde Adeyanju | 81.25 |
| 306 | Stacey Sanchez | 81.25 |
| 307 | Rasbel Hungria | 81.25 |
| 308 | Kyesha Y Hamilton | 81.25 |

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IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

ROUNDUP OF EXAMS LEADING TO JOBS

WHERE TO APPLY

For further information on where to apply to civil service exams and jobs, visit the "Civil Service Exam" page at TheChiefLeader.com

Below is a roundup of New York City and State exams leading to public-service positions. Most of the jobs listed are located in the New York Metropolitan area and upstate.

There are residency requirements for many New York City jobs and for state law-enforcement positions.

Prospective applicants are advised to write or call the appropriate office to make sure they meet the qualifications needed to apply for an exam. For jobs for which no written tests are given, candidates will be rated on education and experience, or by oral tests or performance exams.

The Federal Government has decentralized its personnel operations and holds few exams on a national or regional basis. Most Federal vacancies are filled by individual agencies based on education-and-experience evaluations. For information, contact the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or individual agencies, or see www.usajobs.gov.

CITY EXAMS

DCAS Computer-based Testing and Application Centers (CTACs) have re-opened to the public. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, walk-ins are no longer accepted and appointments must be scheduled online through OASys.

All examination and eligible list related notifications will be sent by email only, you will no longer receive notifications via the US mail.

CLOSE JULY 27

- 2000 Mechanical Engineer \$67,757
- 2002 Special Officer (NYC H+H) \$34,834
- 2003 Traffic Enforcement Agent \$32,986
- 2009 Civil Engineering Intern \$51,413

CUNY EXAMS

OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 2059 Campus Security Assistant \$31,320
- 2060 Campus Peace Officer \$33,825

MTA EXAMS

CLOSES JULY 27

- 2600 Revenue Equipment Maintainer

NASSAU COUNTY EXAMS

OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 7078 CR(D) Cytotechnologist I \$43,863-\$91,243
- 7094 CR(D) Cytotechnologist II \$52,099-\$108,383
- 7095 CR(D) Cytotechnologist III \$66,357-\$132,168
- 61-639CR Librarian I \$43,000-\$61,333
- 60-180CR Librarian I, Bilingual (Spanish Speaking)

- 5263 CR(D) Medical Technologist I \$31,963-\$74,978
- 5002 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Acute Care) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5003 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Adult Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5004 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Community Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5005 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Family Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5006 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Gerontology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5007 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Neonatology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5008 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Obstetrics/Gynecology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5009 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Oncology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5010 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Palliative Care) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5011 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Pediatrics) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5012 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Perinatology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5013 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Psychiatry) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5014 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Women's Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 3138 CR(D) Occupational Therapist Assistant \$31,963-\$74,207
- 7288 CR(D) Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapist I \$37,093-\$128,172
- 3139 CR(D) Pharmacist I \$56,636-\$117,533
- 3140 CR(D) Physical Therapist Assistant \$31,963-\$74,207
- 9030 CR(D) Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist I \$37,463-\$140,162
- 9029 CR(D) Physician Assistant I \$57,200-\$118,707
- 8049 CR(D) Radiologic Technologist (General) \$34,720-\$72,111
- 8050 CR(D) Radiologic Technologist (Mammography) \$34,720-\$72,111

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXAMS

CLOSE JULY 28

- 0047 Traffic Court Specialist Trainee \$37,062
- 0048 Traffic Court Specialist Trainee (Spanish Speaking) \$37,062
- 0054 Traffic Court Specialist (Spanish Speaking) \$40,899

CLOSE AUGUST 4

- 0130 Photocopy Machine Operator \$23,579-\$40,110
- 0131 Photocopy Machine Operator II \$40,057

CLOSES AUGUST 11

- 0170 Fire House Attendant \$35,360-\$45,000

CLOSES AUGUST 25

- 3003 Caseworker Trainee (Spanish Speaking) \$42,752

OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 2020 Public Health Nurse I \$59,404
- 2641 Medical Services Specialist \$68,460
- 2670 Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) \$37,000-\$60,000
- 2673 Emergency Medical Technician (Critical Care) \$37,000-\$60,000
- 2674 Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic) \$37,000-\$60,000

WESTCHESTER

OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 06-100 Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)
- 02-108 Sanitarian Trainee \$53,760-\$67,010
- 02-600 Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee \$45,460-\$5,390
- 02-601 Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee

- 91-136 Paramedic (Local)
- 01-155 Cardiothoracic Surgical Physician Assistant
- 02-032 Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
- 02-900 Health Services Coordinator \$75,406-\$125,410
- 86-102 Hospital Pharmacist
- 93-133 Occupational Therapist (School Districts)
- 86-113 Occupational Therapist (WCMC)
- 94-138 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- 93-134 Physical Therapist (School Districts)
- 86-115 Physical Therapist (WCMC)
- 03-100 Physical Therapy Assistant (School Districts)
- 94-137 Physical Therapy Assistant
- 87-116 Physician's Assistant
- 86-117 Public Health Nurse \$72,635-\$125,175
- 09-002 Radiology Information Systems Analyst
- 90-118 Staff Occupational Therapist
- 90-120 Staff Physical Therapist
- 87-124 Supervising Hospital Pharmacist
- 99-101 Supervising Public Health Nurse \$81,595-\$135,715
- 97-363 Supervisor of Medical Social Work
- 99-102 Surgical Physician Assistant - Specialty Services \$96,540-\$140,776
- 11-531 Coordinator of Computer Services
- 14-723 Database Specialist
- 20-532 Network Engineer II (BOCES #2)
- 10-529 Server Engineer I \$65,210-\$81,105
- 10-003 Software Architect I \$77,445-\$103,235
- 20-492 Systems Engineer I
- 20-493 Systems Engineer II
- 10-941 Technical Support Specialist
- 95-145 Senior Medical Technologist (Chemistry)
- 95-148 Senior Medical Technologist (Microbiology)
- 95-149 Senior Medical Technologist (Stat - General)
- 07-104 Supervisor Of Laboratories (General) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 07-102 Supervisor of Laboratories (Microbiology)
- 95-151 Supervisor of Laboratories (Special Chemistry) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 95-150 Supervisor of Labs (Anatomic Pathology) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 95-142 Technical Specialist (Microbiology)
- 02-030 Senior Assistant General Counsel
- 62-705 Librarian I
- 62-715 Librarian I (Children's Services)
- 62-741 Librarian I (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-020 Librarian II
- 63-034 Librarian II (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-045 Library Director I

STATE EXAMS

CLOSES JULY 31

- 28-427 Associate Mediator Public Employment \$99,415

OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 20-101 Actuary Trainee (Dept. of Financial Services) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-102 Actuary Trainee (State Insurance Fund) \$40,507-\$51,830

- 20-103 Actuary Trainee (Teachers' Retirement System) \$41,042-\$53,549
- 20-690 Addictions Counselor 1 \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-691 Addictions Counselor 1 (Spanish Language) \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-692 Addictions Counselor 2 \$56,604-\$71,980
- 20-104 Assistant Actuary (Department of Financial Services) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-106 Assistant Actuary (Office of the State Comptroller) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-105 Assistant Actuary (State Insurance Fund) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-107 Assistant Actuary (Teachers' Retirement System) \$46,344-\$57,877
- 20-952 Assistant Clinical Physician \$105,854-\$118,468
- 20-951 Assistant Clinical Physician (Spanish Language) \$105,854-\$118,468
- 20-959 Assistant Psychiatrist \$113,843-\$126,712
- 20-113 Associate Actuary (Casualty) (Dept. of Financial Services) \$72,735-\$91,821
- 20-114 Associate Actuary (Casualty) (State Insurance Fund) \$72,735-\$91,821
- 20-115 Associate Actuary (Life) (Dept. of Financial Services) \$72,735-\$91,821
- 20-116 Associate Actuary (Life) (Office of the State Comptroller) \$72,735-\$91,821
- 20-117 Associate Actuary (Life) (Teachers' Retirement System) \$79,426-\$99,192
- 20-254 Associate Psychologist \$67,703
- 20-256 Associate Psychologist (Spanish Language) \$67,703
- 20-872 Associate Psychologist (Forensic Mental Health) \$67,703
- 20-873 Associate Psychologist (Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment) \$67,703
- 20-687 Audiologist 1 \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-688 Audiologist 2 \$56,604-\$71,980
- 20-517 Bank Examiner \$59,839
- 20-077 Child Protective Services Specialist 1 \$50,722
- 20-078 Child Protective Services Specialist 1 (Spanish Language) \$50,722
- 20-075 Child Protective Services Specialist Trainee \$42,986
- 20-076 Child Protective Services Specialist Trainee (Spanish Language) \$42,986
- 20-953 Clinical Physician 1 \$117,556-\$141,585
- 20-954 Clinical Physician 1 (Spanish Language) \$117,556-\$141,585
- 20-955 Clinical Physician 2 \$129,866-\$155,452
- 20-956 Clinical Physician 2 (Spanish Language) \$129,866-\$155,452
- 20-489 Community Mental Health Nurse \$59,671-\$75,785
- 20-490 Community Mental Health Nurse (Spanish Language) \$59,671-\$75,785
- 20-969 Community Nursing Services Consultant (Home Health Services) \$63,041-\$72,012
- 20-531 Dental Hygienist \$43,484
- 20-957 Dentist 1 \$105,355
- 20-151 Developmental Disabilities Secure Care Treatment Aide Trainee \$38,875
- 20-152 Developmental Disabilities Secure Care Treatment Aide Trainee (Spanish Lang.) \$38,875
- 20-974 Dietitian 2 \$56,604-\$71,980
- 20-149 Direct Support Assistant Trainee \$32,972
- 20-150 Direct Support Assistant Trainee (Spanish Language) \$32,972
- 20-349 Emergency Medical Technician \$42,631
- 20-523 Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic) \$53,019

- 20-724 State Program Examiner Trainee 1 (Fiscal) \$45,455-\$71,980
- Auditor Trainee 1 (Municipal)
- Auditor Trainee 1 (Abandoned Property)
- 20-911 Health Care Surveyor 2 (Nursing) \$54,045-\$68,637
- 20-259 Health Information Management Administrator 1 \$53,568
- 20-282 Health Information Management Administrator 2 \$59,671
- 20-283 Health Information Management Administrator 3 \$69,603
- 20-257 Health Information Management Technician 1 \$42,986
- 20-258 Health Information Management Technician 2 \$48,027
- 20-100 Health Services Nurse 48,027-\$61,229 (Upstate), \$62,200-\$75,402 (Downstate)
- 20-969 Hospital Nursing Services Consultant \$63,041-\$72,012
- 20-867 Hospital Patient Services Clerk 1 (SUNY Syracuse) \$30,461
- 20-869 Hospital Patient Services Clerk 1 (SUNY Stony Brook) \$33,442
- 20-131 Legal Specialties \$56-745-\$100,091 (M/C), \$56,604-\$102,661 (PEF)
- 20-050 Licensed Master Social Worker 1 \$56,604
- 20-051 Licensed Master Social Worker 1 (Various Language Proficiencies) \$56,604
- 20-052 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 \$62,726
- 20-054 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Acute Care/Rehabilitation)
- 20-056 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Addictions)
- 20-058 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Children and Youth)
- 20-060 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Developmental Disabilities)
- 20-062 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Forensic)
- 20-064 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Geriatric)
- 20-066 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Mental Health)
- 20-068 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment)
- 20-053 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Various Language Proficiencies) \$62,726
- 20-055 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Acute Care/Rehabilitation (VLP)
- 20-057 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Addictions (VLP)
- 20-059 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Children and Youth (VLP)
- 20-061 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Developmental Disabilities (VLP)
- 20-063 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Forensic (VLP)
- 20-065 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Geriatric (VLP)
- 20-067 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Mental Health (VLP)
- 20-069 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment (VLP)
- 20-413 Licensed Practical Nurse \$37,366-\$47,857
- 20-918 Licensed Psychologist (Addictions) \$73,768-\$92,974
- 20-917 Licensed Psychologist (Children and Family Services) \$73,768-\$92,974
- 20-543 Licensed Psychologist (Forensic) \$70,931-\$86,699
- 20-874 Licensed Psychologist (Forensic Mental Health) \$70,931-\$86,699
- 20-652 Licensed Psychologist (Mental Health) \$70,931-\$86,699

Will Fill Jobs

CITY CERTIFICATIONS

The Department of City-wide Administrative Services has certified sections of the eligible lists below for appointments and promotions in city agencies, subject to the 1-in-3 rule. Some of the appointments and promotions may already have been made.

OPEN COMPETITIVE

ACCOUNTANT—65 eligibles between Nos. 57 and 241 on List 8050 for 1 job in Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT SPECIALIST—55 eligibles between Nos. 58 and 190 on List 8041 for 1 job in Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services.

AUTO MECHANIC—24 eligibles between Nos. 30.5 and 114 on List 9009, 1 eligible (No. 116) on List 8006 and 1 eligible (No. 110.5) on List 6012 for 2 jobs in Police Department.

BOOKKEEPER—52 eligibles between Nos. 419.5 and 542 on List 5015 for 1 job at New York City Employees' Retirement System.

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE

—9 eligibles between Nos. 486 and 2285 on List 8003 for 1 job each in Law Department, Department of Environmental Protection and NYC Police Pension Fund.

COMMUNICATION ELECTRICIAN—1 eligible (No. 30) on List 8008 for any of 2 jobs in Fire Department.

COMPUTER SERVICE TECHNICIAN—1 eligible (No. 284) on List 5018 for any of 4 jobs in Comptroller's Office.

COMPUTER SPECIALIST (SOFTWARE)—60 eligibles between Nos. 28 and 1886 on List 7005 for 1 job in DEP.

HEATING PLANT TECHNICIAN (HOUSING AUTHORITY)—20 eligibles (Nos. 1-20) on List 9031 to replace any of 53 provisionals at Housing Authority.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER—58 eligibles (Nos. 1-58) on List 170 and 1 eligible (No. 32) on List 7038 for 1 job in FDNY.

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE—272 eligibles between Nos. 929 and 1516 on List 5039 for 14 jobs at Administration for Children's Services.

RADIO REPAIR MECHANIC—47 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 54 on List 119 for 1 job in DEP.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR—2 eligibles (Nos. 30.5 and 47) on List 8070 for 1 job in Department of Parks and Recreation.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT—506 eligibles between Nos. 30 and 984 on List 8040 for 20 jobs in Department of Education.

SCHOOL COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST (DOE)—99 eligibles between Nos. 98 and 663 on List 7045 for 1 job in DOE.

PROMOTION

AUTO MECHANIC—6 eligibles between Nos. 9 and 14 on List 9505 for 2 jobs in NYPD.

HEATING PLANT TECHNICIAN (HOUSING AUTHORITY)—46 eligibles between Nos. 20 and 170 on List 9516 to replace any of 53 provisionals at HA.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (TRACK EQUIPMENT)—7 eligibles (Nos. 22-29) on List 6706 and 9 eligibles (Nos. 1-9) on List 9707 for 10 jobs at NYC Transit.

Mental Health Therapy Aide Jobs

Continued from Page 1

They also work with other staff to develop, carry out and record care plans and, in accordance with special instructions, may administer medication.

The position may be physically demanding. Mental Health Therapy Aides and Trainees need to be prepared to act to ensure the health and safety of patients and staff in emergency situations. They also must be able to bend, stretch and stand for long periods of time.

Trainee Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainees, SG-7 are:

A high school diploma or its equivalent.

They also must be on the Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainee eligible list and be reachable for appointment.

To be added to the eligible list, they must take the on-line, continuous-recruitment

examination, available here: www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/employment/mhta.html.

Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainees participate in a 12-month traineeship. At the successful conclusion of the program, they would advance without further examination to Mental Health Therapy Aide, SG-9.

Aide Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for Mental Health Therapy Aide, SG-9 are:

A high school diploma or its equivalent and one year of full-time direct patient-care experience in a mental-health setting.

Qualifying direct patient-care experience includes but is not limited to the following: attending to patients' personal hygiene, grooming, nutrition and daily living needs; assisting and participating in physical, social, therapeutic or recreational programs; case management, service-coordination activities or discharge

planning.

Mental-health settings are defined as a psychiatric inpatient unit within a general hospital, psychiatric hospital, psychiatric clinic, community or county mental-health clinic, center or other service; residential mental health treatment center; or comprehensive psychiatric emergency program (CPEP).

They also must be on the Mental Health Therapy Aide eligible list and be reachable for appointment.

To be added to the eligible list, you must take the on-line, continuous-recruitment examination, available here: www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/employment/mhta.html.

Prospective appointees must submit to a medical-standards evaluation and a substance-abuse screening. They also will be subject to a background investigation/justice center review.

For complete information on the positions, visit state-jobs.ny.gov/public/vacancy-Table.cfm.

Child Protective Specialist List Names

Continued from Page 11

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 485 Gustavo Cabezas Ramos .. | 73.75 | 517 Rhesa Henry | 72.50 | 551 Tamzida Binte Sayed | 71.25 |
| 486 Ekaterina Leonov | 73.75 | 518 Samuel Rosado | 72.50 | 552 Dariusz Zawislak | 71.25 |
| 487 Socrate Simeon | 73.75 | 519 Hakeem Carew | 72.50 | 553 Lixiomara Feliciano | 71.25 |
| 488 Sunshine Morel | 73.75 | 520 Rafeena H Ramdeen | 72.50 | 554 Daishanay Gray | 71.25 |
| 489 Azuree Price | 73.75 | 521 Jazael Fermin | 72.50 | 555 Nicole Lopez | 71.25 |
| 490 Gloria Antoine | 73.75 | 522 Diana Rodriguez | 72.50 | 556 Ivette Ayala | 71.25 |
| 491 Ruth D Greene | 73.75 | 523 Michail N McCausky | 72.50 | 557 Sashel P Williams | 71.25 |
| 492 Zaenab A Amuda | 73.75 | 524 Samantha S Major | 72.50 | 558 Tara Louis | 71.25 |
| 493 Krystle C Chan | 73.75 | 525 Pamela Rodriguez | 72.50 | 559 Milagros Perez | 71.25 |
| 494 Rayanna Harripersaud | 73.75 | 526 Trebawan K Soomaroo | 72.50 | 560 Bobby Garrett | 71.25 |
| 495 Cesar R Molano | 73.75 | 527 Leon Eng | 72.50 | 561 Chantel Turner | 71.25 |
| 496 Farah Simon | 73.75 | 528 Brayan Cespedes | 72.50 | 562 Giuseppe Porretto | 71.25 |
| 497 Gelu Sherpa | 73.75 | 529 Erica C Groover | 72.50 | 563 Mayra Cordova | 71.25 |
| 498 Kimberly J Pena | 73.75 | 530 Valentina O Flores | 72.50 | 564 Veronica McRae | 70.00 |
| 499 Essence A Wilson | 73.75 | 531 Brittany Greene | 72.50 | 565 Indaira Charles | 70.00 |
| 500 Ayesha Begum | 73.75 | 532 Dianela Portes | 72.50 | 566 Emilia Udvareva | 70.00 |
| 501 Amy Ayala | 73.75 | 533 Therese Nieves | 72.50 | 567 Olajumoke Y Ogunbayo | 70.00 |
| 502 Weigang Bo | 73.75 | 534 Indiana Gomez | 72.50 | 568 Camillia Benitez | 70.00 |
| 503 Joshua Lamb | 73.75 | 535 Md A Rahaman | 72.50 | 569 Raven Dyer | 70.00 |
| 504 Judith Fludd | 73.75 | 536 Natalie Shum | 72.50 | 570 Kwesi Dadzie | 70.00 |
| 505 Jennifer J Bryant | 73.75 | 537 Chen Min | 72.50 | 571 Dontae J Matthews | 70.00 |
| 506 Annette Kim | 73.75 | 538 Mohammad B Kamal | 72.50 | 572 Marleny A Cardenas | 70.00 |
| 507 Kaled Abuzahrieh | 73.75 | 539 Rebecca R Seraphin | 72.50 | 573 Armela Ademi | 70.00 |
| 508 Anyeline Toribio | 73.75 | 540 Sylvia W Carrington | 72.50 | 574 Antonio McLaurin | 70.00 |
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Schiraldi Announces Broad Package of Jail-Reform Initiatives

Continued from Page 1

The plan also includes a pledge to revamp the department's discipline process "to be fair and proportional." But it also includes a commitment for "fair and swift accountability" for officers who are absent without official sanction and for "unverified sick calls." The Commissioner has said that some officers had falsely claimed to have been sickened by the virus, cutting into available staff. He and Mr. Boscio have quarreled over those assertions.

The plan will also expand opportunities for inmates, including by providing tablets to all incarcerated people.

It "will be guided by a vision, mission, and strategic plan that makes sense, that is consistently communicated, and that you'll all have an opportunity to have input into," the Commissioner wrote.

Margaret Egan, the Executive Director of the Board of Correction, the DOC's watchdog agency, welcomed Mr. Schiraldi's commitment to improving the jail system.

Will He Have Time?

"Commissioner Schiraldi has a proven track record of reform, and we are deeply encouraged by the steps that he is taking to address the long-standing issues at the Department of Correction," she said in a statement. "We look forward to seeing these reforms take hold and improve safety and support for all in the jails—staff and people in custody alike."

Whether Mr. Schiraldi will see out the completion of all of his initiatives is an open question. A new Mayor, likely to be the Democratic candidate, Eric Adams, could appoint someone who more closely shares to his correction philosophy.

Mr. Schiraldi, though, might be that person, given that as a reform-minded former Commissioner of the city Department of Probation and, most recently as co-director of the Columbia Justice Lab, he has spent much of his career with an eye toward rethinking the criminal-justice apparatus. So has Mr. Adams, who often speaks of the need for a holistic approach not just to crime but to incarceration as a way to reduce recidivism.

COMING IN FOR REPAIRS: The Department of Correction's Commissioner, Vincent Schiraldi, earlier this month introduced a wide-ranging series of initiatives intended to address what many believe is a jail system long in need of a comprehensive overhaul. Among the plan's cornerstone measures are an end to officers' triple tours and a revamped discipline scheme.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 11

the facts, the law and the Constitution?

The First Amendment states that "Congress shall pass no law...prohibiting the exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." Facebook and Twitter and Google's YouTube are private companies not controlled by the First Amendment, so Trump's case will be summarily dismissed. However, this will not stop his supporters from doing his bidding and donating money for his case.

Trump wants to have Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act declared unconstitutional because it permits social-media companies to suspend or ban his inflammatory and potentially dangerous communications. Section 230(c)(2) provides "Good Samaritan" protection from civil liability for operators of interactive computer services in the removal or moderation of third-party material that they deem obscene, offensive or dangerous to the public—even of constitutionally protected speech, as long as it is done in good faith.

It's clear that the courts will not support Trump as long as he publicly claims the 2020 presidential election was a fraud—without any evidence—and he is encouraging his supporters (as observed in action on Jan. 6) to overthrow the government and remove President Joe Biden. The courts will summarily dismiss all such legal suits by Trump and the Republican Party that would allow them to spread seditious lies and encourage violent attacks on our duly elected leaders.

MICHAEL J. GORMAN
Editor's note: Mr. Gorman is a retired NYPD Lieutenant and an attorney.

AOC, Bernie Not His Comrades

To the Editor:

Would someone with a high position in the national Democratic Party or the national news media please inform people such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders that they are hurting my Democratic Party by calling themselves "Democratic Socialists" when they are NOT true socialists at all?

I am sick and tired of Republicans like Nikki Haley sending me ridiculous emails in which she uses the terms "socialist," "democratic socialist," "far-left," and "radical-left" as synonyms for "progressive" and "liberal."

As New York Times columnist and 2008 Nobel Prize winner in Economics Paul Krugman pointed out, the so-called "Democratic Socialists" are actually "Social Democrats" who want to keep our market-based economic system but favor Federal Government social programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and college student loans in order to help our lower classes and middle classes.

A truly socialist economy has never successfully worked in any large-scale society. A true socialist wants to abolish capitalism and replace it with an economy in which the workplaces are owned and controlled by some entity such as "the state," "the government," or "the people." For any reasonable human being to believe in true socialism in 2021, she or he would have to lack common sense.

STEWART B. EPSTEIN

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'Get Shots in Arms'

Cuomo Allocates \$15M To Boost Vaccinations

Governor Cuomo, responding to the significant rise in coronavirus cases this month and the lag in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods in getting vaccinations, July 26 announced the disbursement of \$15 million to six community groups to promote inoculation in the hardest-hit areas.

Speaking at Yankee Stadium, not far from where some Bronx residents have been among the most-infected from the outset of the pandemic, he said, "New York is pulling out all the stops to get shots in arms, and this budget funding will help us to target outreach efforts in the state's most-vulnerable communities to make sure everyone is able to get vaccinated."

Groups Getting Funding

Of the money, \$5.5 million will be given to both the Hispanic Federation and the Federation of



GOVERNOR CUOMO: Concerned by spike in cases.

Protestant Welfare Agencies, with four other community groups receiving \$1 million apiece.

Mr. Cuomo said the toll taken in some neighborhoods where the vaccination rate has remained below 50 percent highlighted "longstanding inequities in our society."

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