



The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

**GOOD PAY
SAFETY
OPPORTUNITY
EQUITY**

thechief.org

DECEMBER 30, 2022

\$1.50

Retirees' Medicare fight has Council ally

Brewer is first to publicly address issue in detail

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Municipal retirees battling the city's proposed shift to a private Medicare plan for 250,000 retired workers have a prominent ally in the City Council.

In a lengthy note she appended to a Twitter post last week, Council Member Gale Brewer said she had long been wary of having insurance companies act as "gatekeepers"

to care, and indicated that a move by city officials to scale back retirees' health care would renege on assurances made to city workers. She urged Adams administration officials, the retirees and municipal unions to find common ground.

The Dec. 19 note followed by four days a determination by Martin Scheinman, who chairs a committee tasked with addressing the delivery and cost of health care to municipal workers and retirees, that the city must switch the retirees from their traditional Medicare plan to a cost-saving, private-sector Medicare Advantage plan.

Brewer, who represents the Upper West Side, said that private health-care insurers and not medical practitioners often have the final say on how and which procedures will be covered by insurance, to the detriment of patients.

"Keeping their current insurance plan — called Senior Care — is critical in retaining access to their doctors and ensuring continuity of care," she wrote of a supplemental "Medigap" plan that could also be phased out unless the Council acts to amend the city's administrative code.

Brewer, who previous to her cur-

rent tenure served 12 years on the Council and eight years as Manhattan Borough president, is among the very few Council members to have publicly discussed the Medicare matter in any detail.

Scheinman concluded that "the mounting deficit" attributable to "several components" of the city's health plan necessitates a switch from traditional Medicare to a plan overseen by managed-health-care company Aetna. Officials estimate the switch will save the city \$600 million a year through the receipt of federal subsidies. The savings would help replenish the city's

Health Stabilization Fund, which supplements employee welfare funds.

Scheinman directed the city and the Municipal Labor Committee, the umbrella organization of public-sector unions, to reach an agreement with Aetna on its plan by Jan. 9. The alternative, he wrote, would be to find "another revenue source which, inevitably, shall lead to premium contributions."

He also said that unless the Council amends the Administrative Code

See **MEDICARE**, page 3

Local 100's Davis rails against MTA's 'service adjustments'

Starting in June, some subway lines will have increased time between trains

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

TWU Local 100 officials sharply criticized what the MTA has described as "service adjustments" to several subway lines planned for next year.

The suggested changes would add wait times from three to 30 seconds on the 1, 6, 7, E, F, L and Q lines outside of commuting hours on Mondays and Fridays. The tweaks, set to go into effect in June, "reflect soft ridership" on those days, the president of New York City Transit,

Richard Davey, said at the authority's Dec. 21 board meeting.

Davey and MTA Chair Janno Lieber said the modifications will affect just 0.2 percent of service, with Lieber adding that they would not be subject to public hearings since the standard to put the matter to the public is 25 percent.

But Richard Davis, the newly installed president of TWU Local 100, told the board that the changes, which he and other union officials called "cuts," were "a terrible, terrible idea." Davis, elected by the Local 100 board to succeed Tony Utano earlier this month, told the board that the union "will fight you every step of the way."

While Davis acknowledged that

See **DAVIS**, page 2



Courtesy New York State Nurses Association

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital nurses at a Dec. 14 vigil honoring colleagues who worked on the pandemic's front lines. The nurses at that hospital and at 12 other New York City hospitals are seeking contracts that include increased pay, safe-staffing and no health-care cuts. Contracts for more than 17,000 private-sector nurses are set to expire Dec. 31.

City's private-sector nurses authorize strike

Contracts for 17,000 expire Dec. 31

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

Nurses are fed up: more than 16,000 who work at private hospitals across the city and whose contracts are set to expire at the end of this month have voted to authorize a strike.

Nearly 99 percent of the nurses who voted approved a potential strike if a fair contract isn't reached, the New York State Nurses Association announced Dec. 22 at its headquarters near Penn Station.

Contracts for 17,000 nurses at a dozen hospitals, including NewYork-Presbyterian, Montefiore Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital, are set to expire Dec. 31. The nurses are seeking collective-bargaining agreements that include plans to hire and retain nurses, raises that keep up with inflation and retention of their health-care benefits.

"We're not asking for the world, but we're not going to accept crumbs either," said Aretha Morgan, who has worked in the children's emergency room at New York-Presbyterian Hospital for 13 years.

NYSNA officials said that if they do not reach a deal with the hospitals by the end of the month, the nurses are prepared to issue a 10-day strike notice.

The votes were tallied at eight hospital systems including Montefiore, NewYork-Presbyterian and the BronxCare Hospital Center. About 1,200 nurses at facilities are still conducting a strike vote. NYSNA anticipates that nurses at these hospitals will also authorize a strike.

Matt Allen, a labor and delivery nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital, said hospital management told the union that it could not offer the nurses a cost-of-liv-

ing increase of more than 3 percent and has threatened to cut their health-care benefits. Meanwhile, temporary travel nurses are paid more than full-time staff.

"Today, a 3-percent cost of living increase is a pay cut," he said. "Nurses are tired of the disrespect. We are here to remind them that undercutting staff is undercutting the patients at the end of the day."

A spokesperson for Mount Sinai said that "our goal is to reach an agreement that continues to provide our valued nurses with competitive compensation and benefits and ensures a safe, supportive and working environment that enables them to provide exceptional care to all our patients across the diverse communities we serve."

Safe-staffing was a main contract priority. Although the city — and the rest of the state — already faced nursing shortages prior to the pandemic, Covid has exacerbated the problem.

Benny Mathew, a registered nurse in the emergency department at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, said he sometimes has up to 20 patients at once, far above the recommended ratio of up to six patients. The staffing shortages contribute to emergency room wait times that can reach 50 hours, he said.

He said that Montefiore, like many other hospitals in the city, created the current staffing crisis by not hiring nurses, and pointed out that Montefiore currently has 700 vacancies — 300 more than it did last year. The hospital did not return a request for comment.

"That is not the care our patients deserve, that is not the working environment our nurses deserve," Mathew said. "We are working in conditions that are worse than during the pandemic."

'Driving nurses from the bedside'

The staffing shortages have led to burnout and many nurses leaving the profession. Last month, NYSNA officials testified during a state Assembly hearing that 170,000 nurses, or nearly half of the state's licensed nurses, are not working.

"The fact that hospitals have done so little to address understaffing is driving nurses from the bedside. From the big academic medical centers to the safety-net hospitals, New York City cannot afford

'We are working in conditions that are worse than during the pandemic.'

— **Benny Mathew**, A REGISTERED NURSE AT MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

See **NURSES**, page 2



Marc A. Hermann/MTA

MTA Chair Janno Lieber on a 1 train last month at the Columbus Circle station during Marathon Weekend, when subway ridership set a post-pandemic record. The MTA in June will initiate what Lieber said are 'service adjustments' on several subway lines, including the 1 line, during certain late-day periods Mondays and Fridays to reflect low ridership numbers. The new head of TWU Local 100 said the union would steadfastly oppose what he called 'cuts' in service.

INSIDE

NYS lawmakers vote themselves 29% raise

At \$142k, legislators would be nation's highest paid, **p. 2**

Wake-Up Call: Rikers and justice madness

Isaac on the hard work of crime and punishment, **p. 5**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, p. 4

EXAMS FOR JOBS, p. 11

LABOR AROUND THE NATION, p. 12

125th Year — Vol. CXXVI, No. 44

Print and web subscriptions
212-962-2690 | thechief.org



6 89076 95759 5

DAVIS: assails 'adjustments'

Continued from Page 1

ridership was lower on Mondays and Fridays, he attributed that in part — as did Davey and Lieber — to higher-income commuters “staying in the suburbs” rather than commuting to their city offices.

“But a lot of people are still coming to work,” Davis said, citing nurses, grocery store workers, cooks, cleaners, home-care workers and “those who fill prescriptions, prepare meals, stock shelves — the working class, frontline essential workers, many of whom are immigrants and people of color.”

Changed commuting patterns

Lieber disputed that the changes amounted to “cuts,” as the union has called it. “The nomenclature matters,” he said. “What we’re doing is really service adjustments.”

He said the changes amounted to “really marginal adjustments to service at the late end of the peak.” What he called “the blue-collar peak” early Mondays and Fridays would remain “unchanged.”

The late end is being adjusted, Lieber said, with the modifications reflecting the changed nature of commuting patterns. “We have not the old, five-day weekday period workweek.... We have real-

‘We will fight and not stop until the end.’

— Richard Davis, LOCAL 100 PRESIDENT

ly a three-day, intense workweek Tuesday through Friday, and kind of a hybrid Monday, Friday before you go to the weekend.”

He added that the MTA was increasing bus service in the Bronx, Queens and in Brooklyn and subway service on the weekends. “We’re adding service all over the map,” he said. Davis, though, said that while ridership is down in most Manhattan stations, it is higher in the outer boroughs, at between 70 and 80 percent of pre-pandemic levels in dozens of stations in the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn, including those on the 6 line in the Bronx and the 7 line in Queens.

“The executives in the corner office that gets to stay at home, the person who cleans that office gets to stand on the platform longer on the way to work. That platform and that train, meanwhile, will be crowded,” Davis said.

The union believes “these service cuts are just the start,” he said. “If MTA management gets away with them without holding public hearings and then more dramatic, painful service cuts will follow.”

Davey, though, said the modifications reflected a “nibbling on the edges of service.”

“Candidly,” he added, “if we weren’t talking about it, I’m not sure anybody would notice it, but obviously we want to be transparent about the changes we’re making.”

But Davis, sounding a more ominous note, said that slower service could lead to more violence on his members. “I have no doubt service cuts will lead to rider frustration and will lead to more assaults on transit workers and we are fed up,” he said.

The new union leader said the local will steadfastly oppose any service reductions. “We will fight and not stop until the end,” he said, speaking over several calls that his remarks had exceeded public-speaking time limits. “Do not mistake my demeanor today as weakness.”

He was cheered by attendees to the meeting, some holding signs reading, “TWU says no service cuts.”

In response to later questions from the media, Lieber said the authority had zero tolerance for violence done to its employees. “We’ll make no apology for our position on worker assaults, which is that they’re unacceptable.”

He cited the authority’s successful push to have people convicted of assault on MTA property banned from using its transit system. “We’re going to stand by our workers,” he said, noting that he personally followed up with workers hurt on the job, including three conductors who were punched last week “for no reason at all from some lunatic.”

The MTA is contending with severe financial pressures, largely attributable to a Covid-related decrease in ridership, which Lieber has on several occasions called a “crisis.” Those were reflected in an austerity budget passed by the board, also Dec. 21. It calls for rate hikes next year and in 2024.

State will require companies to post pay range in job ads

Legislation addresses racial, gender pay gaps

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

Most employers across New York state must include a salary range within job postings starting next fall, according to pay transparency legislation recently signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul.

Companies with four or more employees looking to hire will be required to provide an hourly or annual salary or a minimum and maximum salary range “that the employer in good faith believes to be accurate at the time of the posting.”

The law is expected to take effect next September. The mandate aims to help address racial and gender wage gaps that are persistent not just across the state, but throughout the country.

“In order for New York to continue being the best place to work, we must create the best protections for our workers — and this legislation will help do exactly that,” said Hochul, who signed the legislation Dec. 21. “This historic measure will usher in a new era of fairness and transparency for New York’s workforce and will be a critical tool in our efforts to end pervasive pay gaps for women and people of color.”

Companies that do not include an hourly salary or salary range in their job advertisements could face fines of up to \$3,000.

Wage gaps persist nationally

The legislation resembles a law that took effect in New York City in November, although the city’s law extends to independent contractors while the state law doesn’t. The city’s mandate was supposed to take effect six months earlier but was delayed by the City Council because of concerns from the corporate sector. California and Washington will also



Mike Groll/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

Governor Kathy Hochul and state Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon delivered remarks on Women’s Equality Day in August at the University at Albany’s Center for Women in Government. Last week, Hochul signed into law a requirement for companies to include a salary range in job postings to address the gender and wage gap.

enact pay transparency rules beginning in January, while Colorado already has a similar law on the books.

Nationally, women were paid 83 cents for every \$1 men earned, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The wage gap is worse for black women, as well as for Latina women, who earn 64 cents and 57 cents for every \$1 earned by men, respectively.

In New York, the average female employee earned an annual salary of \$51,992 — or \$8,821 less than the average male worker’s salary, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In fact, the gender wage gap has worsened over the past few years, according to state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

Although occupational segregation accounted for some of the pay disparity, “the majority of the gap between men and women’s wages

cannot be explained through measurable differences between workers, such as age, education, industry or work hours. It is highly likely that at least some of this unmeasured portion is the result of discrimination,” wrote Diana Boesch, a policy advisor in the DOL’s Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, and Sarah Jane Glynn, a senior advisor in the DOL’s Women’s Bureau.

State Senator Jessica Ramos, one of the sponsors of the pay transparency bill, said in a statement that “with today’s bill signing, New York’s first woman governor is implementing a statewide structural fix to the racial and gender-based wealth gaps that leave women in the workforce far behind their peers.”

“Equal pay for equal work is how we build up women as the economic anchors of their communities. As this law goes into effect, I encourage

all New Yorkers to talk about your pay, demand transparency and use this law to ensure you are earning what you are worth,” she continued.

Lawmakers hoped that the salary reporting requirements will reduce discriminatory hiring practices and empower workers.

“Changing the culture and leveling the playing field at workplaces through New York, the Salary Range Disclosure Act will make sure that workers benefit from greater transparency when it comes to wages and benefits,” said Assemblymember Latoya Joyner, who also sponsored the legislation. “When employers provide much needed clarity to pay structures and make that information available to employees and job seekers, we can reduce gender pay inequities by encouraging employers to update antiquated practices that have reinforced patterns of wage discrimination.”

Legislators vote themselves 29% raise

Nation’s highest-paid

BY MAYSOON KHAN

Just in time for Christmas, New York legislators returned to the state capital Thursday to give themselves a nice holiday gift: a pay raise that would make them the nation’s best-paid state lawmakers.

Members of the state Assembly and Senate would make a base salary of \$142,000 under a bill they passed during a special session, a 29 percent raise over their salary of \$110,000.

That would send them racing

ahead of state lawmakers in California, who are now the nation’s best-paid legislators with a yearly base pay of about \$119,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

New York’s lawmakers, however, would also face restrictions for the first time on how much they can make from other jobs.

Outside income would be capped at \$35,000, starting in 2025. Pay in excess of that from military service, retirement plans or investments would still be allowed.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a Democrat, said legislators work hard, year round,

and deserved a raise to cover the increased cost of living.

‘A full-time job’

“It’s a full time job,” she said. “Sooner or later in order to be able to afford to do the job, we have to raise pay.”

Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt said he found the raise “patently offensive to the people we represent.”

“Albany’s One Party Ruling Class continues to put their own misplaced priorities first,” Ortt said in a statement.

Governor Kathy Hochul has said she supports the idea of a raise for the Legislature, but hasn’t said whether she would sign the bill. Email and text messages left for the governor’s office weren’t immediately returned.

Some government transparency and watchdog groups said after the bill was introduced late Monday that it doesn’t do enough for regulating outside income.

“The public really deserves to know that their elected officials are working just for them and they don’t have any other interests in mind,” said Rachael Fauss, a senior policy advisor at the government watchdog group Reinvent Albany.

Members of the U.S. Congress, for example, are excluded from making any outside income while they are in office from certain professions that could pose conflicts of interest, such as being a lawyer.

Outside income has posed ethical and legal problems for some of New York’s top lawmakers.

Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver died in prison after he was convicted of entering into a corrupt arrangement in which he got a pair of real estate developers to send business to a law firm paying him referral fees, and then backed legislation benefiting the developers.

Still, many states have a tradition of lawmaking being a part-time job, rather than a profession, and embraced the idea that a legislature should be made up of regular people with regular jobs outside of government.

“When I campaigned, I heard over and over again from voters that we don’t want career politicians. That’s what this is going to create,” said Assembly Member Mary Beth Walsh, a Republican who represents a district north of Albany.

Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy, a Democrat, said the raise would help the Legislature retain quality members who could make more in the private sector.

“We have had an unhealthy churning and turnover particularly from downstate members,” she said.

New York’s legislators got their last pay raise in 2018. At the time, it was their first raise in 20 years.

That pay boost was made possible through a list of recommendations made by a state compensation committee, but a cap on outside earnings was never implemented.

“There’s a history in New York that looks at pay increases for legislatures, but this is the first time they are taking matters into their own hands,” Fauss said.



Photo courtesy of NYS Senate Media Services

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, pictured addressing the chamber in July, said legislators’ tasks amount to a full-time job and deserve the pay increase they voted for themselves. If Governor Kathy Hochul signs the bill, state lawmakers would be the nation’s highest-paid.

NURSES: Nearly unanimous vote authorizes strike

Continued from Page 1

to ignore the nurse staffing crisis any longer,” Ari Moma, a psychiatric nurse at Brooklyn’s Interfaith Medical Center, said during the press conference.

Strike call ‘a last resort’

Morgan said the pediatric emergency room at NewYork-Presbyterian has been slammed because of the “triple-demic” of Covid, RSV and the flu.

She said the hospital, which she noted paid its CEO nearly \$12 million in 2020 during the height of the pandemic, “has failed to invest in hiring and retaining enough nurses.”

The union launched a large contract campaign last August on

behalf of 30,000 private and public-sector nurses across the state. The contract for 8,000 nurses working in the city’s public-hospital system is set to expire in the spring.

The NYSNA’s president, Nancy Hagans, criticized hospitals seeking health-care cuts, particularly because of the occupational hazards nurses face. “You cannot tell me to come to work and put my life in jeopardy and you don’t want to give me good medical coverage,” she said.

The union leader called striking “a last resort.”

“Instead of supporting us and acknowledging our work, hospital executives have been fighting against Covid nurse heroes,” she said. “They’ve left us with no other choice than to move forward with voting to authorize a strike for better patient care.”



Courtesy New York State Nurses Association

The New York State Nurses Association announced Dec. 22 that nearly 99 percent of private-sector nurses in New York City who have voted so far have authorized a strike if significant progress on contract bargaining is not reached by the month’s end.

'Overdue' report details Council workplace issues

Nearly one-fourth who responded say they have experienced discrimination or harassment

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

The City Council has released a long-awaited report to its staffers on the body's Equal Employment Opportunity policies that include recommendations on how the Council can better combat harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Accompanying the report, produced by Redwood Enterprise for \$200,000 and released last week, is a separate Council staff climate survey, conducted in 2020-2021, which revealed that 24 percent of respondents had personally experienced discrimination or harassment in the workplace. An additional 33 percent said they were not sure or preferred not to say.

Redwood Enterprise's audit was commissioned in 2019 after Council staffers raised concerns about their work environment and former Council Member Barry Grodenchik admitted to sexually harassing a staffer and, a year later, Council Member Andy King was removed by his colleagues following a slew of allegations, including sexual harassment complaints, against him. The Council received the report in July but waited until last week to release it so that staffers could conduct a review of the report, suggest changes and provide additional context, according to a Council spokes-

person. The survey, conducted during the previous Council term, also revealed that 80 percent of the 109 staffers who responded consider the Council to be a safe workplace while 24 percent said they had witnessed discrimination or harassment while at work. Another 23 percent said they were unsure or preferred not to say if they had witnessed harassment or discrimination.

"These numbers are higher than what I expected," an anonymous Council staffer said. "I was shocked to see that even a quarter of [staff] had experienced that."

Recommendations

The report's general recommendations include expanding training, increasing staffing levels in the Equal Employment Opportunity office, having a third party conduct investigations instead of the Council's Office of General Counsel, conducting the biennial survey and others. Council staffers received a new staff climate survey last week.

According to a Council spokesperson, staffing levels in the Council's EEO Office have tripled since Redwood began their review and the office no longer reports to the OGC. The spokesperson added that the Council has instituted new training, improved record keeping and now uses a third-party to conduct certain EEO investigations.

"This Council is committed to fostering a workplace free from any discrimination and harassment in violation of its Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy. We



Emil Cohen/NYC Council Media Unit

City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams presiding over the Council's Dec. 21 meeting. The Council last week released a long-awaited audit of internal sexual harassment policies initially commissioned in 2019. Attached to the report is a survey of Council staff and a series of suggestions on how to improve equal employment and opportunity policies.

are proud of the investments and work conducted to strengthen our EEO office and EEO-related policies and procedures to advance this goal, which has included addressing many of the same issues in

Redwood's recommendations," the spokesperson said in a statement. "This important work will continue, considering the insights, input, and feedback from Redwood based on the review conducted last term

and the staff climate surveys from the past and moving forward."

Most Council staff are represented by the Association of Legislative Employees, which is currently bargaining for staffers' first contract through which they hope to include a more streamlined process for filing grievances and harassment claims.

In a statement, ALE's executive board praised Council Speaker Adrienne Adams for "finally releasing" the report but called it "long overdue" in that its findings and recommendations are based on 2018-2019 survey data.

"The union views itself as an essential partner with Council management in eliminating harassment," the statement continued. "ALE receives many complaints from staffers who encounter inappropriate workplace behaviors, but who do not feel they can report them because of confidentiality concerns, fear of employer retaliation, and an arcane Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) process that is controlled by management."

Representatives with the ALE will meet early in the new year for another bargaining session

The anonymous Council staffer sensed that more information than what the report and survey contains would shed needed light on harassment and discrimination.

"I personally want to know where these instances are taking place and where people are experiencing this," the staffer said. "I think that will help us better understand as a Council where we need to improve."

MEDICARE: Council's Gale Brewer urges 'all sides' to talk

Continued from Page 1

within 45 days to allow the city to bill retirees who elect to continue with their Senior Care coverage, that plan will no longer be offered.

Council stance uncertain

The Council, though, has for months been reluctant to take up the amendment issue, with members unwilling to discuss the matter in detail. To this point, Speaker Adrienne Adams has addressed the issue publicly only insofar as to say that the Council is "moving deliberately and thoughtfully" on the issue. Her office last week said only that it was reviewing Scheinman's findings and decision.

In her note, later included in the weekly newsletter to her constituents, Brewer said that no Council member had yet introduced legislation to amend the city code.

She noted claims by retirees' groups that they have identified recurring annual health-care related savings of more \$300 million, as well as another avenue of securing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds to prop up the city's health plans. She urged the retirees and city officials to discuss the matter, "as there are compromises that are a win-win for everyone."

But Brewer also was adamant that the city should stick to commitments made to its municipal workers. "The retirees were promised Senior Care, and a promise is a promise," she wrote. "All sides should sit down together and work this out."

City officials and Municipal Labor Committee Chair Harry Nespoli have assured the retirees that any private plan would be as good or even better than the current plan.

"The administration is committed to offering quality and sustainable

care for our retirees," the city's labor commissioner, Renee Campion, said in a statement last week. "The arbitrator's decision reinforces the need for Council to take action in order to allow retirees a choice of the free Medicare Advantage Plan or to pay approximately \$200 a month to have the Senior Care Plan. We look forward to working with the Council to preserve retiree choice."

Retiree organizations, though, have pushed back on city officials' claims, saying that providers' profit motives would by definition outweigh consumers' health concerns. Those apprehensions have been borne out by proposals from federal health officials to establish new regulations for Medicare Advantage providers that would address complaints from consumers, including that some plans could be improperly denying patients' and doctors' request for care.

'Not just unfair — illegal'

The NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees railed against Scheinman's findings, suggesting that his conclusions were the product of decisions made beforehand by city officials and the majority of municipal unions.

In a statement issued a day after Scheinman released his findings, the organization also criticized city officials, who it said was not being forthright after agreeing to meet. The organization called for frank discussions. "The proposed path by the City is NOT the only way to savings," the statement said. The organization, which has successfully contested aspects of the planned switch in court, has suggested convening a blue ribbon panel to identify ways for the city to save on health-care savings. But, the statement continued, "the MLC has adamantly opposed an independent fact-finding investigation, probably because they don't want anyone turning over rocks that would expose years of collusion and mismanagement."

James Davis, the president of the Professional Staff Congress, one of seven unions to vote no on an MLC resolution in support of amending the administrative code, urged the union's members to contact their Council members to encourage

discussions among the retirees, the MLC and the administration "to find another way."

Earlier this month, the PSC, which represents CUNY faculty and staff, proposed in a policy paper that rather than switch the retirees to private Medicare, the city should instead allocate \$500 million into the stabilization fund in each of the next three fiscal years.

The union suggested this would give the city and the MLC time to come up with longer-term solutions to affect health-care savings. Davis

said the plan has gained traction with some Council members "but it faces stern opposition" from the city and most unions that make up the MLC.

Nespoli, the MLC chair, did not respond to several attempts to reach him for comment.

The retiree organization's president, Marianne Pizzitola, a retired emergency medical technician, said she was prepared to resume litigation against the city should the Adams administration proceed with the switch.

Her organization's statement said that although it was understandable for the city to seek health-care savings, "doing it on the backs of senior citizens and disabled first responders is not just unfair, it is illegal."

It urged Mayor Eric Adams "to do the right thing" and confer with the retirees on their suggestions for finding savings. "There are 50 years of promises, collective bargaining agreements, legislation, and past-practice that set a powerful precedent," the statement said.

'Find another way.'

— James Davis, PSC PRESIDENT



Michel Friang/The Chief

Municipal retirees opposed to the city's proposed switch of their Medicare plan to a private, for-profit plan rallied near City Hall in February.

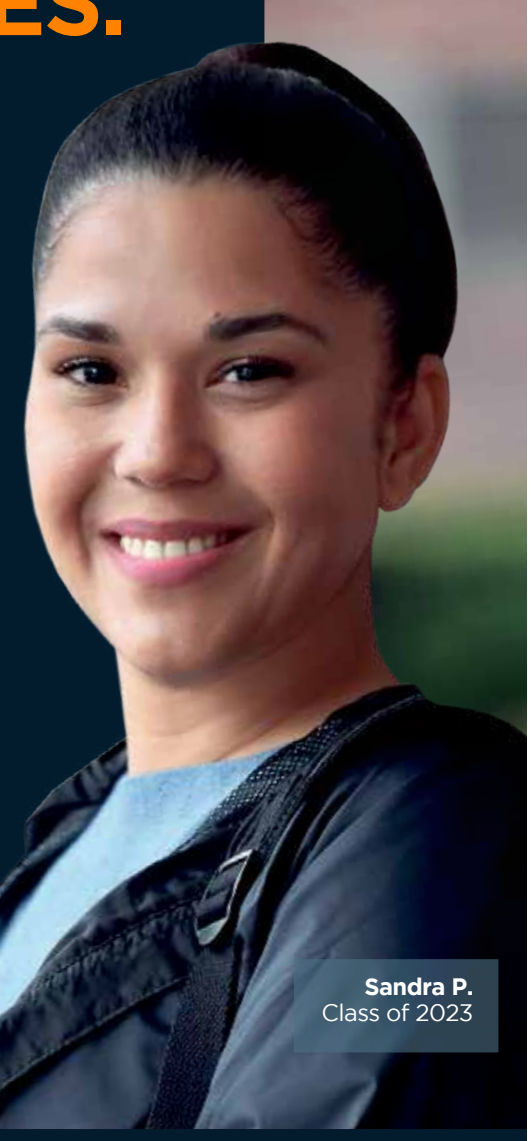
MORE DEGREE OPTIONS. MORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

What you'll find at Touro NYSCAS:

- Faculty who offer 1-on-1 career support to help you achieve your goals
- Online or in-person. Day, evening, and weekend classes. You decide!
- 40+ undergrad programs in health sciences, education, business, and more
- Save time and money with direct-to-grad-school options

A brighter future *is* within reach. Let us show you the way.

Scan/click the QR code to learn more:



Sandra P.
Class of 2023



NYSCAS.Touro.edu | 855.628.6876



Touro is an equal opportunity institution. For Touro's complete Non-Discrimination Statement, visit www.touro.edu. Any references to location, college experience and/or in-person opportunities herein are subject to change based on governmental or administrative directives.

COMMENTARY

The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

BEN AUGUST Publisher
RICHARD KHAVKINE Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expiring warranty

TO THE EDITOR:

The message that many in Congress need to hear is this: Once you sell your soul, you can't buy it back. All those who still follow the Trump lies, especially about the "stolen election," will probably never respect the truth, will never respect justice, and will never have respect for our Constitution. Their Machiavellian "religion" is that the end justifies the means — any means regardless of who gets hurt, regardless of who loses his or her life.

I don't think it's unfair or hyperbolic to say that after their support for the January 6 insurrection, some of our political leaders, especially the whites supremacists, are not so different from the leaders and soldiers of the drug cartels. There will be no reformation and no redemption for them. The signed contract with the devil is irreversible.

Hopefully, we can avoid a bloody civil war and keep the fighting on the political battlefields. However, as the continued support for the January 6 insurrectionists by many Republican members of Congress makes clear, our civil war to protect our Constitution, our system of justice, and our support and protection of the poor and powerless could go off and escalate in any direction. Democracy comes with no guarantees.

Michael J. Gorman

A carousel of claims

TO THE EDITOR:

Now that gas has dropped to \$3 a gallon, the GOP finds it hard to exploit the issue, leaving it one option — take credit. I predict the GOP will turn to Orwellian doublethink, as is their habit, claiming that gas was still \$5 when they took control and that it dropped two bucks immediately, under their leadership.

Though absurd, I have no doubt the GOP base would believe it. Why?, because I witnessed something similar. In early 2009, I was told by several conservatives that Barack Obama bailed out Wall Street. They were convinced of this despite extensive media coverage when George W. Bush signed the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) into law in October 2008. To this day, many GOP voters believe that Obama (not Bush) caused the Great Recession and bailed out the banks.

GOP doublethink has convinced their base that Obama is a foreign-born Muslim and Saddam Hussein conducted the 9/11 attacks, that pro-business tax cuts, deregulation and anti-union measures benefit the working class and, of course, that Donald Trump won in 2020.

Republicans will tell you with conviction that NYC was safer under Rudy Giuliani than now due to "liberal" bail and police reforms. However, NYPD crime data belies this, as 2000 and 2001 saw 149,226 more major felonies than 2020 and 2021 post-reform.

GOP voter susceptibility to disinformation is evident

in their belief that Trump was the best job creator. Yet, pre-pandemic job growth was slower under Trump than Obama and Trump was the first president since Herbert Hoover to have fewer Americans employed when he left office (143.017 million) than when he entered (145.628 million).

Pandemic job losses in 2020 wiped out all the jobs created over the prior three years, plus another 2.611 million. In contrast, during Joe Biden's time in office with a Democratic Congress, all those losses have been recovered and more; a gain of 10.531 million jobs through November, 2022 (153.548 million). I also predict that this progress will halt when the GOP controlled House begins obstructing efforts to help average Americans. Of course, the base will blame Biden.

Joseph Cannisi

Logic, up in smoke

TO THE EDITOR:

Governor Kathy Hochul is finally keeping her promise to start legal sales of marijuana before the end of the year. It will start on Dec. 29th, only three days away from her promise not being kept.

On that date, one place will start legal sales. That is the storefront on Astor Place operated by Housing Works. So that's one store in lower Manhattan for all five boroughs.

The Dec. 16th Daily News reported that the city Sheriff's Office confiscated 600 pounds of marijuana during a recent two-week crackdown on unlicensed pot. That's a catch-22. Don't license any and crack down on the unlicensed stuff. Of course, telling people they can possess and use it but it can't be legally sold to them is another catch-22.

We're told that they want to make sure that marijuana of an inferior quality or with dangerous additives will not be sold. Though I would think that the sellers, who now include legitimate business people, would out of self-interest make sure to sell a quality product, just as restaurant owners would serve quality food because they want customers to come back.

There's the argument that since minorities were disproportionately targeted by police enforcement of marijuana laws, state officials want to make sure that minorities are given priority for licensing. So are we to believe that most people now selling pot illegally in New York City are white?

Like most good things that Democrats do, they are implementing legal pot sales at the slowest of paces. This is likely to hurt those who finally get licensed since, meanwhile, people will be developing loyalty to good unlicensed dealers. It would also be a good idea to license unlicensed dealers selling a quality product.

A Democrat who lost a foot race was asked who his opponent was. He answered, "Yurtle."

Richard Warren

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A salute to a union brother

TO THE EDITOR:

I was terribly sad to read of the death of Tim Schermerhorn of TWU Local 100. He was an activist and at one time a vice president. However, more than anything, he was a worker of, by and for the workers. He was the most unassuming person I ever met. It was quite refreshing to encounter a person of this nature. His daily attire was coveralls held up by suspenders. With Tim, what you saw was what you got.

In the beginning, the New Directions Movement had new members. We were some 10 or 12 workers seated around a table. Tim, who chaired the meetings, conducted them in a calm, laid-back manner. I never heard him raise his voice or ever get angry. He gave everyone an opportunity to be heard. He submitted his proposals to a vote and abided by the democratic will.

Tim took his job seriously, not himself. It was about the workers. I vividly remember with deep gratitude the phone call he made to me after I was fired and was on my way out of a job. He told me that he had made a deal with management to keep my job. In the tone of his voice there was

no boasting. His manner was of a decent, kind and compassionate person doing something for another individual and brother transit worker.

It was this basic goodness of Tim that made the passage through life and those who had contact with him a little easier and made them a better person.

As time went by, a number of people who could be called politicians, took control of top positions for the union. These people were more interested in themselves than others and what is, first and foremost, the best for the union. However, Tim remained faithful to who he was and what the union was about.

I cannot believe that this wonderful man is not here anymore. However, what I can believe in is the human race because of the presence of Tim Schermerhorn on earth. He touched the heart and soul of people with the nobility of his character and the union was better for it.

And so, I salute Tim Schermerhorn for a job well done.

Richard Laurie



Hans Pennink/AP Photo

A locomotive engineer pulls up to the Selkirk rail yard in Selkirk, N.Y., in September. A candidate who opposed the recent tentative agreement for the railroad unions was just elected president of the 28,000 member Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen over the incumbent who supported it.

Democratizing our unions

BY ROBERT OVETZ

Although my union proudly calls itself a "member led union," it is extremely undemocratic in several ways.

We do not have "one member, one vote" for the leadership. This means a new caucus needs to win control of at least a majority of the 23 chapters to control the board of directors and the top officer positions.

While it might not be immediately apparent to the members, this structure allows those who run the union to stay in power as long as their factions control their local chapters.

The same caucus has kept their iron grip on the leadership and have pushed through a stream of terrible CBAs that trade small pay increases for class size increases. It also over-relies on protest, lobbying and bargaining instead of organizing the members to have power in the workplace.

As you can imagine, only a tiny fraction of the union's 29,000 members are actively involved. The leadership uses the low level of engagement to marginalize anyone who raises questions so they can stay in control.

Unions are our most powerful means for democratizing work. But we can't do that if our unions are undemocratic like mine. That's why we are forming a new caucus to challenge the existing leadership so we can turn our union around.

Around the country, members are organizing to take over and transform their unions, some of the largest in the country. After a coalition backed by Teamsters for a Democratic Union swept into office in late 2021, it immediately promised to strike UPS once the contract ended.

This winter the UAW Members United slate won the secretary-treasurer position and advanced to the run-off for president and half the seats on the UAW executive board. If the challengers win they will end control of the caucus that has run the union for

more than 70 years. Expectations are high that they can turn around the union known for making destructive concessions and blatant corruption.

A candidate who opposed the disastrous TA for the railroad unions was just elected president of the 28,000 member Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) over the incumbent who supported it.

In April, the Essential Workers for a Democratic UFCW caucus will also be pushing for one member, one vote in selecting the top two officers of their union.

If you are locked out of having any real power, left in the dark about what your union is doing in bargaining, wonder how dues are being spent, and are frustrated about the money given as campaign donations, you likely have a democracy deficit in your union.

Labor Notes magazine holds bi-annual conferences at which its member activists train rank-and-file members to organize. One of its most popular workshops is how to organize an opposition caucus, which I attended this past summer.

Our chapter caucus ran in the last election and won about half the seats on the executive council but lost the top spots. Winning an election is only the beginning of the work.

After taking office it is essential to continue building support for your efforts and empower the members after you win. There are some important ways to do that.

Review your union bylaws for possible reforms that would give members real power within their union and engage them to become more involved. After discussing your ideas in member meetings, draft proposed changes and organize members to support the changes when they come up for a vote.

A democratic union doesn't prepare for bargaining with a member survey whose results are never disclosed to the members. It begins with a broad

based discussion in open meetings, like the Chicago Teachers Union uses, where the members say what they need and determine what they want to achieve in bargaining.

In 2021, the UCAFT used open bargaining to engage hundreds of members to attend bargaining sessions not only to watch the UC negotiators but also include the membership in what was a closed-door process for the union. As a result, their two strike threats proved credible and they won a much improved CBA.

Another effective way to democratize your union is to set up an organizing committee (OC) long before bargaining begins. The OC can identify and train stewards who then engage a large number of members. The more members who are involved the more they will demand a say. This network of newly engaged members will become the base of a future reform effort.

The OC can set up and oversee a campaign action team to plan, coordinate and take collective action in defense of members' interests and put forward new demands long before bargaining begins.

Rank-and-file members who take these efforts can build the necessary member support for changing the union from within. The transformation of the Chicago Teachers Union, Teamsters, UCAFT and BLET are models for reinvigorating the entire workers movement.

When change happens, it opens the way for not only new leadership but new tactics, strategies and objectives that can change our unions into a powerful force for changing work and society.

Robert Ovetz is editor of "Workers' Inquiry and Global Class Struggle," the author of "When Workers Shot Back" and of the new book, "We the Elites: Why the US Constitution Serves the Few." Follow him at @OvetzRobert.

THE CHIEF welcomes letters from its readers for publication. Correspondents must include their names, addresses and phone numbers. Letters should be submitted with the understanding that all correspondence is subject to the editorial judgment of this newspaper. To submit a letter online, visit thechief.org and click on Letters to the Editor.

The Chief

FOR 125 YEARS, A VOICE FOR WORKERS

Founded in 1897

277 Broadway, Suite 210
New York, N.Y. 10007
(212) 962-2690

(ISSN 0746-7761)

A weekly publication, published every Friday, on newsstands Thursday mornings. Single copy price \$1.50; one-year subscription \$38. Published by August Progressive Ventures LLC, 277 Broadway, Suite 210 New York, N.Y. 10007.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. 10001.

POSTMASTER:

Send all changes of address to The Chief, 277 Broadway, Suite 210, New York, N.Y. 10007.

PRINT AND WEB SUBSCRIPTIONS:

To subscribe: Call 212-962-2690 or visit TheChiefLeader.com/subscribe

Change of address: Include complete mailing address and a label from your paper. Allow six weeks for changes of address to take place.

The Chief reserves the right to edit, reclassify, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time. Only publication shall constitute full acceptance of any ad.



COMMENTARY

WAKE-UP CALL

Rikers and criminal justice madness

BY RON ISAAC

Almost twice on average each month this year, a Rikers Island detainee has died by suicide or under mysterious circumstances that are sometimes suggestive of official neglect, avoidable accident or human error.

These deaths are unnatural and tragic, even when they're not directly inflicted, but still allowed to happen due to lapse of vigilance, sloppy code enforcement, poor supervisory training, callous indifference, tolerance of prison subculture or ignored disease.

A small percentage of these victims were predators who wrought agony on society and on themselves. But even they should be mourned.

All human life must be valued, or else we're on a very slippery slope towards invalidating ourselves as moral beings.

Rikers Island is a particularly inhospitable hellhole. But it should not be closed as planned. As property, it is more amenable to rehabilitation than are evidently its administrators. The brick and steel has held up; it's the human operational structure that has collapsed.

Former Mayor Mike Bloomberg started this weird transfer of accountability, punishing buildings, treating them as proxies for management. He padlocked hundreds of schools under the theory that the problems that occurred within their walls were attributable to inanimate infrastructure and unmotivated architecture.

If we relocated district attorneys' offices, would crime go down?

Nicholas Turner, president of the Vera Institute of Justice, says the 40-acre Rikers prison complex is "past its shelf life."

Rikers' isolated, escape-proof location makes perfect sense. The plot to house inmates in residential communities in almost every borough defies logic, is uneconomical, impractical and stokes fear and resentment from communities.

Most importantly, it does nothing to advance the cause of justice for the incarcerated.

Rikers Island is a grim and bleak place. It creates new and aggravates existing

dehumanization. It must be radically transformed.

It must become a viable living place for the inmates and also the jaded correction officers who are severely understaffed, exhausted by massive compulsory overtime, and frustrated by leniency towards those who assault them.

Officers are fed up with what they claim is lack of support from the Department of Correction and most politicians, who blame officers' alleged abuse of unlimited sick leave and chronic absenteeism for their own deficiencies.

Rank has its privileges, including perpetually scapegoating subordinates.

Seven years since the start of federal court-mandated oversight, the DOC has made little progress. This has prompted calls for receivership. Mayor Eric Adams feels that "says we can't do our job. We're not surrendering this city to anyone who believes we can't do our job."

Receivership would also be a backdoor betrayal of union members, as the receiver would not be legally bound to respect their negotiated contracts.

Apart from anarchists luxuriating in their gated communities who pretend to feel differently, everyone knows that prisons are necessary. Of course, the devil is in the details.

Many of the inmates at Rikers are detainees, not convicted criminals. They are awaiting trial, which means they are still constitutionally innocent. (The same could be said, while holding our noses, about many of those arrested for the Jan.6th insurrection still awaiting their "day on court" two years later.)

Before the bail reforms, many inmates were at Rikers simply because they had no rich relatives to spring them. But according to the New York Post, however, rape, robbery, burglary and weapons offenses were the alleged crimes of three-quarters of the Rikers pre-trial detainees.

Bail reform was a laudable concept abysmally executed. Reducing the classification of an outrageous crime does not reduce the anguish or confer restorative justice, even if it clears the court dockets and thins out the prison popula-



Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Department of Correction officers at Rikers during a June visit by Mayor Eric Adams.

tion.

In its push to "finally shut down NYC's most notorious jail," Slate magazine and similar voices almost never express sympathy for the victims of crimes, nor advocate for their right of redress. Perhaps it's comparing apples and oranges?

Building smaller, more quaint prisons and sprinkling them around the city will not stop the troubles that afflict Rikers. The philosophy and administration of punishment must be updated and made more enlightened: solitary confinement, lockdowns, general standards and protocols, etc.

A formula must be found for doubling-down on surveillance to prevent smuggling of weapons, contraband, gang and individual violence, including suicide, while prohibiting gratuitous invasions of privacy. And there must be job-training and a vast and diligently coordinated effusion of mental-health treatment resources. A ward at Bellevue Hospital, currently under construction, to be used for this purpose is a step in the right direction.

A few months ago, Mayor Adams observed that the number of people then in custody was greater than the combined capacity of all the boroughs' planned new jails. "Those who created a Plan A ... obviously didn't think about a Plan B," he said.

There will be overcrowding and strife, unless we release even more predators on their scouts' honor.

Although we are told that crime levels have descended from outer space height to the mere stratosphere, we know that official numbers are less raw data than cooked books.

The City Council already voted to forbid the use of Rikers Island for incarceration beyond 2027. Since they were acting within the scope of their authority and if no appeals are possible, the expedient of closing Rikers is presumably irreversible.

And if the Urban Justice Center gets its way, Rikers will become "a renewable, regenerative and restorative post-carceral future as a green energy hub."

When Rikers is scrapped or spared, it will be the end of a chapter of the Doomsday Book that New York's criminal justice system has become, but the surrealistic nightmare will accumulate many more pages beyond the index of casualties.

Only reforming the reforms will close the book.

Reclassification of even major violent felonies to enable their "alleged" (perhaps there should be a provision in the law that recognizes degrees of "alleged"?) perpetrators to wreak havoc at sunrise and go clubbing at dusk is madness.

Forbidding judges to factor a defendant's history when determining whether they would be a danger if released (all other 49 states allow it) is insanity.

Last month, a man was arrested in Washington Heights with 20,000 fentanyl pills in his possession. He was freed without bail. It was not on a technicality. It was not a fluke. That degree of outrage is a daily occurrence.

It is lunacy for criminals to have been arrested a hundred times for the same significant offense and for them to be released without consequence. Tylenol at CVS is more likely to be locked up than a "booster" who robs the store on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the Rite-Aid on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Sunday may be pot-luck or a day of rest.

"Clean Slate" is another complex criminal justice-related issue. Should convicted felons who have completed their sentences have their past criminal pasts hidden from prospective employers and background checkers?

Are some debts to society by their nature unpayable?

The New York State Penal Law defines "hate crimes" and requires that crimes so deemed must be punished more severely than they would otherwise be, all else being equal. "Hate crimes," according to the law, "tear at the very fabric of free society ... send a powerful message of intolerance ... intimidate and disrupt entire communities ... and vitiate the civility that is essential to healthy democratic processes..."

The penal law is tough and uncompromising and its language is powerful and unarguably on point. It is strict, harsh and unforgiving, as it should be.

But isn't it implicitly redundant to call a random attack with a machete or a shove onto subway tracks a "hate crime"? Could it ever be otherwise? The law assumes that we know precisely what fantasy or impulse triggered the slaughter, as long as it was inter-racial or religious,

but that it is unknowable or irrelevant in intra-racial or religious cases.

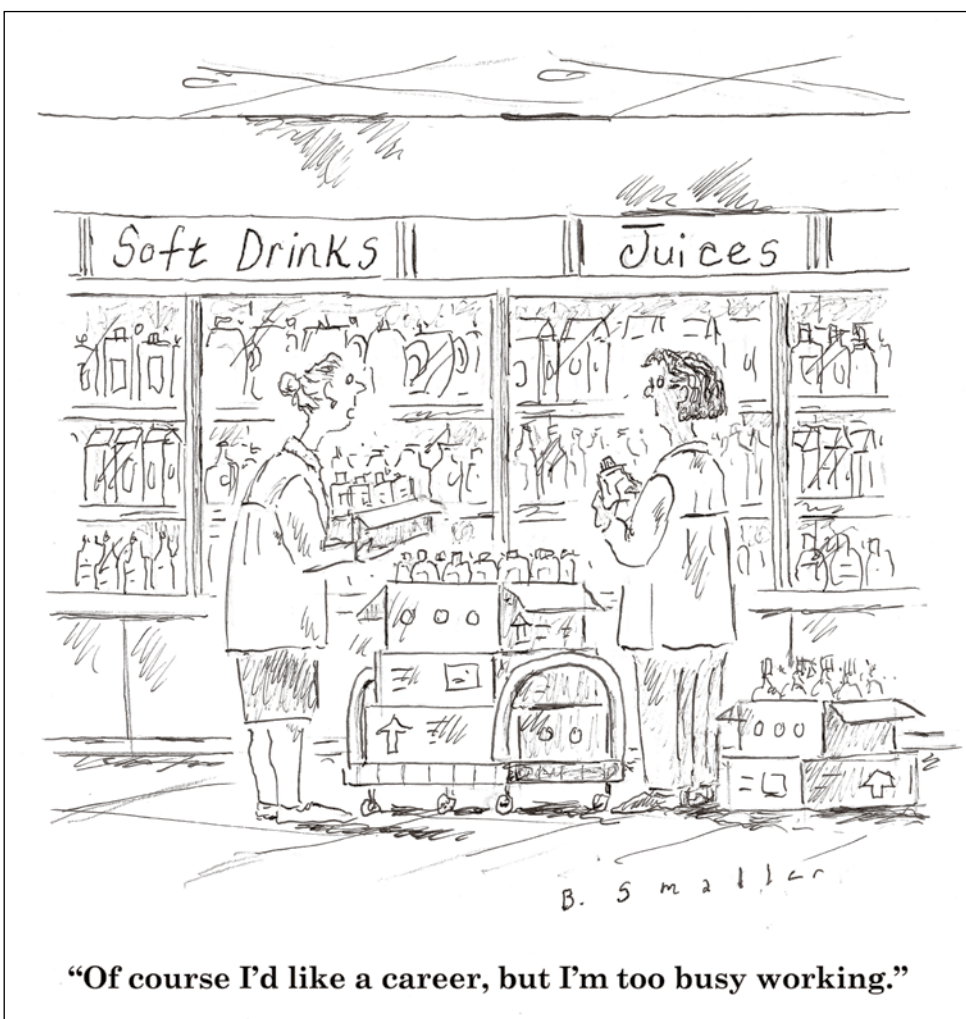
The added penalties for "hate crimes" should be extended to crimes where the material facts are identical.

Criminality is an insult to society and Rikers Island is society's stain. Prisons are necessary evils. But wisdom is even more necessary.

And that's why it is such hard work to uphold justice for both its upholders and its offenders.

'Rikers Island is a grim and bleak place. It creates new and aggravates existing dehumanization. It must be radically transformed.'

WORK RULES by Barbara Smaller



APPEAL
Law Enforcement Disqualifications
APPEAL! A PSYCHOLOGICAL OR CHARACTER DISQUALIFICATION MAY AFFECT YOU FOR LIFE
FIGHT BACK!
NYPD
Try for
Second Interview
DIAGNOSTIC & COUNSELING SERVICES
(212) 924-9281
Former Director, NYPD Transit Bureau
Union Assistance Program

SUBSCRIBE TO
The Chief
A VOICE FOR WORKERS
For as low as **57¢** per week
Subscribe online at TheChief.org or call 212.962-2690

APPEAL
PSYCHOLOGICAL DISQUALIFICATION
Psychological Evaluations to Determine Eligibility for Appeal
Experienced Professionals Specializing in
LAW ENFORCEMENT DISQUALIFICATIONS
DR. ROBERT DALEY
Psychologist • Former Director of Psychological Services, NYPD
(718) 544-0764
www.DrRobertDaley.com
drrobertdaley@gmail.com

Inspectors at city Starbucks find 'general deficiencies'

But workers at the Meatpacking roastery are puzzled no mention is made of mold

don't know why the report would say anything against what you can see with your own eyes," said Joel Foote, a barista at the store who is also on the store bargaining committee.

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

Concessions won

Foote said that, in general, the roastery is much cleaner now than it was before workers walked out, a development he credits to the demands that workers won in the strike. Management also got a new ice machine, Foote says, part of the reason that issues with mold haven't been as egregious as they were last month.

As part of the striking workers' agreement for returning to the store, Starbucks agreed to a weekly cleaning of the store's ice machines, frequent pest inspections and new health and safety trainings for workers and managers. Workers also formed a health and safety committee under New York's HERO Act, 2021 legislation that mandates workplace health and safety protections.

"The workers agreed to return to work knowing that not all the issues have been fully resolved," a spokesperson for the Starbucks Workers United of New York and New Jersey told The Chief. "They formed a health and safety committee to monitor the situation and bring issues to management's attention."

The HERO act allows employees to establish joint employer-employee committees to discuss workplace safety issues but, according to Foote, Starbucks management has yet to take any role in the committee. Workers also had their first negotiating session with Starbucks lawyers a day after returning to work. That session was short lived, according to Foote, since the lawyers walked out soon after introductions were completed because they objected that a national representative from Starbucks Workers United joined the meeting via Zoom.

Dirty water

Workers first voted to unionize the roastery in April, and the two sides have yet to agree to any future bargaining dates.

Workers also said that on the day of their return, Starbucks management held two separate meetings with their employees, the first just with workers who returned from strike, and the second with all of the store's employees. Laura Garza, a store barista who joined the earlier strike, said the sessions amounted to "captive audience meetings" where management, along with some employees who didn't join the strike, aired grievances about the striking workers.

The first meeting, with just the employees who had gone out on strike, was led by a new manager who told workers that Starbucks



Duncan Freeman/The Chief

Starbucks workers and their union allies rallied outside the Reserve Roastery on West 15th Street last month. A reinspection report following a visit from state health officials Dec. 15th found that Starbucks 'sells potentially hazardous foods' but found no evidence of mold, even though workers said they showed inspectors photos of moldy ice.

Employees at the Starbucks Reserve Roastery in the Meatpacking District returned to work Dec. 12 following a 46-day strike that spawned when workers found mold in an ice machine and bedbugs in their break room.

Three days later, inspectors from the state Department of Agriculture and Markets also returned to the store and found no posted notice of the roastery's failed November inspection, when it received a "B" grade, a moth flying around the coffee storage area, and several other "general deficiencies."

The report, compiled by the three inspectors following their Dec. 15 visit, also noted that the roastery "sells potentially hazardous foods for retail sale and wholesale distribution daily." They did not detail what those were.

Their report makes no note of "mold like residues" that inspectors found in the roastery's ice machines during an initial inspection Nov. 9. On that day, inspectors ordered the ice in two machines to be discarded and told management to sanitize the machines, according to the news site The City.

"We're pleased that a reinspection of our New York Roastery conducted by the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets on Dec. 15, 2022, demonstrated no critical deficiencies and that our food safety program is working — resulting in an A-rating indicative of the safety, quality and care that defines the Starbucks experience," a Starbucks spokesperson said in a statement.

Workers, however, insist mold in the ice machine continued to be a problem when they returned from the strike. On the day of their December visit, the inspectors were shown the mold workers found in ice cubes meant for customers' drinks, including craft cocktails served at the flagship location. The employees shared several photos with The Chief, taken the day of the second inspection, that appear to show moldy ice.

Roastery workers were confused as to why no mention of moldy ice cubes made it into the report. "I

'We just want everything to be up to code.'

— Joel Foote, A ROASTERY WORKER

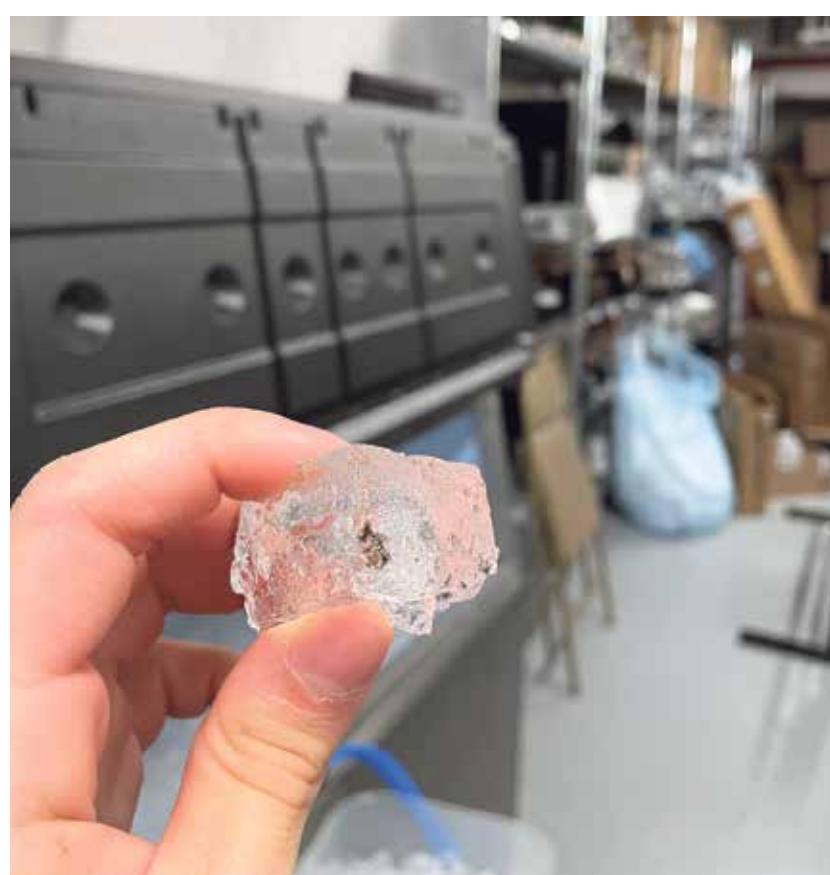
intended to double the number of employees in the store.

At the second meeting, recordings of which were shared with The Chief, tensions were clearly high. One exasperated employee named Jake asked why managers hadn't initially taken workers' concerns about mold in the ice machine seriously. A manager responded by asking Jake if he was "new to New York City," and then went on to explain that the water entering the ice machine is "really dirty." The ice machine, the manager said, runs water "through a filtration system to make it as clean and consumable as possible."

Garza took this to mean that management was blaming the quality of New York City's water, which locals hold in high esteem, for the mold found in the ice machine. The meetings contributed to what Garza said is an atmosphere ripe with animosity. "Striking partners don't feel comfortable in the store," she said. "It's still a tense atmosphere and management is doing nothing to work with us in any way."

Foote and another employee said they haven't seen or heard of mold in the store's ice since Dec. 15 and he insisted that all he wants is a store that is safe and clean for workers and customers alike.

"We're not trying to catch Starbucks," Foote said. "We just want everything to be up to code."



Duncan Freeman/The Chief

A Starbucks worker recently held up what the barista said was ice dotted with mold taken from a machine at the Meatpacking District Reserve Roastery. A recent inspection report makes no note of "mold like residues" that inspectors found in the roastery's ice machines during an initial inspection Nov. 9.

LEGAL SERVICES

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**

GREY & GREY, LLP

Representing Injured and Disabled Workers **Since 1967**

OFFICES LOCATED AT:

MANHATTAN: 115 Broadway, (Suite 403) 212-964-1342	QUEENS: 118-35 Queens Blvd. (Suite 1505) 718-268-5300
BRONX: 305 East 149th Street, 2nd Fl. 718-268-5300	WHITE PLAINS: 203 East Post Road, Suite E 914-984-2292
NASSAU: 360 Main Street, Farmingdale 516-249-1342	SUFFOLK: 646 Main Street, Pt. Jefferson 631-249-1342

CHET LUKASZEWSKI, P.C.

Success through Knowledge, Experience and Litigation Prowess

- **Disability Pension Matters**

9/11 Victims' Compensation • Social Security Disability • Workers' Comp. Disqualifications • Personal Injury • Article 78's & Appeals

(516) 775-4725

www.ChetLaw.com

*** Please visit our website for details and information

FREE CONSULTATION
145 Willis Avenue
2nd Floor
Mineola, NY 11501

LAW OFFICES OF
KEVIN P. SHEERIN

323 Willis Avenue, Suite 1, Mineola, NY 11501
Call (516) 248-3494
www.sheerinlaw.com • email: kevin@sheerinlaw.com

DISQUALIFICATIONS
NYPD • FDNY • NYC DOS • NYDCOC

- Free in-office consultation if you receive NOPD
- Free in-office prep if you receive 2nd Psych Interview
- NOPD and NOD Appeal - \$2500 Attorney Fee for both, including NYC Civil Service Commission Hearing

Fully Staffed Law Firm to Handle Your Appeal
Retired Captain, NYPD • Formerly of NYPD Legal Bureau

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION
COVID VACCINE EXEMPTIONS
DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS
CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
DISABILITY CLAIMS
CIVIL APPEALS

LAW OFFICE OF
SANDRA D. PARKER

110 East 59th Street, Suite 3200
New York, NY 10022
212-317-2883
sparker@sdp-law.com

No Stone Left Unturned

Visit website for details:
www.sdp-law.com

THE LAW OFFICE OF
ROBERT B. KRONENBERG

RETIRED CAPTAIN, NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Disqualifications — All Agencies

- All Civil Service Commission Appeals And Hearings
- Psychological — Medical — Character
- Article 78 • Article 75 • Disciplinary Arbitration/Hearings/Appeals

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS AND PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY, NASSAU COUNTY, SUFFOLK COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION
1355 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY 11749
(631) 234-4434 • (212) 776-1950
www.rkronenberglaw.com

• Bar Admissions: New York — New Jersey — Florida — Nevada
MC, Visa, American Express, Discover

Advertise in The Chief to expand your civil service employee clientele.

CALL **212-962-2690**

Electrician's Helper List Established

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services established a 496-name list for Electrician's Helper on October 26, 2022. The list is based on Exam 2011, which was recently held. Readers should note that eligible lists change over their four-year life as candidates are added, removed, reinstated, or rescinded. The list shown below is accurate as of the date of establishment but list standings can change as a result of appeals.

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.

2011 ELECTRICIAN'S HELPER Top scorers:

1	Timothy O'Sullivan	96.25
2	Joel Guzman	95.31
3	Daniel E Zelaya	94.37
4	Fazielkhan Ghafoerkhan	93.43
5	Evangelos Pachis	93.43
6	Zenner R Daley	93.43
7	Michael F Murphy	93.43
8	Donovan Davey	93.43
9	Matthew J Kane	p93.12
10	Juan X Pabon	d93.12
11	Alfred Bombino	92.50
12	Andrew A Graham	92.50
13	Michael K Keaveny	92.50
14	Evjenios M Qiqi	91.56
15	Hong Li	91.56
16	Anthony J Campanini	91.56
17	John R Ingram	91.56
18	Salvatore Di Benedetto	p91.25
19	Joseph Dean	90.62
20	Shaji K Cherian	90.62
21	Samuel McDonald Flemin	90.62
22	Richard Santana	90.62
23	Dariusz Siuta	90.62
24	Brian J McKeon	90.62
25	Stanislaw Plesniak	90.62
26	Julian K Iglesias	90.62
27	Juan C Ayala	v90.00
28	Levi Klein	89.68
29	Matthew G Maring	89.68

30	Paul Edwards	89.68
31	Albert Perez	89.68
32	Alfredo A Santos	89.68
33	Jay Lin	89.68
34	Javier A Borrero	89.68
35	David Miller	89.68
36	Robert T Dunn	89.68
37	Domenico Buono Jr	88.75
38	Kelly Lett	88.75
39	Nicholas G Stabile	88.75
40	Krzysztof J Marszalek	88.75
41	Charles Oliver	88.75
42	James Champion	88.75
43	Carlos A Rivera	88.75
44	Oleksandr Logvynenko	88.75
45	Patrick R Mulgrew	88.75
46	Richard Ng	88.75
47	Roman Verhnyak	88.75
48	Kudura Robinson	88.75
49	Sergey Trotsky	v88.12
50	Kevin K Valente	87.81
51	Shaquille C Cummings	87.81
52	Kieran E Franks	87.81
53	Azeam Ali	87.81
54	Anthony J Ricci	87.81
55	Christopher Parapi	87.81
56	Kevin Ferrer	87.81
57	Richard J Reed Jr	87.81
58	Xiaoyan Guo	87.81
59	Maximiliano Erickson II	v87.18
60	Avinash Kemraj	86.87
61	Waynell A Johnson	86.87
62	Andrew Ganesh	86.87
63	Andre Kingston	86.87
64	Qingwei Wang	86.87
65	Andre Mahe	86.87
66	Gregory R Switzer	86.87
67	Michael V Copeland	86.87
68	Alfredo Casalins	86.87
69	Travis Frazier	85.93
70	Luke A Maguire	85.93
71	Garry F Sobiesiak	85.93
72	Anning Li	85.93
73	Arthur H Funchess	85.93
74	Dawid Klicki	85.93
75	Gregory S Reilly	85.93
76	Dwight A Varlack	85.93
77	Anthony M Ramirez	85.93
78	Andrew M Cutrupi	85.93
79	Joseph M Olszewski	85.93
80	Frank V Vitale	85.93
81	Louis Salvatore	85.93
82	Joseph Delbrey	d85.62
83	Julian O McLeggan	v85.31
84	Chris John	85.00
85	Rodolfo A Canzani	85.00
86	Gregory Fernandez	85.00
87	Olajuwon Amao	85.00
88	Dov T Goldman	85.00
89	Petrus Victor	85.00
90	Dexter M Smith	85.00

91	James N D'Esposito	85.00
92	Lendy Jones	85.00
93	Travis T Pronko	85.00
94	Patrick J Pezzella	85.00
95	Rayvon Price	85.00
96	Jose A Diaz	85.00
97	Shane A Singh	85.00
98	Nusret N Siljkovic	v84.37
99	Hector N Martinez	84.06
100	Imran Khan	84.06
101	John Capozzoli	84.06
102	Matthew T Murphy	84.06
103	Igor Tafiychuk	84.06
104	Nicholas E Romeo	84.06
105	Steven B Decker	84.06
106	Mark A Rickens	84.06
107	Patrice A Telfer	84.06
108	Mateusz Szeliga	84.06
109	Al Housseine N Al Mansouri	84.06
110	Charles S Pantina	84.06
111	Michael A Santiago	84.06
112	William M Harris	84.06
113	Steven Lim	v83.43
114	Edwin D Perez	83.12
115	Justin P Petraglia	83.12
116	Steve Gallego	83.12
117	Greg Wraga	83.12
118	Michael Anisis	83.12
119	Richard D Goggin	83.12
120	Jonathan A Elsalam	83.12
121	Mykhaylo Ganin	83.12
122	Jonathan Petrizzi	83.12
123	Menghao Wang	83.12
124	Parmanand Tribhawan	83.12
125	Johnathan Gonzalez	83.12
126	Sandy Sussman	83.12
127	Arturo G Chiriboga	83.12
128	Anton I Torrella	82.18
129	Riza Gaygusuz	82.18
130	John A Martuscelli	82.18
131	Chandi Dhanraj	82.18
132	Charles W DiBerardino	82.18
133	Michael J Sokolowski	82.18
134	Nestor Calixto	82.18
135	Robert S Port	82.18
136	Daniel C Delmar	82.18
137	Damon W Edwards	82.18
138	Alexx Smith	82.18
139	Angel F Montalvo	82.18
140	Darrin J Holloway	82.18
141	Rizalde A Garcia	82.18
142	Michael Berkovich	82.18
143	Jason M Haitram	82.18
144	Louis Santostefano	82.18
145	Kyle E Richardson	82.18
146	Marc A Vincent	82.18
147	Fernando Regis	d81.87
148	Victor Lucero	v81.56
149	Andrew Yamraj	81.25
150	Gordon Wong	81.25
151	Christopher R Pedota	81.25

Happy New (Tax) Year

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I want to wish all my readers a happy and peaceful New Year. Your emails and calls are appreciated. It's that time of year again. The income-tax-filing season has begun and important documents should be arriving in the mail. Even though your return is not due until April, getting an early start will make filing easier.



Tax Strategies
By Barry Lisak

Here are the Internal Revenue Service's top tips that will help your tax filing process go smoother than ever this year:

- **Start gathering your records.** Round up any documents or forms you'll need when filing your taxes: receipts, canceled checks and other documents that support income or deductions you're claiming on your return.

- **Check your mail.** W-2s (make sure you receive one for every job) and 1099s will be coming soon (by Jan. 31); you'll need these to file your tax return.

- **E-file.** After 33 years, the IRS e-file has become the safe, easy and most common way to file a tax return. Last year, nearly 152 million people used IRS e-file.

- **Filing options.** There are many different options for filing your tax return. You

can prepare it yourself or go to a tax preparer. Give yourself time to weigh all the different options and find the one that best suits your needs.

- **Consider direct deposit.** If you elect to have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, you'll receive it faster than waiting for a paper check. Best of all, combine e-file with direct deposit and get your refund in as few as 10 days.

- **Visit the IRS website.** The official IRS website (www.irs.gov) is a great place to find everything you'll need to file your tax return: forms, publications, tips, answers to frequently asked questions and updates on tax law changes.

- **Check and re-check.** Don't rush. We all make mistakes when we rush. Mistakes will slow down the processing of your return. Be sure to double-check all the Social Security numbers and math calculations on your return as these are the most common errors made by taxpayers. Additionally, I wish you many happy returns, as well.

Barry Lisak is an IRS enrolled agent specializing in personal and small business taxes for 30 years. Any questions can be directed to him at 516-829-7283, or mrbarrytax@aol.com.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing You Good News and Happiness in the New Year!

The Chief
A VOICE FOR WORKERS

CHIEF CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED



Island Charter

Goin' The Extra Mile!

Wanted: School Bus Drivers, Attendants & Mechanics

Drivers & Attendants:

- Mini School Buses
- Staten Island routes only
- Drivers Starting salary \$875 per week
- Attendants Starting salary \$630 per week
- Paid Holidays/Sick pay
- Medical
- Pension
- Work 20 - 30 hours per week
- Drivers Min. Requirement Class C Driver's License

Mechanics Please E-mail info@islandcharter.com

Call 718.448.4006

www.islandcharter.com

E-mail us at info@islandcharter.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secy. of State of DE, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/05/22-5 12/16/22-1/20/23

Notice is hereby given that a license, number pending, has been applied for by Hoyts Cinemas Corporation to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 1 Crossgates Mall Road, Store #33, Albany, NY 12203 for on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-13 12/23/22-12/30/22

Notice of Formation of **IRC of New York City, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/09/22. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 1550 W. McEwen Dr., Ste. 600, Franklin, TN 37067. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Renal dialysis. 12/16/22-1 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Formation of **Neat Urbsp. LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/10/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15/22-1 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Formation of **NEAT CLEVELAND PLACE, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/13/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: MURAL GROUP LLP, 80 5TH AVE, 1807, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15/22-2 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Tractor Supply Company Northeast, LLC**. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/18/22. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/12/22. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005, also the Registered Agent upon whom process may be served. Address to be maintained in DE: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts. of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15/22-3 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **LOOP CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT -TCH LLC**. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/18/22. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/08/08. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: C/O Unisearch, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805A, Albany, NY 12210-2822. Address to be maintained in DE: c/o The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of DE, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15/22-4 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 3171537, has been applied for by Regal Cinemas Inc to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 525 Marketplace Dr. Rochester, NY 14623 on on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-7 12/23/22-12/30/22

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 3171547, has been applied for by Regal Cinemas Inc to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 70 Eastview Rd. Victor, NY 14564 for on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-8 12/23/22-12/30/22

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 3171541, has been applied for by Regal Cinemas Inc to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 720 Builders Way, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 for on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-9 12/23/22-12/30/22

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 2234450, has been applied for by Regal Cinemas Inc to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 6201 Fashion Drive, Nanuet, NY 10954 for on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-10 12/23/22-12/30/22

Notice is hereby given that a license, number pending, has been applied for by Hoyts Cinemas Corporation, to sell beer and wine at retail in a "tavern" (movie theatre) under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 900 Front St. Binghamton, NY 13905 for on-premises consumption. 12/15/22-11 12/23/22-12/30/22

WILDLIKE NOHO LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/2022. Office loc: NY County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Alysa Teichman - Wildlike, 4649 Insurance Lane, Dallas, TX 75205. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 12/19/22-7 12/23/22-1/27/23

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF El Detalle LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/12/2022. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 287 Hudson St., Apt. 3, NY, NY 10013. The principal business address of the LLC is 287 Hudson St., Apt. 3, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 12/13/22-2 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Hack VC Management, LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/8/22. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/10/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 809 Broadway, NY, NY 10003. DE address of LLC: 1209

LEGAL NOTICES

Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/19/22-1 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Hill Street Cinema LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/2/22. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/11/22. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/19/22-2 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Hometap Equity SPV, LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/9/22. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/14/22. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/19/22-3 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Invenegy Storage Development LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/14/22. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/22/13. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/19/22-5 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **INFLUENTZ LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/2/22. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/11/22. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/19/22-4 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Formation of **Jamie Leone Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/7/22. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 168 W. 86th St, Ste 1B, NY, NY 10024. List of names and addresses of all original members available from SSNY. Purpose: Licensed Clinical Social Work. 12/19/22-6 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **MHD Management Co. LLC**. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 11/22/22. NYS fict. name: MHD Management Co. I.L.L.C. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 11/15/22. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 520 Madison Ave., 30th Fl., NY, NY 10022, principal business address. DE address of LLC: c/o Cogency Global Inc., 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/15/22-17 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Qualification of **Davidson Kempner Advisers LLC**. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 11/22/22. NYS fict. name: Davidson Kempner Advisers I LLC. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 11/15/22. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 520 Madison Ave., 30th Fl., NY, NY 10022, principal business address. DE address of LLC: c/o Cogency Global Inc., 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/15/22-16 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice of Formation of **GARMENTIERS LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/22. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Adventureland LLC, 1501 Broadway, 24th Fl., NY, NY 10036. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/19/22-8 12/23/22-1/27/23

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial number 1355483 for Beer, Wine and Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine and Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 76 80 116 St, New York, NY 10029 for on-premises consumption; LE KIOSQUE LLC. 12/22/22-3 12/30/22-1/6/23

Administration Citation. File No. 2018-3674/B. Surrogate's Court - New York County. Supplemental Citation. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: Bert Lancaster Gordon and Damiana Smith, if living and if dead, to his, her or their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he, she or they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his, her or their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Milton A. Gordon, a/k/a Milton A'Lon Gordon, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained: A petition having been filed by Kirk Douglas Gordon, who is domiciled at 36334 E Estate Drive, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971; YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on January 27, 2023,

LEGAL NOTICES

at 10:00 a.m., in Room 503, why a decree should not be made in the estate of MILTON A. GORDON, aka MILTON A'LO'N GORDON, lately domiciled at 238 East 95th Street Apt 6B, New York, New York 10128, granting Letters of Administration upon the estate of the decedent to KIRK DOUGLAS GORDON or to such other person as may be entitled thereto; that this court find that Kirk Douglas Gordon is the child of and distributee of the decedent; and that the copy of decedent's Last Will and Testament dated 6/28/17 not be admitted to probate. Dated, Attested and Sealed December 19, 2022. Hon. RITA MELLA, Surrogate. Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Name of Attorney for Petitioner: STANLEY E. ESPOSITO, ESQ. Tel No. 914-769-6040. Address of Attorney: 704 Half Moon Bay Drive, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. 12/21/22-3 12/30/22-1/20/23

Notice is hereby given that an On-premise liquor license, Serial #TBA has been applied for by V LLC to sell liquor, beer, wine and cider at retail at an on-premises Restaurant. For on premises consumption under the ABC Law at 1825 Second Avenue New York NY 10128. 12/22/22-2 12/30/22-1/6/23

File No. 1991 - 1464/B. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT, TO: John O'Donnell, Bertha Martinez, and Yvonne Martinez, if living and if dead, to his/her heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown, and if he/she died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his/her executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees, and successors in interest whose name and places of residence are unknown, and to all other heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Maxine Weiss, the decedent herein, whose name and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence; Milta Brown, Robert Ramos, Linda Gusman a/k/a Linda Gusman Janczyk, Loretta Jusino, Mark Samuels, Sandra Rust, Alphonus Vanderbeek, Melba Leslie, NGM Insurance Company, Attorney General of The State of New York; being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Maxine Weiss, deceased who at the time of her death was a resident of 104-38 108th Street, Richmond Hill, New York 11419, in the County of Queens, State of New York; a copy of this Citation and the Accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian ad Litem, Dennis Cappello, Esq. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LORRAINE P. FALCO, ESQ., who maintains her office at 42-40 Bell Boulevard, Suite 402, Bayside, New York 11361, as Administrator of the Estate of Maxine Weiss, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and the State of New York, on the 16th day of February, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of proceedings of Lorraine P. Falco, Esq., as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not allow for reimbursement of unpaid expenses in the amount of \$821.07 to Lorraine P. Falco, Esq., and why the Surrogate should not allow for reimbursement of unpaid expenses in the amount of \$824.00 to Melba Leslie, and why the Surrogate should not allow for reimbursement of unpaid expenses (disbursements) in the amount of \$515.54 to Irene C. Vitti, Esq., and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to IRENE C. VITTI, ESQ., for legal services rendered to Petitioner herein in the amount of \$34,300.00, and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by IRENE C. VITTI, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings prior to entry of a final Decree on the Accounting the amount of \$7,000.00, and why the Surrogate should not approve distribution of the Estate of Maxine Weiss, deceased, as follows: • To the Estate of Miriam O'Donnell, twenty percent (20%); • To the Estate of Michael Reines, ten percent (10%); • To Loretta Jusino, ten percent (10%); • To the Estate of Milta Gusman, twenty percent (20%); • To the Estate of Mirtila Vanderbeek, twenty percent (20%); and • To Melba Leslie, twenty percent (20%); and why process should not be issued to all necessary parties who have not appeared to show cause why the relief requested should not be granted; and why an order should not be granted directing service of process pursuant to SCPA Article 3 upon such persons named in paragraph (6)(b) of the Petition whose names or whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained or who may be persons on whom service by personal delivery cannot be made. This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. Dated Attested and Sealed, 12th day of December, 2022. HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Clerk of the Surrogate's Court. Attorney for Petitioner: Irene C. Vitti, Esq. Telephone No. 718-225-1915. Address: P.O. Box 1337, Southold, New York 11971. Email Address: irenevitti@yahoo.com. 12/15/22-6 12/30/22-1/20/23

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE Edna & Monroe C. Gutman Foundation, Inc. for the year ended June 30, 2022 is available at its principal office located at Hertz Herson CPA LLP, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022 for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. Principal Manager of the Foundation is Mr. Brian J. Glaznek. 12/22/22-1 12/30/22

Public & Legal Notices

Reasonable Rates and Professional Service for over 45 years.

Please contact our advertising department for more info: 212-962-2630 Or email: TheChiefInfo@rcn.com

CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATOR

NYC agency has multiple positions available for an investigator to conduct confidential criminal and administrative investigations.

To apply, visit our website at <https://nycscl.org/employment/> to view the job vacancy notice containing the job description, the minimum qualifications, and the preferred skills for the Confidential Investigator position.

Follow the steps in the "APPLY ONLINE" section. Please do not email, mail or fax your resume to SCI directly.



SENIOR DETECTIVE, DEPUTY CHIEF DETECTIVE INVESTIGATOR & CHIEF DETECTIVE INVESTIGATOR

The Richmond County District Attorney's office is seeking 8 Senior Detective Investigator (Job ID #560681), 1 Deputy Chief Detective Investigator (Job ID# 565158), and 1 Chief Detective Investigator (Job ID#560687).

Please visit the New York City website <http://www.nyc.gov/jobs> and search either JOB ID for minimum qualification requirements or preferred skills.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHIEF: CALL 212-962-2690

LEGAL NOTICES

PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2021-6012. SURROGATE'S COURT-QUEENS COUNTY. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By the Grace of God Free and Independent To: Heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of ELSIE J. HECK a/k/a ELSIE HECK a/k/a ELSIE JOHANNA HECK a/k/a ELSE JOHANNA HECK, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence: Public Administrator of Queens County: Karl-Herman Claussen; and John Riordan, GAL. A petition having been duly filed by Henry F. Locke, Jr. who is domiciled at 72 Brittle Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on 9th day of February, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of ELSIE J. HECK a/k/a ELSIE HECK a/k/a ELSIE JOHANNA HECK a/k/a ELSE JOHANNA HECK lately domiciled at 8058 59th Street, Glendale, NY 11385, United States admitting to probate a Will dated June 21, 2011, (a Codicil dated -) (a Codicil dated -), a copy of which is attached, as the Will of ELSIE J. HECK a/k/a ELSIE HECK a/k/a ELSIE JOHANNA HECK a/k/a ELSE JOHANNA HECK deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that [X] Letters Testamentary issue to: Henry F. Locke, Jr. [] Letters of Trusteeship issue to: [] Letters of Administration C.T.A. issue to: - (State any further relief requested) NOTICE. THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. AS A RESULT OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COURT TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE COURTHOUSE ON THE RETURN DATE IS LIMITED. THEREFORE, IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE RELIEF REQUESTED, YOU, OR AN ATTORNEY ON YOUR BEHALF, MUST CONTACT THE COURT PRIOR TO THIS DATE IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE IT WILL BE FOUND YOU CONSENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. DATE DEC - 2 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate (Seal), Chief Clerk Janet Edwards Tucker, Meredith Chesler, Esq./Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, Attorney for Petitioner, 516-437-4385 Telephone No., mchesler@vmmlegal.com Email Address, 3000 Marcus Ave., Suite 1E9, Lake Success, NY 11042, Address of Attorney. 12/16/22-1/6/23 12/08/22-6

Notice of Qualification of **ULTRA III, LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/21/22. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/27/22. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little

Advertising Sales - Print and Digital

For *The Chief*, a weekly newspaper in NYC. We're expanding our reach outside of the Big Apple, but still very much at home here. Our coverage of Unions and Civil Service is more relevant now than ever. We need a hotshot salesperson who's excited about our mission to represent us. Base pay and commission.

Send resume and cover letter to: Publisher@thechiefleader.com

The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

The civil service battle is heating up across the country, and the best defense is knowledge. For hard-hitting reporting on issues from contract negotiations to job security, THE CHIEF covers every issue impacting public employees. Enjoy our podcasts, videos, editorials, and much more—all at a price that works for you.

SUBSCRIBE TO

The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

For as low as **57¢** per week

Subscribe online at TheChiefLeader.com or call 212-962-2690

Follow us: [@TheChiefLeader](https://twitter.com/TheChiefLeader) [@TheChiefLeader](https://facebook.com/TheChiefLeader)

WE ONLY HAVE ONE BEAT—YOURS.

Holy rollers: Lyft drivers are spreading the Gospel with ride-hailing ministries

BY LUIS ANDRES HENAO

One is an ordained pastor in Brooklyn, the other a single mother and children's book author in New Jersey. Both drive for Lyft. Both share the word of God as roving preachers.

Pastor Kenneth Drayton and Tomika Reid try to inspire passengers through spiritual guidance on the road as part of what they see as mobile Christian ministries.

"You don't always have to go to a church or sanctuary to experience the restoration and the power of God," said Drayton, 61, a minister who also preaches at Mantels of Promise Ministries in Brooklyn.

He began to drive for Uber in 2015 after retiring from a career in the insurance industry. Listening to passengers who shared their stories on the road, he understood that his car could become an extension of the church.

"The car is such an ideal place to do this because it's personal," said Drayton, who now drives for Lyft. "I can share my faith and it's so important because that's what I live for."

On a recent day last month, he began by praying in his impeccably clean 2017 Toyota Camry, and reciting Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..."). On a break from driving in Manhattan, he reflected on how he reaches out to passengers.

Staying clear of doctrine

He always plays classical music on his car stereo (his favorite is Mozart) to encourage a calm, pleasant mood. He begins with a greeting and a kind word. His pri-

ority, he says, is to introduce passengers to Christ, but he's respectful if they're not receptive. They're often Christian, but he has also spoken to atheists, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims. Instead of trying to preach, he says he focuses his message on the love of God and tends to avoid doctrine.

"That's been the conflict, the repellent for healing and transformation," said Drayton. "It's discussion and debates that have caused holy wars."

Reid also stays away from doctrine and focuses more on sharing her personal story, hoping it can help others deal with their challenges. Like Drayton, she feels that the church goes beyond the brick and mortar.

"This is something that God put me in a position to do," she said. "And I love it because I just love inspiring people and encouraging them to never give up."

Losses have marked her life, including the death of her mother, sister and the fathers of her two daughters. She often retells her story to passengers.

"I wanted to give up, but because of my faith in God, I'm still here standing" said the 40-year-old single mother. "And I just want to use my story to encourage others never to give up, no matter what you go through."

In 2017, she began driving for Lyft to support her daughters, who are now 14 and 20. In the backseat pocket of her 2019 Nissan Altima, she keeps the five books that she has written, including one for children on how to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Passengers often buy her books or tip her generously and she



Luis Andres Henao/AP Photo

Tomika Reid, a single mother and children's book author in the Princeton area, works as a ride-hailing service driver and tries to inspire passengers through spiritual guidance on the road as part of what she sees as a ride-hailing ministry.

proudly keeps a five-out-of-five-star rating. She usually plays George Michael on weekdays and gospel music on Sundays when she's working and can't make it to church.

"When I hear people say, 'You made my day,' I know I can make an impact on people's life," Reid said. "It brings joy to me. It's like I've turned my pain into a purpose to inspire others."

God and tech

Evangelism experts say ride-hailing can be conducive to talking about faith. Lyft's guidelines do not expressly prohibit evangelism nor conversations about religion,

but they do promote inclusion and forbid discrimination, including on race, gender, and religious grounds.

"It doesn't come as a great surprise to me because thinking about Christianity, there's a long tradition of using technology to spread the word of God," said Robert Geraci, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College.

He cited examples, including how — shortly after space flight became possible — there were people talking about how to use satellites to spread the Gospel and how preachers have used TV for decades.

"Uber, Lyft becomes a mode of religious communication and not

just a transportation strategy," he said. "It's also a religious strategy."

People in customer-facing professions, such as driving for ride-hailing apps, often strike up conversations about life and its challenges, said Ed Stetzer, executive director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center.

"In a world where interpersonal interaction is less common — our bank tellers are now all ATMs — faith sharing is less common. So people are finding creative ways," said Stetzer, who is also dean of the school of Mission, Ministry, and Leadership.

"That's what Christians have done for centuries, long before ride-share apps."

Correction Officers with State \$55,000 PG. 11
The Chief
 A VOICE FOR WORKERS
 APRIL 1, 2022 \$1.50

Rising gas prices dent livelihood of city's app workers
 BY ASHLEY BISHOP

Pruners and climbers with DOT \$55,000 PG. 13
The Chief
 A VOICE FOR WORKERS
 APRIL 8, 2022 \$1.50

In first, NYC Starbucks store unionizes
 BY ASHLEY BISHOP

Electrical helpers at NYCT at \$23/hr PG. 11
The Chief
 A VOICE FOR WORKERS
 APRIL 22, 2022 \$1.50

'Proud of deal': building workers strike is averted
 BY CHRISTOPHER LEBLANC

School stabbing renews calls for more safety agents
 BY CHRISTOPHER LEBLANC

'Demolitionistas,' union say demo company exploits
 BY ASHLEY BISHOP

SUBSCRIBE TO

The Chief
 A VOICE FOR WORKERS

GOOD PAY
 SAFETY
 OPPORTUNITY
 EQUITY

FOR AS LOW AS

57¢ per issue

A definitive source for information on union contract negotiations and settlements, public-employee pensions, labor-related legislation, as well as on occupational health and safety issues.

To receive our print, digital or combo subscription specials, call **212.962-2690**

or visit online:
www.thechiefleader.com/subscribe

LEGAL NOTICES

CAPRIFOGLIO LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 11-3-2022. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to, c/o Dentons US LLP, 1221 Ave. of the Americas, Attn: Brian E. Raftery, NY, NY, 10020. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 11/6222-3 11/25/22-12/30/22

GERANIO LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 11-3-2022. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to, c/o DENTONS US LLP, 1221 Ave. of the Americas, Attn: Brian E. Raftery, NY, NY, 10020. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 11/6222-1 11/25/22-12/30/22

Notice of Formation of 6AW10 LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/07/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543, reg. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/8222-12 11/25/22-12/30/22

Notice of Formation of 415 WASHINGTON STREET 7B LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, reg. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Real estate investment. 11/7222-10 11/25/22-12/30/22

Notice of Formation of 10 MADISON SQUARE WEST 16A LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, reg. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Real estate investment. 11/7222-11 11/25/22-12/30/22

RNA Herald Square LLC filed w/ SSNY on 11/4/22. Office: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: In Yoo Kim, 35 W 36th St., #3E, NY, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful. 11/7222-8 11/25/22-12/30/22

SEED & ROOTED LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/15/2022. Office loc: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Toni Freda, 66 Northfield Ave, Staten Island, NY 10303. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 11/7222-2 11/25/22-12/30/22

Le Trapeze LLC filed w/ SSNY 12/26/18. Off. in NY Co. SSNY design. as agt. of LLC whom process may be served & shall mail process to the LLC, 420 Lexington Ave, Ste. 300, New York, NY 10170. Any lawful purpose. 100722-1 11/25/22-12/30/22

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TDS TOLONA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/8/2022. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 104 Port Richmond Ave., Staten Island, NY 10302. The principal business address of the LLC is 104 Port Richmond Ave., Staten Island, NY 10302. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 11/7222-9 11/25/22-12/30/22

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Complete Mental Health Counseling Services, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/21/2022. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated

LEGAL NOTICES

as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC served upon him/her is 20920 Jamaica Avenue, #280012, Queens Village, NY 11423. The principal business address of the PLLC is 20920 Jamaica Avenue, #280013, Queens Village, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 11/6222-2 11/25/22-12/30/22

RP BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/04/2022. Office loc: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Zoilo Reyes, 76 Swan St, Staten Island, NY 10301. Reg Agent: Zoilo Reyes, 76 Swan St, Staten Island, NY 10301. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 11/5222-3 11/25/22-12/30/22

VILLAGE THERAPY NYC LCSW PLLC, a Prof. LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/17/2022. Office loc: NY County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The PLLC, PO Box 491, NY, NY 10276. Purpose: To Practice The Profession Of Licensed Clinical Social Worker. 11/2322-1 12/2/22-1/6/23

Notice of Qualification of GREYSTONE SELECT COMPANY II LLC, Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/22. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 06/09/21. Princ. office of LLC: 152 W. 57th St., 60th Fl., NY, NY 10019. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/2322-4 12/2/22-1/6/23

Notice of Qualification of JAWHP, LLC, Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/22. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 01/13/20. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 530 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10036. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/2322-5 12/2/22-1/6/23

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HARMONY MART, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2022. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 177 East 101 Street, Apt. 1D, NY, NY 10029. The principal business address of the LLC is 177 East 101 Street, Apt. 1D, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 11/2522-1 12/2/22-1/6/23

Formation of Evolve of Staten Island LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/22/2022. Office loc.: Richmond County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Jeffrey Mandler, 2716 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/0122-7 12/9/22-1/13/23

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF All American Cleaning Enterprise LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/2022. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 579 Manor Rd., Ste. 201, Staten Island, NY 10314. The principal business address of the LLC is 579

LEGAL NOTICES

Manor Rd., Ste. 201, Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 12/0222-1 12/9/22-1/13/23

Notice of Qualification of Gold Point, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/9/22. NYS fict. name: Gold Point of Alaska, LLC. Office location: NY County. LLC organized in AK: 10/16/19. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Cogency Global Inc., 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. AK and principal business address: 3909 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 500, Anchorage, AK 99503. Arts. of Org. filed with AK Sec. of State, PO Box 110806, Juneau, AK 99811. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 12/0122-9 12/9/22-1/13/23

New Rochelle DUS GP, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/22. Office location: NY Co, LLC formed in DE on 11/14/22. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 145 E. 27th St, Apt 12B, NY, NY 10016. DE addr. of LLC: c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 1209 Orange St, Wilmington DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/0122-8 12/9/22-1/13/23

SURROGATE'S COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY, File No. 2015-1983A. CITATION, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent, TO: JAMES BYRD, WILLIAM ANDERSON, if living, and if dead to his heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of CELLILUS REYNOLDS the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained; LEOLA BYRD EPPS; YI STEWART, ESQ. being persons interested as creditors, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, distributees or otherwise of the estate of CELLILUS REYNOLDS deceased, who at the time of death resided at 2370 1st Avenue, Apt. 14G, New York, NY 10035 AN. Amended petition having been duly filed by Verdena Joseph, who is domiciled at 1000 Burke Ave., Apt. 2A Bronx, New York 10469 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County at 31 Chambers Street, Room 503, New York New York, on January 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM. WHY the account of the proceedings of Verdena Joseph as administrator of the estate of Cellilus Reynolds, deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the following should not be granted 1. That the Administrators account of Proceedings, relating to said settlement fund of \$63,390.74 (Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred & Ninety Dollars and Seventy Four Cents) be judicially settled 2. That Verdena Joseph be allowed an administrative fee for her work as the Administrator of the Estate of Cellilus Reynolds, pursuant to S.C.P.A.2307, in the amount of \$3169.53 3. That the Estate be Permitted to satisfy the lien asserted by the New York City Department of Social Services for Medicaid payments against the Estate in the amount of \$10,000, 4. That Harnick & Harnick, Esqs., my nominees, be paid their fees of \$17,449.82 and disbursements \$2041.48 which combined totals \$19,491.10 (Note: The aforesaid fees and disbursements were approved in an Order under Index #: 303967/15 and dated September 6th, 2018, by 2018 Hon. Donald A. Miles, Justice of the Supreme Court Bronx County a copy of which is attached hereto). 5. That the balance of \$30,730.11 be distributed to those entitled that is the 8 children and 1 Grand Daughter of the decedent hereto as follows except for Diane Reynolds who will receive an additional .06 Cents make her total share \$3,414.51 Tyrrina Cotton, Granddaughter of the decedent, and the only child of Doretha Byrd Cotton who is Deceased, and was the daughter of the Decedent, 198 Halpine Road, Apt. 1280, Rockville, MD 20852 \$3,141.45 6. That the .38 cents in Social Security Benefit monies that were left over on a Debit Card issued by Direct Express Payment Processing Service to the decedent Cellilus Reynolds be distributed to the 8 children and 1 Grand Daughter of the decedent as follows except for Diane Reynolds who will receive an additional .02 Cents make her total share \$,06 cents Verdena Joseph \$,04 cents Diane Reynolds \$,06 cents And Tony Reynolds \$,04 Cents William Anderson \$,04 Cents Robert Byrd \$,04 Cents Leola Byrd Epps \$,04 Cents Alphonso Reynolds \$,04 Cents Tyrrina Cotton the grand daughter of the decedent, and the only Child of Doretha Byrd Cotton who is deceased and who was the daughter of the decedent \$,04 Cent 7. That the Shares of the 7 Distributees whose whereabouts are known including their share of \$,38 cents in Social Security Benefits both of which are outlined above be distributed to them at this time minus the fees reimbursable to Harnick & Harnick, PC for Publishing and Citing James Byrd and William Anderson whose whereabouts are unknown: 8. That the share for James Byrd and William Anderson, including the share of the \$.38 cents in Social Security Benefits both of which are outlined above minus the fees reimbursable to Harnick & Harnick, PC for Publishing and Citing them, be put on deposit for their explicit benefit. 9. That the Court in the alternative direct what if any action they want the administrator to take regarding William Anderson and James Byrd; and 10. That this Court grant such other and further relief as the Court deems proper in the premises, HON. RITA MELLA SURROGATE, DIANA SANBRIA, CHIEF CLERK, DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED: November 22nd 2022. Name of Attorney: Thomas Harnick Address of Attorney Harnick & Harnick, PC, 305 Broadway, Ste. 602, New York NY 10007. Telephone number of Attorney: 212-962-5065. NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. You are invited to have an attorney appear for you. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. PROOF OF SERVICE MUST BE FILED TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE RETURN DATE Court Rule 207.7 (c). 12/0122-4 12/9/22-12/30/22

2023 String Quartet Movie LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 11-16-2022. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to, The LLC, 580 Saint Nicholas Ave., #4G, New York, NY 10030. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 12/0122-6 12/9/22-1/13/23

Notice of Formation of SONGS FOR LITTLES, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: eResidentAgent, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805A, Albany, NY 12210, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/3022-5 12/9/22-1/13/23

File No.: 2020-5310/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT TO: Estate of Florence Gollinger, Joan Rook, Warren Gollinger, NYC Human Resources Administration, Vera Institute of Justice, Inc. Guardianship Project, Eva Weiss, Attorney General of the State of New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

LEGAL NOTICES

168-14 116th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434 \$3,414.45 James Byrd, Son, Address Unknown \$3,414.45 William Anderson, Son, Address Unknown \$3,414.45 Alphonso Reynolds, Son, 13-10 34th Avenue, Apt. 5G, Astoria, New York 11106 \$3,414.45 Leola Byrd Epps, Daughter, 4296 Southern Avenue 1/2, S.E. Washington D.C. \$3,414.45 Tyrrina Cotton, Granddaughter of the decedent, and the only child of Doretha Byrd Cotton who is Deceased, and was the daughter of the Decedent, 198 Halpine Road, Apt. 1280, Rockville, MD 20852 \$3,141.45 6. That the .38 cents in Social Security Benefit monies that were left over on a Debit Card issued by Direct Express Payment Processing Service to the decedent Cellilus Reynolds be distributed to the 8 children and 1 Grand Daughter of the decedent as follows except for Diane Reynolds who will receive an additional .02 Cents make her total share \$,06 cents Verdena Joseph \$,04 cents Diane Reynolds \$,06 cents And Tony Reynolds \$,04 Cents William Anderson \$,04 Cents Robert Byrd \$,04 Cents Leola Byrd Epps \$,04 Cents Alphonso Reynolds \$,04 Cents Tyrrina Cotton the grand daughter of the decedent, and the only Child of Doretha Byrd Cotton who is deceased and who was the daughter of the decedent \$,04 Cent 7. That the Shares of the 7 Distributees whose whereabouts are known including their share of \$,38 cents in Social Security Benefits both of which are outlined above be distributed to them at this time minus the fees reimbursable to Harnick & Harnick, PC for Publishing and Citing James Byrd and William Anderson whose whereabouts are unknown: 8. That the share for James Byrd and William Anderson, including the share of the \$.38 cents in Social Security Benefits both of which are outlined above minus the fees reimbursable to Harnick & Harnick, PC for Publishing and Citing them, be put on deposit for their explicit benefit. 9. That the Court in the alternative direct what if any action they want the administrator to take regarding William Anderson and James Byrd; and 10. That this Court grant such other and further relief as the Court deems proper in the premises, HON. RITA MELLA SURROGATE, DIANA SANBRIA, CHIEF CLERK, DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED: November 22nd 2022. Name of Attorney: Thomas Harnick Address of Attorney Harnick & Harnick, PC, 305 Broadway, Ste. 602, New York NY 10007. Telephone number of Attorney: 212-962-5065. NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. You are invited to have an attorney appear for you. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. PROOF OF SERVICE MUST BE FILED TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE RETURN DATE Court Rule 207.7 (c). 12/0122-4 12/9/22-12/30/22

2023 String Quartet Movie LLC, Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 11-16-2022. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to, The LLC, 580 Saint Nicholas Ave., #4G, New York, NY 10030. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 12/0122-6 12/9/22-1/13/23

Notice of Formation of SONGS FOR LITTLES, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/17/22. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: eResidentAgent, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805A, Albany, NY 12210, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/3022-5 12/9/22-1/13/23

File No.: 2020-5310/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT TO: Estate of Florence Gollinger, Joan Rook, Warren Gollinger, NYC Human Resources Administration, Vera Institute of Justice, Inc. Guardianship Project, Eva Weiss, Attorney General of the State of New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

LEGAL NOTICES

and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 144-61 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$15,679.98 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$25,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner said amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and why if The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court fixing his legal fee and commissions for services rendered to the decedent within six months from the Notice of Entry of the decree to be settled hereon, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why the Estate should not pay/reimburse for a headstone/inscription for the decedent upon receipt of an invoice or proof of payment; and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$154,835.03 should not be paid; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to the Fiduciary of Florence Gollinger; and if none is appointed within 90 days of the date of the Decree, the funds shall be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York on behalf of the Estate of Florence Gollinger Dated, Attested and Sealed 29th day of November, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 144-61 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$15,679.98 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$25,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner said amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and why if The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court fixing his legal fee and commissions for services rendered to the decedent within six months from the Notice of Entry of the decree to be settled hereon, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why the Estate should not pay/reimburse for a headstone/inscription for the decedent upon receipt of an invoice or proof of payment; and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$154,835.03 should not be paid; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to the Fiduciary of Florence Gollinger; and if none is appointed within 90 days of the date of the Decree, the funds shall be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York on behalf of the Estate of Florence Gollinger Dated, Attested and Sealed 29th day of November, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 144-61 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$15,679.98 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$25,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner said amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and why if The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court fixing his legal fee and commissions for services rendered to the decedent within six months from the Notice of Entry of the decree to be settled hereon, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why the Estate should not pay/reimburse for a headstone/inscription for the decedent upon receipt of an invoice or proof of payment; and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$154,835.03 should not be paid; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to the Fiduciary of Florence Gollinger; and if none is appointed within 90 days of the date of the Decree, the funds shall be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York on behalf of the Estate of Florence Gollinger Dated, Attested and Sealed 29th day of November, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 144-61 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$15,679.98 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$25,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner said amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and why if The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court fixing his legal fee and commissions for services rendered to the decedent within six months from the Notice of Entry of the decree to be settled hereon, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why the Estate should not pay/reimburse for a headstone/inscription for the decedent upon receipt of an invoice or proof of payment; and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$154,835.03 should not be paid; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to the Fiduciary of Florence Gollinger; and if none is appointed within 90 days of the date of the Decree, the funds shall be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York on behalf of the Estate of Florence Gollinger Dated, Attested and Sealed 29th day of November, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN

and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 144-61 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Gerald Gollinger, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 26th day of January, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$15,679.98 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$25,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of The Vera Institute of Justice Inc. Guardianship Project and Eva Weiss, Court Examiner

JOB HIGHLIGHT

Bridge & tunnel maintainers with MTA start at \$53k, climb to \$71k in 7 years

The MTA is accepting applications for bridge and tunnel maintainers through Jan. 15 for exams scheduled for March 25 and 26. The current annual minimum salary for the post is \$53,594, increasing to \$71,458 in the fourth year of service.

There are three assignment levels within this class of positions. Appointments will be made to Assignment Level I. After appointment, employees may be assigned to the higher assignment levels at the discretion of MTA Bridges and Tunnels. The benefits of this position include, but are not limited to, night and weekend salary differentials, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, a comprehensive medical plan and a pension plan.

THE WORK

At assignment level I, bridge and tunnel maintainers assist in the maintenance, repair and operation of MTA Bridges and Tunnels equipment and facilities. They assist in the maintenance of buildings,

fixed and movable bridges, tunnels and parts of these structures; climb bridge structures and main suspension cables to perform work on same; assist in the operation of movable bridges; assist in the maintenance of and making repairs to electrical wiring systems, power and control equipment and mechanical equipment, such as fans, pumps and heating boilers.

They also assist in the operation and maintenance of automotive and mobile equipment used by MTA Bridges and Tunnels in the maintenance of its services and structures; assist in the clearing and cleaning of buildings, bridges, approaches and tunnels; assist in painting and installing signs; assist in the use and maintenance of shops required for the continued operations of MTA Bridges and Tunnels facilities; assist in clearing of snow, debris removal and cleaning of MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities; drive motor vehicles, trucks, and operate heavy duty equipment; may work with welding and burning equipment; and perform related work.

Bridge and tunnel maintainers walk to and from equipment sites to perform operations and maintenance duties; work in various

weather conditions; and climb bridge structures and main suspension cables and perform work on same. They may be required to work at heights from movable or fixed platforms.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

By Jan. 15, successful applicants will have either 1) Two years of full-time, satisfactory experience within the last five years installing, maintaining or repairing mechanical or electrical equipment or performing structural repairs; or 2) 2. One year of experience as described in "1" above, preceded by: a) Graduation from a trade school or technical school, with a major course of study in electrical, mechanical, automotive, welding, carpentry or machinist work, or a closely-related field, totaling 600 hours; or b) Graduation from a vocational high school with a major course of study in electrical, mechanical, automotive, welding, carpentry, or machinist work, or a closely-related field; or c) An associate degree or higher degree in electrical work, electronic technology, electrical engineering, mechanical work, mechanical technology, mechanical engineering, automotive work or a closely related field from

an accredited college or university. Qualifying part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Appointees must have either 1) valid Class A commercial driver's license with endorsements for tow truck, hazardous materials, tank vehicles, doubles/triples, tank/hazmat and passenger transport, without a restriction for "no air-brake equipped CMV, or 2) valid driver's license and a learner's permit for a Class A CDL as described above.

For those who qualify under 2), appointment will be subject to receipt of the CDL described in "1" above at the end of an MTA Bridges and Tunnels sponsored special training course for appointees who need to obtain the CDL, including sponsoring of one road test as a condition of further employment.

There are waivers available for those who have had commercial driving experience in the military or New York National Guard.

New hires must be fully vaccinated against Covid. Applicants can request medical or religious accommodations. Applicants will have a medical examination to determine

whether they can perform the essential functions of the position. They also must pass a drug screening to be appointed. City residency is not required.

THE EXAM

Applicants will be given a multiple-choice test to gauge their knowledge of cleaning, greasing, painting, plumbing, heating and ventilation systems, carpentry and masonry work; safe work practices and precautions involving scaffolds, ladders, electrical equipment and machinery; use of hand tools and machine shop practices; simple arithmetic related to shop work; electrical and electronic equipment; materials used in maintenance work such as piping, sheet metal, paints, paving and masonry materials; maintenance and repair of automotive vehicles; reading and interpreting instructions; and other related areas.

A passing score is 70 percent. Scores on the test determine places on the eligible list.

For complete information on the position, including on how to apply, go to <https://new.mta.info/document/101296>.

UPCOMING EXAMS LEADING TO JOBS

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.

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 for eligible list or examination related inquiries.

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

All new hires must be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, unless they have been granted a reasonable accommodation for religion or disability. If you are offered city employment, this requirement must be met by your date of hire, unless a reasonable accommodation for exemption is received and approved by the hiring agency.

For further information about where to apply to civil service exams and jobs, visit the thechief.org/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

- CLOSES JANUARY 1
3063 Traffic Device Maintainer
- CLOSE JANUARY 31
3309 Correction Officer \$47,857
3331 Police Officer \$42,500

CUNY EXAMS

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

MTA EXAMS

- CLOSE JANUARY 15
3209 Assignment to Plant and Equipment Maintainer (HVAC) \$34.84 per hour
3608 Fare Enforcement Agent \$52,289
3609 Structure Maintainer - Group E (Plumber) \$33.84 per hour
3611 Maintainer (Bridges and Tunnels) \$53,594

NASSAU COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSES JANUARY 4
61-073 Dietetic Technician \$45,506
- 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
61-639 CR Librarian I \$43,000-\$61,333
60-180 CR 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

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSE JANUARY 4
0848 Archivist \$63,700
7671 Director of Sewer District Activation \$77,413
8140 Assistant Food Service Supervisor \$47,500
- CLOSES JANUARY 9
0231 Auditor \$49,642
- CLOSE JANUARY 18
0047 Traffic Court Specialist Trainee \$37,610
0048 Traffic Court Specialist Trainee (Spanish Speaking) \$37,610
0165 Emergency Complaint Operator \$41,525
0166 Emergency Complaint Operator (Spanish Speaking) \$41,525
- 0173 Emergency Services Dispatcher I \$45,388
- CLOSES JANUARY 25
1245 Bay Management Specialist I \$63,815
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
2020 Public Health Nurse I \$59,404
2511 Psychiatric Social Worker \$52,017
2641 Medical Services Specialist \$76,708
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
2700 Drug Counselor (Spanish Speaking) \$47,502
2701 Drug Counselor \$47,502
- 02-108 Sanitarian Trainee \$53,760-\$67,010
02-600 Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee \$45,460-\$55,390
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

- CLOSE JANUARY 18
26-906 Security Officer
26-907 Security Officer (Spanish Language)
26-914 Security Services Assistant I \$36,760
26-922 Institution Safety Officer \$42,939
- 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 Additions Counselor I \$50,722-\$64,557
20-691 Additions Counselor I (Spanish Language) \$50,722-\$64,557
20-692 Additions 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

WILL FILL JOBS: CITY CERTIFICATIONS

The Department of Citywide 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 COMPETITION

ADMINISTRATIVE ENGINEER-153 eligibles between Nos. 14 and 307 on List 1122 for 25 jobs in Fire Department.

ASSISTANT URBAN DESIGNER-68 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 67 on List 2039 to replace 3 provisionals in Department of City Planning.

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE-59 eligibles between Nos. 443 and 1183 on List 1110 to replace 1 provisional in Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

CERTIFIED IT ADMINISTRATOR (LAN/WAN)-93 eligibles between Nos. 234 and 1043 on List 6049 for 1 job in DOITT.

CITY TAX AUDITOR-243 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 240 on List 2087 and 11 eligibles between Nos. 55 and 349 on List 7030 for 38 jobs in Department of Finance.

CLERICAL ASSOCIATE-339 eligibles between Nos. 42 and 1352 on List 1190 to replace 6 provisionals in Department of Homeless Services.

COMPUTER OPERATIONS MANAGER-116 eligibles between Nos. 9 and 377 on List 9046 for 1 job in Police Department.

DEPUTY CITY SHERIFF-464 eligibles between Nos. 116 and 1952 on List 7006 to replace 15 provisionals in DOF.

HEATING PLANT TECHNICIAN (HOUSING AUTHORITY)-11 eligibles (Nos. 1-11) on List 2014 for any of 43 jobs at Housing Authority.

MAINTENANCE WORKER-4 eligibles (Nos. 36, 288, 297 and 333.5) on List 2015 for any of 8 jobs in Police Department.

MANAGEMENT AUDITOR-144 eligibles between Nos. 3 and 276 on List 1022 to replace 2 provisionals in NYPD.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER-4 eligibles (Nos. 8, 26, 28 and 51) on List 170 and 27 eligibles (Nos. 1-27) on List 2000 for 2 jobs in Department of Buildings.

PARALEGAL AIDE-29 eligibles between Nos. 48 and 424 on List 1140 for 1 job at Civilian Complaint Review Board.

PROMOTION

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTANT-19 eligibles (Nos. 1-19) on List 565 to replace 5 provisionals at Comptroller's Office.

ASSOCIATE URBAN PARK RANGER-1 eligible (No. 77) on List 500 to replace 1 provisional in Department of Parks and Recreation.

SUPERVISING COMPUTER SERVICE TECHNICIAN-20 eligibles (Nos. 2-22) on List 1539 for 1 job in Department of Education.

SUPERVISING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE SPECIALIST-26 eligibles between Nos. 168 and 327 on List 7523 for any of 50 jobs in FDNV.

TAKING AN EXAM?

YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR ALL TEST PREPARATION®
WITH OVER 5,000 PASSBOOKS® AVAILABLE
For All Civil Service Exams

Passbooks® Are Now Available For Pickup
Call Today to Reserve Your Copy

(516) 921-8888

National Learning Corporation® 212 Michael Drive, Syosset, NY 11791
www.passbooks.com

LABOR AROUND THE NATION

NEWS IN BRIEF

FLORIDA

Disney workers seek 'living wage'

More than 40,000 employees working returning crowds at Disney World could instead be walking picket lines if they and their unions can't reach an agreement on wages and other items in the coming weeks.

Although the union representing the workers, UNITE HERE Local 737, negotiated contract extensions that included retroactive raises to earlier this year, the workers are demanding higher pay.

In a statement introducing a report on Orlando area wages, UNITE HERE Local 737 said that while minimum wages for unionized Disney workers went from \$10 to \$15 in 2018, putting some on livable wages, "the skyrocketing cost of living has put Orlando tourism workers and their communities back in economic danger."

The employees are seeking minimum pay of \$20 across the board, phased-in within three years, and immediate \$2 raises. Disney officials have countered with \$20 immediately for some workers and phased-in over five years for others. It has also offered more benefits for some employees.

Negotiations between the two sides recently resumed following an October impasse.

Sean Hopper, an attractions coordinator for Star Wars Galaxy's Edge in Disney Hollywood Studios, is among the workers looking for an increase to a livable wage.

"We do the work.... We bring the people into the park," Hopper, a married father of three told Orlando's Spectrum News affiliate. "We love what we get to do, but there comes to be a breaking point where, 'I can't do this anymore.'"

— R.K.

CALIFORNIA

Historic UC strike ends after 6 weeks

Six weeks after 48,000 teaching assistants, tutors, researchers and postdoctoral scholars at the 10-campus University of California walked out on strike, workers in two separate UAW bargaining units voted overwhelmingly Dec. 23 in favor of a new contract, ending the nation's largest-ever academic strike.

According to the new contract, workers will receive, on average, a 46-percent increase in salary over 2023 and 2024, with graduate student researchers making a minimum of \$34,564 for nine months of part-time work. Most student employees will get an \$11,000 raise to \$34,000 for nine months of part-time work and those at the Berkeley, San Francisco and Los Angeles campuses, where costs of living are higher, will make \$36,000.

"The dramatic improvements to our salaries and working conditions are the result of tens of thousands of workers striking together in unity," Rafael Jaime, president of UAW 2865, told the Los Angeles Times. "These agreements redefine what is possible in terms of how universities support their workers, who are the backbone of their research and education enterprise."

Workers in UAW 2865, made up of 19,000 teaching assistants, tutors and student academic workers, voted 61.6 percent in favor of the contract while 68.4 percent of 17,000 graduate student researchers represented by SRU-UAW were in favor. The agreement also includes increased paid family leave, new protections against bullying and harassment and child-care reimbursements at \$2,025 per semester.

"Today's ratification demonstrates yet again the university's strong commitment to providing every one of our hardworking employees with competitive compensation and benefit packages that honor their many contributions to our institution, to our community, and to the state of California," Letitia Silas, executive director of UC labor relations said in a statement to the L.A. Times.

— D.F.

ILLINOIS

Museum workers file for union election

Workers at the Field Museum of Natural History have filed for a union election.

The employees are seeking to join the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31 and filed a petition for an election with the National Labor Relations Board. Visitor service representatives, research scientists, groundskeepers and collections and exhibitions workers are among the employees aiming to form Field Museum Workers United, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The bargaining unit would cover about 330 employees.

The staffers are seeking raises and paths to promotion. "The employees love the museum. It's a great institution. They also want it to be a great place to work," said Council 31's public affairs director, Anders Lindall.

He added that a "strong majority" of the staffers have already signed union cards.

In November, the workers called on the museum's leadership to voluntarily recognize the union. They declined to do so, with Field Museum spokesperson Bridgette Russell adding that "we've anticipated this development and look forward to hearing every eligible employees' voice during the union election."

Workers at several other museums have recently formed unions or filed for union elections, including at the Tacoma Art Museum in Washington and the Columbus Museum of Art in Ohio.

— C.L.

NATION

Economy grew more than earlier estimate

Shrugging off rampant inflation and rising interest rates, the U.S. economy grew at an unexpectedly strong 3.2 percent annual pace from July through September, the government reported last week in a healthy upgrade from its earlier estimate of third-quarter growth.

The rise in gross domestic product — the economy's output in goods and services — marked a return to growth after consecutive drops in the January-March and April-June periods.

Still, many economists expect the economy to slow and probably slip into recession next year under the pressure of higher interest rates being engineered by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation that earlier this year reached heights not seen since the early 1980s.

Driving the third-quarter growth were strong exports and healthy consumer spending.

Investment in housing plunged at an annual rate of 27.1 percent, hammered by higher mortgage rates arising from the Fed's decision to raise its own benchmark rate seven times this year.

The first look at the fourth quarter comes out Jan. 26. Forecasters surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia expect the economy to grow again the last three months of the year — but at a slower, 1 percent annual rate.

— Associated Press



Julia Nihkinson/AP Photo

Shoppers on Fifth Avenue the Monday before Christmas. Holiday sales rose as shoppers showed some resilience during the most important shopping season despite surging prices on everything from food to rent.

Holiday sales up 7.6% despite the squeeze of inflation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday sales rose this year as American spending remained resilient during the critical shopping season despite surging prices on everything from food to rent, according to one measure.

Holiday sales rose 7.6 percent, a slower pace than the 8.5 percent increase from a year earlier when shoppers began spending the money they had saved during the early part of the pandemic, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards.

Mastercard SpendingPulse had expected a 7.1 percent increase. The data released Monday excludes the automotive industry and is not adjusted for inflation, which has eased somewhat but remains painfully high.

U.S. sales between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24, a period that is critical for retailers, were fueled by spending at restaurants and on clothing.

By category, clothing rose 4.4 percent, while jewelry and electronics dipped roughly 5 percent. Online sales jumped 10.6 percent from a year ago and in-person spending rose 6.8 percent. Department stores registered a modest 1 percent increase over 2021.

Shoppers got wise

"This holiday retail season looked different than years past," Steve Sadove,

the former CEO and chairman at Saks and a senior advisor for Mastercard, said in a prepared statement. "Retailers discounted heavily, but consumers diversified their holiday spending to accommodate rising prices and an appetite for experiences and festive gatherings post-pandemic."

Some of the increase reflected the impact of higher prices across the board.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, and Americans have remained resilient ever since inflation first spiked almost 18 months ago. Cracks have begun to show, however, as higher prices for basic necessities take up an increasingly large share of everyone's take-home pay.

Inflation has retreated from the four-decade high it reached this summer, but it's still sapping the spending power of consumers. Prices rose 7.1 percent in November from a year ago, down from a peak of 9.1 percent in June.

Overall spending has slowed from the pandemic-infused splurges and shifted increasingly toward necessities like food, while spending on electronics, furniture, new clothes and other non-necessities has faded. Many shoppers have been trading down to private label goods, which are typically less expensive than national brands. They've been going to cheaper stores like dollar chains and big box stores like Walmart. Consumers also waited for deals.

Stores expected more procrastinators to hit stores in the last few days before Christmas compared with a year ago when people began shopping earlier due to a global disruption of the supply chain that created thousands of product shortages.

"Consumers are trying to spread out their budget, and they are evaluating and shopping at different stores," said Katie Thompson, the lead of consultancy Kearney's Consumer Institute.

In November, shoppers cut back sharply on retail spending compared with the previous month. Retail sales fell 0.6 percent from October to November after a sharp 1.3 percent rise the previous month, the government said in mid-December. Sales fell at furniture, electronics, and home and garden stores.

A broader picture of how Americans spent their money arrives next month when the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, comes out with its combined two-month results based on November-December sales figures from the Commerce Department.

The trade group expects holiday sales growth will slow to a range of 6 percent to 8 percent, compared with the blistering 13.5 percent growth of a year ago.

Analysts will also be dissecting fourth-quarter financial results from major retailers in February.

High inflation and efforts to tame it defined 2022 economy

BY PAUL WISEMAN
and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

For the economy, 2022 was a throwback year. And not in a good way.

At times, it felt like the 1970s or early '80s. Inflation running rampant. The United States and its European allies engaged in a not-so-Cold War with Russia. A bleak outlook leaving people feeling sour and anxious.

It wasn't supposed to turn out like this.

When the Federal Reserve's policy makers made their 2022 forecasts a year ago, they seemed almost cheery. After two years of tumult ignited by the pandemic, they foresaw the U.S. economy returning to something close to normal.

They expected consumer inflation to reach 2.6 percent at the end of 2022 compared with 12 months earlier. That would've been only a few ticks above their 2 percent annual target but nothing ominous — and a clear recovery from high inflation earlier in 2021.

The Fed's officials, it turns out, underestimated how pay increases, federal aid, supply shortages and a pent-up desire by consumers to spend would conspire to accelerate inflation — and keep it high. But mainly they didn't foresee that President Vladimir Putin would send tens of thousands of Russian troops to invade Ukraine in February this year — an act of shocking aggression that upended world trade in energy and farm products and sent oil, natural gas and grain prices soaring.

"Without that Russian invasion," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's

Analytics, "we'd be in a very different place today."

Normal would have to wait.

Pay and patience shrunk

U.S. inflation, an afterthought for decades, resurged with a vengeance this year, reaching heights unseen since the early 1980s. Galloping prices shrank Americans' inflation-adjusted pay — despite high wage growth for many — and put consumers in a foul mood. The price spikes forced the Fed to raise interest rates aggressively at the risk of plunging the world's largest economy into recession.

It was hardly just the United States. Inflation buffeted countries across the world. The International Monetary Fund expects worldwide inflation to hit 8.8 percent this year. That would be the highest rate since 1996.

Europe has been especially pummeled by Putin's energy shock. Consumer prices are rising at double-digit rates across the continent and the United Kingdom. The spending power of consumers has been crushed. Many see a European recession in 2023 as a near-certainty.

As the year ends, though, it looks like relief may be coming — tentatively, gradually, perhaps, but still likely on its way. Inflation numbers in Europe and especially in the United States are edging down.

"I think we've seen the peak in inflation; it was probably back in the summer," Zandi said. "We will see much better inflation numbers over the course of

the next 12 to 18 months."

Yet for now, the pain of higher prices continues to inflict hardships on many. For American workers, inflation-adjusted hourly pay fell 1.7 percent in November from a year earlier. It was the 20th straight month that that figure has declined year-over-year.

And even though overall inflation in the United States eased in November for a fifth straight month, food prices kept surging. Compared with 12 months earlier, coffee was up 15 percent. Bread rose 16 percent, frozen vegetables 18 percent, canned fruit 21 percent and eggs an eye-glazing 49 percent.

Consumer prices began to tick up in the spring of 2021. But Fed Chair Jerome Powell suggested that higher inflation was likely "transitory" and would ease once global supply chain bottlenecks unsnarled.

Yet month after month, the supply shocks refused to fade. Sometimes, bizarre incidents intervened. A surprise freeze in Texas paralyzed petrochemical production. A mammoth container ship got stuck in the Suez Canal and severed trade between Asia and Europe. A drought in Taiwan disrupted semiconductor manufacturing. An avian flu wiped out a near-record number of poultry.

Those factors combined to send inflation steadily up toward multi-decade highs well into 2022.

"Some of this stuff you can't make up," said Daniel Swan, co-leader of the operations practice at the consultancy McKinsey & Co. "I don't know what normal is anymore."