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Council compels inquiry into what city officials knew about 9/11 toxins

Resolution directs DOI to compile a report

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Nearly 24 years after the 9/11 terror attacks, questions persist about what city officials knew about the toxins that lingered over ground zero and swaths of downtown and Brooklyn in the aftermath of the twin towers' collapse.

The City Council is looking to change that. On Monday, city lawmakers enacted a binding resolution directing the Department of Investigation to dig up what mayoral administrations from Rudy Giuliani's to Eric Adams' knew about the toxins and when.

Ahead of the Council's vote, the resolution's prime sponsor, Council Member Gale Brewer, said that federal lawmakers had several times tried to pry the information from mayoral administrations but were stonewalled on each occasion.

"As I think we all know, more people have died in the years since the attack than died on the day itself, from respiratory issues, cancer and other diseases caused by the toxins at ground zero and the surrounding areas of Manhattan and Brooklyn," Brewer said Monday afternoon during a meeting of the Committee on Oversight and Investigations,



Amy Sancetta/AP Photo

A businessman and a paramedic covered with dust and debris shortly after the collapse of the World Trade Center South Tower on Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 24 years after the attacks, people are reporting illnesses related to the toxins released by the twin towers' collapse.

which she chairs.

The resolution compels the DOI to assess what mayoral administrations knew about the toxins, their type, how long they were expected to remain in the environment, and their short- and long-term effects. It also asks the investigative agency to compile a timeline of when the various administrations became aware of how long the toxins would

remain and of their short- and long-term effects.

It also seeks an analysis of what the administrations knew about the toxins and what they told the public.

The advocacy organization 911 Health Watch, in its own timeline documenting its efforts to get the city to release the pertinent documents, notes that while Giuliani administration officials' public

pronouncements shortly after the attacks assured city dwellers that the air was safe to breathe, they privately expressed concern that the city could face 10,000 liability claims resulting from toxic exposures.

Brewer's resolution, which passed unanimously by voice vote, "would finally reveal what city government knew about environmental toxins reduced by the September 11th attacks and when," the Upper West Side Council member said at the committee meeting.

"This transparency is particularly relevant in this moment when trust in government is severely lacking," she added.

The binding resolution, which is rare, directs the DOI to submit a report on its findings within two years.

This is the first time the Council has used a City Charter provision that empowers it to direct the DOI to investigate a matter.

Benjamin Chevat, 911 Health Watch's executive director, alluding to the city's resistance in releasing the documents, was grateful for the Council's action.

"Thank you to Council Member Brewer and Speaker Adrienne Adams for taking on this challenge of finding out what Mayor's office doesn't appear to want the public to see about what the City of New York knew about the dangers of the toxins from 9/11 in the aftermath of the

attack," Chevat said in a statement Tuesday.

"City Corporation Council has continued to fight the release of documents and the review of what the City knew and when did it know it, but now we hope that the truth will out," he added.

Brewer said the Council's move has been in discussion "for many years." She called it "a direct response to the Adams administration's refusal" to make public what it and previous mayoral administrations knew about which toxins were released by the collapse of the twin towers.

A 2018 report by the federal World Trade Center Health Program, "Development of the Inventory of 9/11 Agents," lists 352 chemicals.

Mayors deflected requests

The resolution notes that U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler and then-U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney asked then-Mayor Bill de Blasio in September 2021 to release city records from 2001 and 2002 pertaining to the attacks but the lawmakers did not get a response.

The two officials submitted a similar request to Mayor Eric Adams in May 2022 but city attorneys deflected the request by arguing that the documents could not be released

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City artists take the ugly out of scaffolding

Council legislation expands possibilities

BY CAMILLE LUONG
The Chief

Construction sheds have long been a persistent eyesore in New York City.

But the scaffolding, which is required to protect pedestrians from debris while buildings undergo facade repair or construction, sometimes stays up in some cases for a decade or longer, and even for years after work has ended, compromising the city's unique urban fabric.

There are some 9,000 active, permitted construction sheds up across the five boroughs, which together stretch for about 400 miles.

City lawmakers have recently made high-profile efforts to remove some of the longstanding sheds. And in April, Mayor Eric Adams signed into law the "Get Sheds Down" package of legislation, which among other things scaled down the 12-month shed permit down to 90 days.

Supporters of City Canvas, a city-administered program begun

in 2018 that facilitates temporary visual art on some sheds, recently joined the chorus of lawmakers tackling this urban mess and to expand the program's scope.

A recently passed City Council bill expands the City Canvas program by expanding the allowable colors of sidewalk shed parapet panels to include approved and alternative artwork.

"We're not just talking about beautification, we're talking about jobs for artists," the bill's sponsor, downtown Council Member Carlina Rivera said about the program's expansion just before the Council approved her bill June 30.

City Canvas works with several arts organizations in the city to solicit local artists, including ArtBridge and Seven Willow Collaborative, both of which specialize in transforming New York City's streetscapes and construction sheds into public art installations.

"One of New York City's greatest assets is our thousands of talented artists," said ArtBridge's executive director, Stephen Pierson. "City



Courtesy of Davina Hsu

Davina Hsu's "Blessing Transmission" a colorful, kaleidoscopic site-specific work composed of hand-felted natural wool on gigantic panels along 400 feet of construction fencing near Battery Park City.

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Parks Department gets a 'fraction' of funding restored

Advocates, union leaders displeased with Adams

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

About 600 positions in the Department of Parks and Recreations lost during the Adams administration have not been restored, which has led to a degradation of the city's open spaces, park advocates and union leaders say.

Although the Parks Department's \$640.4 million Fiscal Year 2026 budget allocation is over \$20 million more than last fiscal year's, it's not enough to recoup needed staff, advocates said. Lawmakers have said the funding bump would restore 174 positions. But the executive director of New Yorkers for Parks, Adam Ganser, said that's just a "fraction" of the staff that's been lost over the last several years.

"The staffing lines that have been cut over the last

three years have not been restored," Ganser said last week. "So I would say that the administration really dropped the ball again with Parks this year. The existing workers that are there are doing the best they can, and New Yorkers are going to feel the consequences of having not a fully staffed agency."

Ganser said that the hiring freeze and budget cuts instituted by the Adams administration over successive years has led to Parks having 795 fewer positions across a number of different titles and divisions. A \$2.5 million cut last year eliminated 51 positions in the Park's Department's Natural Resources Group, which manages around 10,000 acres of city parkland.

Gardeners, foresters, wetland restorers and volunteer coordinators were let go from the department as a result. An unprecedented spate of brush fires erupted across the city's parks later in the year, which workers, union leaders and open space advocates tied to a lack of

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NYPD retirements spike in first 6 months

Departures climb by 44% year over year

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Call it a crashing blue wave. A spike in retirements among NYPD officers threatens to undermine Mayor Eric Adams' assurances that the department will be on a path to a 35,000-officer corps by the fall.

Through the first six months of the year, 1,612 cops had retired, 44 percent more than the 1,119 who had put in their papers through June last year, according to figures from the city's Police Pension Fund.

Although the 369 officers who resigned in the year's first six months were 26 fewer than the 395 who left the department during the same period last year, the retirements are historic highs. The department is already contending with a uniformed headcount at its lowest in decades.

Should the trend continue — as some union leaders insist it will if Zohran Mamdani continues to lead in the polls and is elected mayor in November — the department's officer headcount could dip to a modern-day low.

The heads of NYPD police unions said the democratic socialist, who in years past called for defunding the police but has since cooled that rhetoric, could help usher in reforms similar to those enacted in recent years, further handcuffing his members' ability to do their jobs — and lead to more departures.

"We have a workforce that's overworked and understaffed because of multiple anti-law-enforcement policies," Vincent Vallelong, the president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, said last week in noting "an unprecedented exodus" of officers. "We have less people because of him, because of what it is he's bought into. That does not work. This city does not move forward without the NYPD."

The head of the Detectives' Benevolent Association, Scott Munro, said Monday that 625 detectives had put in their papers since the start of the year, compared with 455 all of last year.

He now has 4,700 members, far short of what he said was an ideal of 7,000 detectives.

"They're overworked. They're do-



A few of the more than 550 NYPD recruits who graduated in May 2024. They were among the department's roughly 2,600 officers hired last year, not enough to replace the 2,951 cops who retired or quit last year.

ing a lot of details. They're in uniform a lot, our detectives," Munro said.

He also cited increased oversight from the Civilian Complaint Review Board and the opening up of officers' personnel files following the repeal of a state law that had limited access to disciplinary records as reasons for the increase in retirements. "It's like law enforcement's not the same," Munro said, adding that many leave the department for better-paying police jobs in more supportive jurisdictions, whether in Suffolk County or Florida.

The president of the Police Benevolent Association, the largest of the NYPD unions, Patrick Hendry, said city officials need to increase officers' pay and perks to both attract and retain cops.

"We have made progress retaining police officers in the prime of their career. However, the NYPD is still hemorrhaging cops who have reached their retirement, and it can't find enough recruits to replace them," Hendry said in a statement. "More needs to be done to make the pay, benefits and quality of life on this job competitive with other police agencies."

Expanding candidate pool

While officer retention has become increasingly problematic in recent years, recruitment also continues to pose challenges.

The NYPD counted 33,580 officers at the start of April, the latest figure available, about 1,400 short of budgeted uniformed headcount, and almost 3,000 fewer than were on the job in 2019, a year before the pandemic, the George Floyd-related demonstrations and disturbances, and the defund movement that together kickstarted officers' departures. The city's Covid vaccination mandates were also a factor, with

increasing and widespread discontent among officers also contributing to the exodus.

According to Police Pension Fund figures, more than 14,000 officers left the department in the five-year span starting in 2020 and lasting through 2024. But the NYPD hired fewer than 11,000 in that time, according to figures compiled by the PBA.

Last year, the NYPD added just 2,600 new recruits, not enough to replace the 2,951 cops who retired or quit in 2024. Those figures mirrored 2023's numbers, when 2,931 officers left the department while the NYPD brought on some 2,300 officers.

But a department spokesperson said the NYPD had hired 1,818 recruits so far this year and that another 1,000 would be starting the next academy class.

According to FBI data, the NYPD in 2024 counted 5.72 cops for every 1,000 city residents, the lowest ratio since 2003, when the department counted 5.2 officers for every 1,000 residents. The current ratio, though, is also notably higher than it was in the mid- to late-1980s, when it hovered between 4.5 and 4.83 cops per 1,000 city residents.

(The city's ratio of officers to 1,000 residents, though, is still notably higher than that of other metropolitan police departments, for instance, Detroit's 5.62; Chicago's 4.71; Newark's 4.51; Atlanta's 4.3;

Boston's 4.14; Philadelphia's 3.85; Miami's 3.69; San Francisco's 3.53; and New Orleans' 3.46.)

To increase its applicant pool, the city recently lowered the minimum age for candidates to enter the Police Academy to 20.5 years from 21, scheduled monthly exams and waived application fees for its summer exams.

And earlier this year, NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch, alluding to the department's "hiring crisis," announced that it had reduced applicants' required college credits from 60 to 24. The NYPD said that change alone immediately boosted the department's candidate pool by more than 5,000 candidates on active civil service lists who otherwise had been found ineligible.

The February announcement noted that the NYPD is among the nation's few municipal police departments to still require college credits for candidates.

"We are always working to attract the highest level of candidates to protect this city, and that starts with making the path to policing more accessible," Tisch said in a statement provided by the department. "By expanding test availability and waiving fees, we're opening the door wider than ever before to those ready to serve. This is about building the next generation of NYPD officers — and there's never been a better time to join."

PSC says adjuncts were fired for supporting Palestine

Davis demands their reinstatement following 'highly irregular' non-reappointments

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

The union representing faculty and other pedagogical staff at the city's public university system has called on CUNY's leadership to reinstate four adjuncts who publicly

protested in support of Palestine and subsequently, and suddenly, were not reappointed.

Three Brooklyn College adjuncts in various departments were notified on June 13 that they were not reappointed — even though they had been assigned classes for the upcoming fall semester, according to a recent letter to CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodriguez from the Professional Staff Congress.

A fourth adjunct had also received a notice of termination a week earlier. The union noted that the adjuncts were not told of any job performance issues or misconduct allegations that might have contributed to any of the non-reappointments or the firing. None of the adjuncts' department chairs were given advance notice, the PSC said.

"All of this is highly irregular," PSC President James Davis wrote in his letter.

CUNY adjuncts who teach 12 consecutive semesters have some level of job security: they are entitled to a two-year appointment, which can be extended to three years at the departments' discretion.

While the PSC noted that it wasn't unusual for adjuncts at CUNY to not be reappointed without explanation, the union found a "fact pattern [that] is deeply concerning."

"What the four instructors who lost their CUNY jobs at the same time have in common is their public protest against Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights," Davis stated. "We are profoundly concerned about recent apparent violations of academic freedom and retaliation against CUNY faculty members for constitutionally protected speech. This situation has all the appearances of an ideological purge."

The union alluded to CUNY's Manual of General Policy, which states that the university should advocate "all ideas protected by the First Amendment" of the Constitution and the principles of academic freedom. The PSC's contract also calls on both the union and the university to maintain "full freedom of inquiry" and academic freedom for

faculty members.

"When academic freedom and freedom of speech are not protected, irrespective of the faculty member's particular rank or title, it sends a chilling message to the campus community. It also devalues the profession. It says that some faculty members possess these rights, but not those on contingent appointments," Davis wrote.

Since the start of the conflict in Gaza, higher-education faculty at Columbia University, New York University and Muhlenberg College who expressed pro-Palestine views have faced suspension or termination. Two educators previously told The Chief that they were fired or forced to resign from the city public school system after being doxxed for expressing support for Palestine.

The PSC president also highlighted CUNY leaders' decisions to suspend faculty for their alleged ideological beliefs during the McCarthy era. "Brooklyn College President Harry Gideonse believed then that he was helping the country root out communism. This ideological purge at CUNY and beyond is widely understood today as a terrible stain on the nation's history," Davis wrote.

The union leader called on the university to reinstate the workers "and an explanation to the affected department chairs, around whose backs these non-reappointments occurred."

On June 26, the PSC passed a resolution against retaliatory firings of CUNY faculty. "Whereas, Brooklyn College recently terminated one adjunct faculty member and nonreappointed at least three others almost simultaneously in what appears to be retaliation for their lawful political expression outside of the classroom...Be it resolved that the PSC unequivocally condemns the retaliatory dismissal of these faculty members and demands their immediate reappointment," the resolution states.

The union also held a rally Monday at City Hall opposing the Trump administration's efforts to repress free speech at universities across the country.



Derek French/Sipa USA via AP

The Professional Staff Congress demanded that CUNY reinstate four adjuncts who have been involved in protests against Israel and were recently nonreappointed or fired without explanation. Above, protestors set up a Palestine solidarity encampment at Brooklyn College in May.



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Daily News Union contract fight gets boost from city's elected officials

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

Journalists, editors and photographers at the New York Daily News have been bargaining for a first contract with the newspaper's owners for three years amid cuts, staff reductions and complaints from employees about a lack of raises.

Members of the Daily News Union have tried to pressure the newspaper's owners — private equity giant Alden Global Capital — to halt the cuts and reach a contract through a variety of means, including a brief strike, the filing of federal labor charges, petitioning and others.

Their latest tactic is to highlight the support of politicians Daily News reporters cover through a City Council resolution condemning Alden Global Capital and calling on management to reach a fair contact with workers. Around two dozen union members rallied near City Hall on Monday with union leaders and local lawmakers who have been supporting the workers to call attention to the contract campaign.

Michael Sheridan, a video editor at the Daily News and the union's vice-chair, said that bargaining has been taking so long in part because management initially took regressive positions such as proposing to decrease vacation days and remove retirement benefits. He said that representatives from management have become more "hostile" the longer bargaining has dragged along.

"The company took positions that were very extreme to one side, and it's taken that long to try and get us to some kind of middle point," he said. "I'd like to think we would get [an agreement]. I want to be positive and believe we will get there."

No raises in 10 years

The Daily News Union — a unit within the NewsGuild of New York — was certified in February 2021, just months before Alden Global Capital purchased the now-106-year-old paper that May as part of a \$633 million acquisition of Tribune Publishing. The private equity firm owns about 200 different newspapers. Following the New York-based hedge fund's purchase of the paper, a group of longtime editors and re-

porters quickly left the publication.

Many editors who have left the publication since Alden's purchase in 2021 have not been replaced, workers said Monday, and the newspaper no longer has a politics editor or reporters covering the statehouse in Albany or courts in Queens or The Bronx. Evan Simko-Bednarski, a transit reporter, said Monday that the decrease in staff has made it more arduous for his stories to move through rounds of editing and get published.

"We want a piece of what we make," Simko-Bednarski, a union shop steward, said of the contract negotiations. "We're not asking for the moon — we're asking for enough to continue to do our jobs."

Sheridan said that he and many of his longtime coworkers haven't received a pay raise in more than 10 years and that dozens of workers suffered salary reductions shortly after Alden bought the paper. Workers have yet to recoup those losses, and union members said that the 2.5-percent raises management has proposed would not be enough to make up for that lost pay.

Tribune Publishing did not respond to a request for comment.

To highlight cuts at the paper and their contract fight, workers walked out on a one-day strike in January 2024, which was the first work-stoppage at the newspaper since a 147-day strike in 1991.

The union later accused Alden Global Capital of bad faith bargaining and of attempting to unilaterally change workers' healthcare plans. In June, 130 former Daily News staffers, among them former columnist Denis Hamill and former editor-in-chief Jim Rich, signed a petition calling on management to agree to a contract.

Workers speaking at the rally on Monday directly criticized Alden's managing director, Heath Freeman. Joining the Daily News workers was City Comptroller Brad Lander, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and a cadre of City Council members, including Carmen De La Rosa, chair of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, who will introduce a resolution next month that expresses the body's support for the Daily News Union and calls out Alden Global Capital.

"Resolved, That the Council of



Duncan Freeman/The Chief

Members of the Daily News Union rallied alongside elected officials on Monday.

the City of New York condemns Alden Global Capital's cuts and managerial hostility towards unionized Daily News staff and calls on the hedge fund to reach a contract deal with the newspaper's union," says the yet-to-be-proposed resolution as currently drafted.

De La Rosa labeled Alden Global Capital as an example of "corporate greed that seeks to extract from workers and not give back."

"It is important for us as Council members to see, to listen and to be watch dogs about what is happening in our city with our workers," she said at the rally. "That's why we are looking forward to introducing a resolution in the City Council that sends a clear message that predatory equity firms cannot come in, gobble up our papers, fire our workers, not give them pay raises; and we will not be silenced."



Duncan Freeman/The Chief

Wording on picket signs at rally by Daily News staffers Monday are a play on a famed Daily News headline from 1975 — 'Ford to City: Drop Dead' — on a story detailing President Gerald Ford's denial of federal assistance to the city.



NYPD Detective Gregory Semendinger.

Lower Manhattan shortly after the collapse of the World Trade Center's South Tower Sept. 11, 2001.

TOXINS: Council directs inquiry

Continued from Page 1

until and unless the city was granted full immunity for claims related to the attacks.

The next year, Nadler, joined by U.S. Representative Dan Goldman, wrote Adams requesting the records, with Adams responding that the documents' release could only happen through legislation authorizing federal funding for their release.

Later in 2023, 9/11 Health Watch filed a Freedom of Information Law request seeking documents from city agencies in a bid to determine what was known about the toxins and their potential harm. The request was turned down, with the city's Department of Environmental Protection saying it had no relevant documents. A similar effort by Nadler and Goldman in April 2024 was also turned back.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center the day of the attacks. Since then, about 7,000 people who contracted respiratory illnesses, cancers and other ailments and who enrolled in the federal World Trade Center Health Program have died because of exposure to the toxic debris and dust released when the towers collapsed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of March, more than 142,000 people living with illnesses, disor-

ders and injuries attributable to toxins released by the collapse of the Twin Towers had enrolled in the program, 25,000 more than just four years ago. The program, which was temporarily gutted by the Trump administration earlier this year before sustained objections from advocates and a bipartisan group of lawmakers obliged it to walk back the cuts, provides medical monitoring and treatment of WTC-related health conditions for 9/11 responders and survivors.

The program provides medical monitoring and treatment of WTC-related health conditions for 9/11 responders and survivors.

A study by researchers at Stony Brook University released in June 2024 found that people who were exposed to the toxic dust and debris at ground zero and at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island are developing early onset dementia at a higher rate than those present at the pile who had no exposure or wore protective equipment.

Brewer said she hoped the Council's resolution would finally compel city authorities to come clean about the attack's malignant aftermath.

"We've all been trying to get this information," she said ahead of the Council's vote. "We're asking the Department of Investigation to find the material that 20 years ago wasn't available to the public."

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COMMENTARY

The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

BEN AUGUST Publisher
RICHARD KHAVKINE Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time and again on EMS

TO THE EDITOR:

A City Council Member was recently paraphrased stating she thinks the Council has no say in the city's contract negotiations with the FDNY's EMS workers ("EMS peer support program included in budget," The Chief, July 11). Why then in April did the Council issue a press release about its adding \$50 million for EMS to the FY 2026 NYC budget, acknowledging EMS pay disparity with firefighters?

For the umpteenth time, the Council's words, like the mayor's previously, resulted in no justice. To cap it off, the new city budget projects a payroll for a hoped-for, fully filled 4,564-member EMS workforce that will cost taxpayers \$26 million less than the estimated \$400 million in fees that EMS will bring into city coffers.

The Council is the nominal oversight agency for FDNY EMS, but it is helpless to change the reason EMS doesn't have enough trained EMTs and paramedics: unjust pay.

The Council has sued the mayor over all sorts of city laws. Inexplicably, it has never done so when it comes to acknowledging the "uniform status" of the FDNY EMS in contract negotiations. The Office of Labor Relations still refuses to recognize the EMS as such. The result is a current pay difference of \$40 thousand between workers in the next lowest paid "uniform service" — Sanitation — and FDNY EMTs with similar time on the job.

Need an ambulance? Be aware that FDNY firefighter and EMS response times to life-threatening medical emergencies are worse today than they were 25 years ago.

If city sanitation workers don't collect our trash, we may see more rats and roaches. When EMS doesn't arrive in time, we may die. For FY 2024, the FDNY reported 74 deaths from fires. Is it time to report how many New Yorkers die while waiting for ambulances?

Helen Northmore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ill-served

TO THE EDITOR:

David McClary, who in 1988 murdered police officer Edward Byrne, is now up for parole. I wholeheartedly agree with those who say he should not be released.

But a further issue is why is he even being considered for parole? Why is the standard sentence for murderers 25 years to life? Why is it not life without parole?

That should be the penalty for murder and attempted murder. This should not be limited to cop killers. The murderer of EMS Lt. Alison Russo should not be released in 25 years.

Casmire Aska was arrested for raping a 15-year-old girl at knife-point. He had served only eight years for sexually assaulting and throwing off a roof an 8-year-old boy. Why was he not serving life? Is it asking too much that monsters not be released? Would it be asking too much for the legislature to pass a law that says life sentences actually mean life sentences and that it applies to all monsters?

Now we have a mayoral election coming up with polls showing that Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, who advocates reducing the NYPD, is the favored candidate. He's so "popular" that he has the support of a whole 35 percent of respondents. He's good on many issues. But so is Comptroller Brad Lander, who also ran in the Democratic primary. But Lander favors increasing the police force. I guess it would have made too much sense to vote for him.

But in a country where cop killers are up for parole, a man who attempted to murder an 8-year-old boy was walking free and a man who attempted to overthrow the government did not spend one day in the jailhouse but is back in the White House, why should I expect justice?

Richard Warren

Courting disaster

TO THE EDITOR:

Does it matter that our president, the most powerful man on earth, is a pathological and malignant liar? To the Republicans in Congress and over 40 percent of the Republican voters, it really doesn't matter — yet!

Mark Twain said, "Never tell a lie and you don't have to remember anything."

Donald Trump rarely tells the truth, and it doesn't matter because he obviously enjoys lying, and he doesn't remember (or care) today what he said yesterday.

The Washington Post Fact Checker recorded 30,573 false or misleading statements during Trump's first presidential term, which comes out to an average of 21 a day.

While there is no single database for the most recent year, extrapolating from his patterns of lying; that is, maintaining 30 to 40 deceptions per day, he probably has stated at least 10,000 deceptive statements in the past 12 months.

I'm sure that Donald Trump could not give a definition of "relativism," but relativism holds that truth is subjective and varies depending on individual perspectives or cultural contexts. But Trump couldn't use this as a defense for his lies since he has no respect for any truth that doesn't benefit or flatter him.

Can we survive as a great nation with a malignant liar as our leader? I don't believe we can. When more voters and members of Congress realize the damage Trump is doing to our nation, I think (and hope) they will turn against him, and he will be stopped, possibly by impeachment or by overwhelming public rejection. His cult will diminish and ultimately collapse.

One more prediction: There will be a "civil war" within the U.S. Supreme Court with three or even four women justices speaking out publicly against four male justices, with Chief Justice Roberts caught in the middle.

Michael J. Gorman

Complicity

TO THE EDITOR:

For the third time since Jan. 20th, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, close allies and both

authoritarians, met at the White House. One topic was the removal of Palestinians from a destroyed Gaza to a foreign country or countries (ethnic cleansing). A few weeks earlier, the U.N. Security Council voted 15 to 1 for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The U.S. vetoed the resolution.

As Trump and Netanyahu met, the U.N. warned that Israel's blockade of fuel had reached a "critical point," with power running out for key services, including water desalination and intensive care units in hospitals. Israel's defense minister also announced that the IDF would relocate 600,000 Palestinians to southern Gaza on the ruins of Rafah, where a supposedly "humanitarian city" would be built. In addition, an investigative story by The New York Times found Netanyahu had prolonged the Gaza war so he could remain in power.

Trump, a serial abuser of domestic and international law, gave Netanyahu a warm welcome. The prime minister faces an arrest warrant from the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Israel for years has tried to undermine the ICC, while the Trump administration imposed sanctions on it, as well as on the U.N. Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, whose office had issued a documented report, "From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide" discussing "the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories."

Finally, violence since Oct. 7, 2023 has increased in the West Bank. The U.N. reported that over 850 Palestinians have been killed, most by the IDF and some by extremist Jewish settlers. Trump revoked all sanctions against these extremists.

Trump and Netanyahu are a type of politician, as Hannah Arendt wrote, "for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false no longer exists."

Howard Elterman

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.

Mamdani: 'de Blasio on steroids'

BY BERNARD WHALEN

Bernard Whalen is a former NYPD lieutenant and the co-author of "The NYPD's First Fifty Years" and "Case Files of the NYPD."

When it comes to New York City mayoral elections, the candidate who secures the Democratic party nomination is presumed to be the winner of the race even before the first vote is cast, regardless of the nominee.

In some instances, red flags about the candidate that should have caused concern but were outright ignored, ultimately to the detriment of the constituents they served.

When Jimmy Walker ran for mayor in 1926, he pretended to give up the nightlife in order to convince Governor Al Smith and the voting public that if elected, he would devote all of his time to being a good mayor. Once he was sworn in however, he returned to the nightlife he so enjoyed and let his cronies run the city into the ground.

After six years in office, Walker resigned in disgrace and fled to Europe after it was alleged that he accepted bribes while he ignored widespread corruption in his administration. In the end, he was exactly the kind of mayor his critics predicted he would be, immoral, unethical and just plain bad.

There were several other Democrats who in retrospect might not have been elected had red flags been taken seriously. As Brooklyn district attorney, William O'Dwyer never seemed to net the mob's big fish in his high-profile organized crime prosecutions. He became mayor in 1946, but resigned during his second term to become the am-

bassador to Mexico. In reality, President Truman saved him from being named in an organized crime gambling scandal that reached all the way to the steps of City Hall.

Abe Beame, an accountant by trade and lifelong Democratic party man, campaigned for mayor in 1973 with a slogan akin to, "He knows the buck." Apparently, he didn't. As mayor, he was in charge during the city's worst financial crisis in history. Tens of thousands of city workers, including police officers, firefighters and teachers were laid off. He was powerless to address the situation, even though he had previously served as the city budget director and city comptroller. At the very least, he should have been better prepared to manage the crisis once it happened. Instead, he willfully disregarded warnings of the city's impending economic collapse and downplayed the seriousness of the situation to gain office.

David Dinkins was known for his quiet demeanor. He pledged to be a mayor for all New Yorkers when he won election in 1990, but he did little to stop deadly rioting in Crown Heights and Washington Heights while he was in office. His red flag was the white flag of surrender as neighborhoods burned to the ground under his watch.

Former Mayor Bill de Blasio who was first elected in 2014, much like the current nominee, Zohran Mamdani, proudly proclaimed his socialist leanings while campaigning. Very few New Yorkers were sad to see him go when his term ended in 2021 and it is unlikely any bridges will be named after him in the future.

One of his socialist pet projects resulted in wasting hundreds of



Ron Adar/SOPA Images

Zohran Mamdani got a cold reception from the NYPD's Gay Officers Action League members during last month's NYC Pride March. The officers were protesting their exclusion from the Pride March.

millions of dollars on a social program he called, "Thrive New York." Anyone walking the streets in New York City can plainly see that his efforts to alleviate the city's homeless crisis by throwing other people's money at the problem got very little bang for the buck.

This leads back to the red flags of the current Democrat party nominee, Zohran Mamdani. He is Bill de Blasio on steroids, pledging to

transform New York City into Caracas, Venezuela, for the good of all residents.

He's not hiding his intentions, and while some progressives acknowledge he can't legally do most of the things he says he wants to do, the fact is that if Mamdani is elected, he will have de facto control of the city budget. By simply cutting the police budget and refusing to replace officers who have retired, the

city's crime rate will undoubtedly rise and join Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles as shining cities that have lost their luster.

For the sake of the city, it's time for the other candidates to set their differences aside and join together with a single campaign message, "ABZ — Anybody but Zohran Mamdani."

COMMENTARY



Courtesy of Zohran Mamdani

Queens Assembly Member and mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani with members of the Guinean community in the Bronx's Co-op City earlier this month.

WAKE-UP CALL

Box checking

BY RON ISAAC

When the call to public service and the duplicitous itch to “give back to the community” dovetails with rabid ambition, there can be no compromise or chances taken. Every “t” must be crossed, “i” dotted and every box checked.

In the pursuit of civic virtue, even overkill is moderation.

The electorate is largely gullible to politicians’ claims of unselfish motivations, but occasionally they have enlightened doubts. Aspiring leaders must be prepared in a heartbeat to sound off with righteous affirmations, just in case they are caught and called out not necessarily in a lie, but in having taken license.

When likely future mayor Zohran Mamdani applied to study at Columbia University, where his dad has held a professorship, he knew they were looking for richness of diversity, and he sought to satisfy in abundance. He identified himself as Asian and African American.

There’s plenty of precedent for technically abiding by the truth by stretching it.

Mamdani’s strategy for optimizing and leveraging his chances of admission to Columbia by submitting and availing himself of an ethically corrupt policy suggests his candor is not any more squeaky than that of some of the people whose invoking of personal privilege he deprecates. That puts him, in a sense, in league with their applied philosophy of getting ahead “by any means necessary.”

His claims of being Asian and Black are factually correct, but misleading. It’s not only the perception of truth or wrongdoing that counts, but also how the facts are presented and whether evasive action has been taken to thwart doubt amongst reasonable people.

Mamdani eventually was not accepted at Columbia, but if he had, would an equally or perhaps better qualified applicant to Columbia be denied acceptance because of Mamdani’s perfectly legal but less than forthright angle? Was his claim aboveboard to the letter but underhanded in spirit?

The following is a verified account of an actual situation that illustrates the difference between Mamdani’s path to matriculation and, inspired by genuinely democratic principles, a readiness to sacrifice the edge afforded by tricky self-representation.

A naturalized American citizen, who was born British in a former African colony and lived there for a few years because her parent was a senior civil servant stationed there, gave birth in the States subsequent to her immigration. The

consulate of the nation in which she was born confirmed that she had a rightful claim to birthright citizenship and would embrace her as such, notwithstanding the red herrings of race or special circumstances.

That made her an African (although she was white) and she was grateful for it. Concepts of national origin, ethnicity and race should not be interchangeable or adaptable to manipulation for political or self-serving expedience.

Years later her American-born children could have gotten a leg up by identifying themselves as Black or African American when applying to university. They would have been qualified and could have saved money and expanded their academic and employment options. But they decided not to, even though they would have gotten away with it.

They had the inconvenient integrity to resist the Mamdani rationale.

Mamdani was born into a South Asian family in Uganda, living in the African nation for a few years. It’s at least bordering specious of him to have alleged he was African American on the grounds he was born in Africa, although he was, by birthright, a citizen of an African nation, as well as concomitantly being an Asian by culture and extraction.

On the merits of anthropology and legality, he was spot on, but as a communicator of unvarnished veracity, off the mark.

According to the New York Post, no stranger to the ruse of fact-skewing, many Black people regard him as “shameful,” a “fraud,” “liar” and “trickster” who’s “just trying to get over.” Mamdani justified the umbrella of his identifications by pleading it was essential to fully define himself. The description on any of the boxes was too “constraining,” he said.

According to New York Magazine, Mamdani subsequently clarified his position by stating he was “Ugandan.” Republican mayoral candidate Curtis Sliwa told Fox News, “He’s of Indian heritage, his mother and father. He grew up in Uganda. So, I guess you can sorta put in a blender? I don’t have a problem with how he self-identifies.”

Is this whole matter “character-defining” or a “tempest in a teapot”?

If he’s elected, will some of the white folks he’s targeting for tax increases because they live in more affluent neighborhoods have a chance to check a box to reflect their actual impoverishment struggling as single parents in a small studio apartment on a fancy street?

Allegations that Mamdani is an-

tisemitic have arisen from sources of varying credibility. The fact that some of the positions he has taken could have been said by indisputable Jew-haters, does not make him one of them.

The truth is far too nuanced, complex and elusive, and certainly in a matter of such gravity, he deserves the benefit of the doubt. Some would aver he deserves no doubt in the first place.

Mamdani is neither a denier of the Holocaust nor, I trust, the Armenian genocide. He opposes Israel as a religious state, though he appears more neutral on theocracies of other faiths. He intends to arrest Bibi Netanyahu but hasn’t suggested the same action against heads of state where mass murder is a cornerstone of governance.

We should hold out fire on indicting Mamdani on apocryphal and subjective charges of antisemitism. Although the Democratic Socialists have much to answer for, so do, on a massive scale, the demagogues on the opposite side of the political spectrum, such as the abominable fossil Patrick Buchanan.

Buchanan, a former White House communications director, three-time serious presidential candidate, Confederate apologist, author of “The Ending of White America” and darling of paleo(lithic)conservatives for a half century, blamed Winston Churchill and exonerated Hitler as a warmonger.

He mocked Holocaust survivors as guilty of “group fantasies of martyrdom and heroics” and “wallowing” in tales of the gas ovens.

Self-touted patriot Buchanan lobbied former Attorney General Edwin Meese against deportation of a verified commandant of a Nazi concentration camp (I wonder if he feels the same way about a waiter at my local diner). He also railed and rallied against the extradition of a Detroit autoworker, who had lied about his past to become a U.S. citizen, having been a guard at the Sobibor and Majdanek human extermination camps, for which he was convicted in Germany.

That didn’t stop him from being a media butterfly and peripatetic talk-show guest.

Mamdani has some explaining to do, but his record does not clamor to be explained away. I personally don’t feel comfortable with some of his perspectives and socialist policy directions, but he is no Buchanan by a long shot.

Once in office, the systemic pressures of pragmatic goals may broaden his outlook and accommodate greater flexibility of ideals. History is replete with examples of leaders who have risen, sometimes spectacularly, to the trust of former skeptics. If elected, he must be given a good-faith chance to so prove himself.

The above observations are limited to the two chief controversies surrounding Zohran Mamdani, and not meant as a judgment of his candidacy or overall worthiness.

TAX STRATEGIES

Income-tax benefits for child care

BY BARRY LISAK

IF YOU PAID someone to care for your child, spouse, or dependent (i.e., parent) this year, you may be able to claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit on your Federal income-tax return. Below are some things the IRS wants you to know about claiming a credit for child-and-dependent-care expenses.

The care must have been provided so you, and your spouse if you are filing jointly, could work or look for work.

The care must have been provided for one or more qualifying persons. A qualifying person is your dependent child age 12 or younger when the care was provided. Additionally, your spouse and certain other individuals who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care may also be qualifying persons. You must identify each qualifying person on your tax return.

You, and your spouse if you file jointly, must have earned income from wages, salaries or net earnings from self-employment. One spouse may be considered as having earned income if they were a full-time student or were physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

The payments for care cannot be paid to your spouse, to the parent of your qualifying person, to someone you can claim as your dependent on your return, or to your child who will not be 19 or older by the end of the year. Also, you must identify the care provider(s) on your tax return.

Your filing status must be single, married-filing-jointly, head of household or qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child. Taxpayers filing married-filing-separately usually cannot claim this credit.

The qualifying person must

have lived with you for more than half of 2025. In a divorce or legally separated situation, if you were the child’s custodial parent (i.e., the parent with which the child lived with for most of the year), you can qualify for the credit. Conversely, noncustodial parents do not qualify for the credit even if they are able to claim the child as a dependent.

For 2025, you may use up to \$3,000 of expenses paid in a year for one qualifying individual or \$6,000 for two or more qualifying individuals to figure the credit. Preschool, nursery school and similar pre-kindergarten programs are considered child care by the IRS. Day camps may be qualified day-care providers, but overnight camps are not.

Flexible-Spending Account. If you spent \$5,000 in total for dependent care and paid \$1,000 of that from a workplace flexible-spending account, you are allowed to use the remaining \$4,000.

If you qualify for the credit, complete IRS Form 2441, Child and Dependent Care Expenses. The care-provider’s name, address, and taxpayer identification number must be reported on this form. For additional information, please see IRS Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

If you pay someone to come to your home and care for your dependent or spouse, you may be a household employer and may have to withhold and pay social security and Medicare tax, and pay Federal unemployment tax.

See IRS Publication 926, Household Employer’s Tax Guide.

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.

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THE CHIEF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

If elected, Mamdani must be given a good-faith chance to prove himself.



Crystal Lewis/The Chief

Members of Los Deliveristas Unidos and other delivery workers gathered at City Hall Monday to push for the passage later that day of a legislative package that expands protections for delivery workers employed by third-party apps, including legislation that sets a minimum pay standard for grocery delivery workers.

City delivery workers get expanded pay protection, other benefits

Council bills implement wage transparency

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

City delivery workers, their advocates and members of the City Council celebrated the passage of a series of bills that expands minimum pay and other protections for app-based food delivery workers and others.

The legislative package, passed Monday night by the Council, builds on the city's first-in-the-nation minimum wage protections for app-based food delivery workers, enacted in 2023.

One bill requires grocery delivery apps such as Instacart to pay delivery workers at least \$21.44 an hour before tips — the same minimum pay rate food delivery workers are currently entitled to. It also eliminates exemptions for smaller app-based companies, such as Relay, which were excluded from previous minimum wage rules. Grocery delivery workers and workers who deliver other goods will also be entitled to other protections granted to food delivery workers, such as insulated delivery bags, fire safety materials and access to bathrooms.

About 20,000 additional app-based delivery workers are expected to benefit from the reforms, according to Luis Cortes, the director of Los Deliveristas Unidos.

"This is a huge milestone in our fight for justice for 80,000 app-based delivery workers who keep New York City running," Cortes said during a press conference at City Hall held ahead of the Council's vote.

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez said the legislative package "sends a message" to the entire industry: "The law exists, and the law applies to you."

"We know that the folks who are delivering for GrubHub often are delivering for other apps. And so this means that you can get paid the

same amount to deliver the same item with whatever app you're using. To be able to expand that bill to include everybody is monumental," she said during the press event.

Just prior to the vote, Council Member Sandy Nurse noted that the Council's previous legislation has provided deliveristas with more than \$1 billion in additional wages. "But we left out grocery delivery workers. These workers do similar work with similar risks, and are subject to similar exploitation by the apps, and many are paid poverty wages. Intro. 1135 corrects this pay disparity. This is about basic fairness," she said, alluding to one of the bills.

App-based companies opposed

Another bill, sponsored by Council Member Shaun Abreu, requires app-based companies to pay workers no later than seven calendar days after the end of their pay period, and to a pay-calculation method breaking down how much time they've worked and how much pay they've received.

"These companies are still trying to take away the little we've won," William Medina, who has worked as a deliverista for six years and is an organizing leader with Los Deliveristas Unidos at the Worker's Justice Project, said during the press conference. "They've removed the tipping option for customers, and they hide how they calculate our pay. They claim that they made adjustments to comply with the law. That's a lie. We are here today because we want transparency in our pay, and respect for our work."

Another bill will require apps to provide a suggested 10-percent tip at checkout. "When the minimum wage went into effect for deliveristas, the apps retaliated by removing the tipping option at checkout. It's going to make it so that you can provide for your family," Abreu said of the suggested gratuity.

In 2023, major delivery apps in-

cluding GrubHub and DoorDash sued to block the city's minimum wage law. Instacart has opposed the reforms proposed in the legislative package passed Monday, stating that there could be "consequences" for families already struggling with increasing food costs.

"We know the apps are claiming that paying workers fairly would increase food prices or that guaranteeing a minimum pay would leave delivery workers unemployed or deactivated. They have even argued that [the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection] is hurting small businesses," Cortes said. "Let me be clear: these billion dollar apps can afford to pay workers without raising prices."

Worker and immigrant advocate groups such as the Street Vendor Project and Afrikana came out to support the deliveristas. Dan Ocampo, an attorney at the National Employment Law Project, noted that the establishment of a food delivery pay standard "has been an incredible success. Pay per delivery before tips has more than doubled."

"The landmark package of bills passed today is a critical step forward for delivery workers in New York City and in the fight to make sure that app-based jobs are good jobs," he said.

Although members were excited to celebrate the bills, Los Deliveristas Unidos has another upcoming battle: to advocate for legislation to stop apps from unfairly deactivating workers.

"These companies say the minimum pay will cost us our jobs, but the truth is that they are the ones using deactivations," said Antonio Solis, a member of Los Deliveristas. "They want us to meet impossible delivery times, bundle multiple orders and punish us if we can't keep up. They put our safety at risk, forcing us to choose between driving carefully and losing our jobs, or delivering dangerously. That's why our fight isn't over. We need protections against deactivations."

Retired state workers collecting \$200k pensions up 20%

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Nearly 100 former state workers were eligible to collect pensions of at least \$200,000 during the most recent fiscal year, according to the Empire Center's crunching of figures from the New York State and Local Retirement System.

Last year's top-five pension earners remained the same, with Kara C. Bennorth Hubertus, who retired from Westchester County Health Care Corp. in 2023, topping the list. Bennorth Hubertus, who was eligible to collect \$503,128 in pension benefits in the fiscal year ending in March, remains the state pension system's sole "half-million retiree."

She was among 97 state workers who fetched pension benefits of at least \$200,000 over the course of the retirement system's fiscal year ending in March. That's 19 more than could do so in FY 2024, according to newly posted data posted on SeeThroughNY.net, the Empire Center's government transparency website, and nearly twice as many as the 54 who were eligible to receive \$200,000 or more in FY 2023.

Among the 97 are 21 retirees from the Suffolk County Police Department and 17 from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Another 11 are retired from the Nassau Health Care Corp.

Another 11,384 — more than half of them members of the state's Police and Fire Retirement System — were eligible to get more \$100,000, 10 percent more than were eligible for six-figure payments in FY 2024.

Bennorth Hubertus spent about 27 years with the medical system in a variety of posts, retiring as executive vice president and CEO post at the Westchester County Health Care Corp., New York State

public-benefit corporation.

Bennorth Hubertus earned \$761,660, including a \$137,970 performance bonus, in 2022, her last full year on the job, according to state payroll data. She earned an average of \$704,084 annually in the five years before that.

Dr. Shashikant Lele, a gynecologic oncologist affiliated with Roswell Park Cancer Institute, was eligible to receive \$438,102, the second-highest pension.

Richard J. Batista, formerly of the Nassau Health Care Corp., who received \$339,874; Paul E. Scott, also of the Nassau Health Care Corp., with a \$329,693 payment; and Brian M. Murray, retired from the Erie County Medical Center Corp., who got \$327,322, rounded out the top five.

Altogether, 480,393 members of the state's retirement system were eligible for \$15.6 billion in pension payments in FY 2025. That figure is 25 percent more than the \$12.6 billion in 2020, according to the Empire Center.

There are just over 480,000 retirees from state agencies, public authorities and local governments in the New York State and Local Retirement System. Their pension amounts are exempt from state income taxes.

According to the data set compiled by the Empire Center, there were nearly 13,000 newly retired members of the state pension system last fiscal year, 1,272 of them full-career police officers or firefighters in the state's Police and Fire Retirement System.

The retired cops and firefighters were eligible for an average pension of \$98,011, according to the data, more than twice the \$46,796 the nearly 12,000 new members of the state's Employees Retirement System averaged, the Empire Center said.



Department of Parks and Recreation

Following several years of cuts and hiring freezes, the city's FY 2026 budget will allow the Parks Department to hire around 100 Parks Enforcement Patrol officers, their union leader said.

PARKS: 'Fraction' of funding

Continued from Page 1

maintenance caused by the budget cuts and a lack of oversight from the Parks Enforcement Patrol, which watches over parks spaces but whose numbers also tumbled following the cuts.

Most of the positions restored in the FY26 budget are PEP officers, said Joe Puleo, president of Local 983, which represents PEP officers, park rangers and others. Puleo said as many as 450 PEP officers patrolled city parks in recent years, but following successive cuts and hiring freezes instituted by the Adams administration, their numbers have dropped to below 300.

"It's a mixed bag," Puleo said of the finalized budget. "We're down at the lowest numbers when it comes to parks enforcement."

More officers, for the time being

The 2026 budget includes funding to add around 100 more PEP officers, but Puleo noted that the funding is on a year-to-year basis instead of a long-term baseline as is common for other Parks Department positions.

That means Puleo will have to push for the funding to be renewed next year, and the PEP officers filling those positions likely won't know if they'll have their jobs next fiscal year until days before it begins. Puleo criticized the mayor for the instability in his union's ranks. He called the Adams administration the "worst one in 27 years of me serving this union because our numbers have gone down the most during this administration and parks have not been prioritized."

Ganser, of New Yorkers for Parks, said that the restorations and expansions in the budget are

like "putting a brand new sunroof on a car that doesn't run."

A spokesperson for Adams did not respond to a request for comment.

Parks Department foresters who help manage urban forests across the city have suffered from the budget cuts as well, said Evon Magnusson, a forester in Staten Island.

Magnusson said that as staffing has decreased, more work is placed on the staff who remain, and foresters who went from managing a single contract now must undertake three or four. The backlog in service has caused the city to rely on consultants who are not trained as thoroughly as those who work for the Parks Department, Magnusson and other foresters say.

"So far Parks employees have worked hard to maintain a basic level of service, but many aspects of operations have gone from proactively managing the urban canopy to responding to emergencies as they come up," said Magnusson, a Local 375 delegate. "This is a public safety and quality of life issue."

Parks workers and advocates ultimately want 1 percent of the city's budget — or just over \$1 billion — dedicated to the city's open spaces every year. The figure is currently closer to 0.65 percent and after years of hiring freezes and cuts, some advocates have learned to lower their expectations — at least as long as Adams is mayor.

"At this point parkies are so beat down that they don't expect much from this administration anymore," said one Parks advocate who is not permitted by their organization to speak with the media. "No one really expects Mayor Adams to come through and deliver a Hail Mary for the parks."

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Dim outlook for city construction workers

Jobs in sector remain far below pre-pandemic levels

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

New York City's construction industry is still struggling to fully recover from the pandemic, a recent report from the state comptroller's office found.

As of last year, 143,000 workers were employed in the construction sector, meaning that there were 11.3 percent, or 18,200 fewer jobs in the industry in New York City compared with 2019. As a result, that decline contributed to a 4-percent drop in construction employment statewide. If the city is removed from the data, the number of construction jobs across the state would have grown by 0.8 percent since 2019, the report notes.

Construction jobs in the city accounted for 36.7 percent of the state's construction jobs, down from 39.7 percent in 2019.

Nationally, the construction industry recovered pandemic job losses by 2022. One reason the city has struggled to recover is because the industry is more heavily reliant on nonresidential projects than the rest of the country.

The report found that the city faces several challenges to fully recover construction employment levels. Although construction spending in

the city reached a record high of \$68.2 billion in 2023, much of the increase in spending was due to rising material costs.

The Trump administration's immigration policies could also present a challenge to the construction industry's ability to recover here. About 61 percent of construction workers across the city were immigrants, a much higher share than in the rest of the state (21 percent) or country (24 percent).

"Spending on residential construction has rebounded since the pandemic, but nonresidential construction spending, especially in New York City, remains below 2019 levels and could continue to lag in the near future," state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli said in a statement accompanying the report. "A number of factors, many of them out of the city's control, will affect future growth in the construction sector. For example, federal policy on tariffs and immigration may impact construction costs and the labor pool. There are steps the city could take to facilitate growth, and where appropriate, encourage the development of infrastructure and buildings to foster local economic growth."

Comptroller: Fill DOB positions

Although many of the challenges facing the construction industry are outside of the city's control,

the comptroller noted that the city can take steps to speed up the pace of construction and permitting by filling vacancies at the Department of Buildings. In March 2024, there were 519 workers employed at the agency in construction-related positions, down from 662 in March 2021. It also found that it took more than eight days longer for permit filings to be approved in June 2024 compared with three years earlier, a 70-percent increase.

Notably, the percentage of construction workers in the state who were unionized in 2024 declined sharply compared with a decade earlier, going from 31.3 percent to 20.7 percent. The majority of construction workers in New York City,

however, were union members.

Government spending on construction projects has helped the city's construction industry stabilize, totaling \$23.3 billion in 2023, which was 18.1 percent higher than in 2019. The MTA's 2025-2029 capital plan also calls for a record high \$68.4 billion in capital investments. But, the report noted, "planned government capital spending could be at risk if changes in federal support for local projects were to occur."

Although residential spending has rebounded since the pandemic, the demand for commercial real estate in the city has declined since then as more people work from home. According to real estate company Cushman & Wakefield, Man-

hattan's office vacancy rate was 22.6 percent during the first quarter of 2025, compared with a historical rate of 13.7 percent.

Even though residential construction spending had fully recovered from the pandemic by 2023, spending in the sector dropped by 16 percent in 2024 after the expiration of the 421-a tax abatement program.

Overall, while the report found that the city's construction industry to regain jobs during the year following the pandemic, "it is far from fully recovered and may not reach pre-pandemic levels for the next several years given significant risks ahead."

Legal aid attorneys strike

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

About 400 legal service workers walked out on strike Tuesday following the expiration of union contracts at four different legal service providers in New York City. More than 1,100 workers at the Legal Aid Society and three other legal service organizations could join their union siblings on the picket line as soon as Friday.

All are represented by the Association of Legal Advocates and Attorneys, Local 2325 of the United Auto Workers, which has slowly aligned the contracts of a dozen different bargaining units to expire over the last few weeks. Workers are

now making good on their threat to strike if their contract demands for raises, limits on work, retirement benefits and more aren't met.

On Tuesday — the day that strikes kicked off at New York Legal Assistance Group, CAMBA legal services and the Urban Justice Center — hundreds of ALAA members gathered at Foley Square for a strike kickoff rally attended by union leaders and political allies, among them state Attorney General Letitia James and Queens Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic Party's nominee for mayor.

James, who for a time worked at the Legal Aid Society and participated in a strike during her tenure

there, said that under the Trump administration what individuals need "is someone on their side, and that is a Legal Aid attorney."

"Someone who will defend the rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations, someone who will go against corporate landlords, someone who will stand up, someone who will not be afraid will not break will not bend will not bow," she told the cheering crowd of attorneys. "And as a former legal aid attorney who can relate to all of you and who is still a legal aid attorney, I recognize that this city must pay you more so that you can pay your bills, so that you can pay your rent."

ARTISTS: Bringing color

Continued from Page 1

Canvas provides a powerful and highly visible platform to showcase that talent. We ensure that artists are paid fairly and meaningfully for their time, which is crucial for those striving to sustain a creative practice in an increasingly expensive city."

Over the past 12 months, ArtBridge has paid artists on average \$5,500 for digital artworks of existing pieces, \$12,500 for new, site-specific digital artworks and \$19,000 for hand-painted installations.

"As artists, we never know when we get money. It's very hard to submit as an artist. When I saw on Instagram that there was a huge money prize, I just applied," said Sophia Chizuco, whose work "Illuminating Energy Flow" adorns an elevated construction shed snaking around Consolidated Edison's neoclassical, 26-story headquarters near Manhattan's Union Square.

Chizuco's piece is a colorful array of circles, lines and waves designed to represent potential, kinetic and sustainable energy. ConEd's headquarters, once defined by domineering scaffolding, is now brightened by a rainbow canvas highlighting what the company provides.

Chizuco was paid \$15,000 for her work. "That's the largest commission I've ever had," she said. The program has also given her a lot of publicity — particularly since her name is displayed alongside her piece. "So many people gave me a great response. I think something could be coming soon for me."

'Creating for my city'

Chizuco's work is among several ArtBridge-facilitated City Canvas programs showcasing cooperation between artists and the owners of private property to bring art street level — or just above.

ArtBridge also complements City Canvas by promoting collaborations between artists and city agencies. Davina Hsu's "Blessing Transmission," developed in conjunction with the Battery Park City Author-

ity, is one such example.

"Blessing Transmission" is a colorful, kaleidoscopic site-specific work composed of hand-felted natural wool embellishing gigantic panels along 400 feet of construction fencing. The work was created in response to ArtBridge's open call for pieces focused on environmental sustainability. While Hsu's piece is crafted mainly out of natural fiber, which is not typically suitable for outdoor display, she says this piece challenged her to redirect energy into a public site to reach more people.

As Battery Park undergoes a makeover and conceals the riverfront, passersby can experience Hsu's art as an open air gallery.

Urban development is often a long, top-down process that can generate grim and even unsightly settings, scaffolding and construction sheds among them, that blight public spaces for years. The City Canvas program and its nonprofit partner ArtBridge counter this through art.

What's more, the installations are temporary, allowing for bands of local artists to cycle through public space and promote their art until the otherwise drab sheds are finally gone for good.

Paid \$10,000 for the project, Hsu said the program gives artists who don't traditionally exhibit in public space the opportunity to bring their work to a wider audience. "When I did this project, I feel like it allowed me to rethink my work," she said.

Another type of programming artists participate in through City Canvas is community-engaged work at NYCHA developments. Woodside NYCHA resident Chey Nelson had the opportunity to work with her own community on "Connections Of The Past And Future," which depicts the neighborhood's struggle during the pandemic.

"I received \$2,000 for being on this project, and in 2021 that honestly gave me that jump-start to invest in myself," said Nelson. "Since then, I've gained the confidence and guidance I needed to build my portfolio and create art for my city."



Duncan Freeman/The Chief

Hundreds of members with the Association of Legal Advocates and Attorneys gathered at Foley Square for a strike kickoff rally Tuesday attended by union leaders and political allies.

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Courtesy of Sophia Chizuco

Sophia Chizuco across East 14 Street from the Consolidated Edison Building, where her work, "Illuminating Energy Flow," adorns an elevated construction shed.

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time: 09/25/2025 at 09:00 AM Hearing on Merits (CR/CV) you may bring an affidavit with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you. If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter. For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at (781) 329-1500. WITNESS: Hon. Maura J Hardiman, FIRST JUSTICE, DATE ISSUED: 06/24/2025, Robert L. Ryan, Jr. Clerk-Magistrate. 062525-1 7/4/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TREE OF LIFE NP IN PSYCHIATRY HEALTH PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/20/2025. Office location: Bronx 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 PLLC served upon him/her is 2 Fordham Hill Oval, #17B, Bronx, NY 10468-4705. The principal business address of the PLLC is 2 Fordham Hill Oval, #17B, Bronx, NY 10468-4705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 062425-4 7/4/25-8/8/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Kelly L McLees LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/20/2025. 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 228 East 81st Street, Apt. 7C, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 062425-3 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Formation of 144 Baltic Owner LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 4/7/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 451 Broome St., Ste. 5E, NY, NY 10012. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc., 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. Purpose: any lawful activity. 070325-3 7/11/25-8/15/25

Notice of Formation of 144 Baltic Member LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 4/7/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 451 Broome St., Ste. 5E, NY, NY 10012. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc., 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. Purpose: any lawful activity. 070325-2 7/11/25-8/15/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF The Play Club LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/1/2025. Office location: New York County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to

LEGAL NOTICES

which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 1350 Avenue of the Americas, FL2, New York, NY 10019. The principal business address of the LLC is 1350 Avenue of the Americas, FL2, New York, NY 10019. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070325-1 7/11/25-8/15/25

Notice of Qualification of Grayce Medical, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/26/25. Office location: New York County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 4/21/25. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 80 State St, Albany, NY 12207 The name and address and, where applicable, the New York State license number of each professional within the foreign professional service limited liability company who is licensed to practice the profession or professions in New York State available from SSNY. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Medicine. 070225-3 7/11/25-8/15/25

Notice of Qualification of INDUSTRIOUS EXPERIENCE MANAGEMENT LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/18/25. Office location: New York County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 6/16/25. 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. 070225-4 7/11/25-8/15/25

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF 404 FIFTH REALTY LLC. Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on date 6/20/2025 Office location: New York County, LLC formed in LLC DE on 4/17/2025. 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 1384 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. The principal business address of the LLC is 1384 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. Certificate of LLC filed with Secretary of State of Delaware located at 401 Federal Street, Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070225-7 7/11/25-8/15/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Patrick Doerr LLP. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/5/2025. 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 LLP served upon him/her is 1501 Broadway, Suite 2310, New York, NY 10036. The principal business address of the LLP is 1501 Broadway, Suite 2310, New York, NY 10036. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070225-2 7/11/25-8/15/25

Notice is hereby given that an On-Premises Club-Liquor License, NYS Application ID NA-0349-25-119350 has been applied for by Urban Elevations Social Club LLC serving beer, wine, cider and liquor to be sold at retail for on premise consumption in a club under the ABC law at 330 Madison Ave Fl 16, New York NY 10017. 070225-1 7/11/25-7/18/25

The Annual Return of The Milton A Schiff Foundation for the year ended 5/31/2025 is available at its principal office located at 450 Clinton Street, Suite 3J, Brooklyn, NY 11231 for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. The Principal Manager of the Foundation is Patricia Estess. 070825-1 7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of Brook Road Energy B LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 7/9/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in DE: 3/13/25. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 110 William St., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10038. DE address of LLC: c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc., 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 071125-4 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of Brook Road Energy A LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 7/9/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in DE: 3/13/25. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 110 William St., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10038. DE address of LLC: c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc., 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 071125-3 7/18/25-8/22/25

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF the Lainoff Family Foundation for the

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year ended December 31, 2024 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. Steven Lainoff. 070725-1 7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of Scannell Properties #764, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 7/9/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in IN: 7/3/25. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the IN and principal business address of the LLC: Scannell Properties, 8801 River Crossing Blvd., Ste. 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Cert. of Form. filed with IN Sec. of State, 200 W. Washington St., Ste. 201, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 071125-2 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Formation of Harlow on 10th, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 7/9/25. Office location: NY County, Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o United Agent Group Inc., 600 Mamaroneck Ave. #400, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 071125-1 7/18/25-8/22/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF YvetteMichael LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/1/2025. 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 United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228, USA. The principal business address of the LLC is 345 West 4th Street, Apt. 2B, NY, NY 10014. Purpose: Consultant for production services. 071425-1 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Formation of ANOTHER DRESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/25. Office location: NY County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC served upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 15 W. 11th St., #4E, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 071025-4 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of COMREF RIVER LLC. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 04/09/25. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. A, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 071025-5 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of FBRED SNS FIN, LLC. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 06/10/25. Princ. office: LLC, 1 Madison Ave., Ste. 1600, NY, NY 10010. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808-1674. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 070725-3 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of VWWHP, LLC. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/25. Office location: NY County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/26/24. 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. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 3, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 070725-4 7/18/25-8/22/25

MARK SIMON ENVPLANNER, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/08/2025. Office loc: NY County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Mark A. Simon, 315 West 86th St. #7A, NY, NY 10024. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 071025-3 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of GALLAGHER BASSETT TECHNICAL SERVICES, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/26/25. Office location: New York County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/4/22. 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

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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. 071025-1 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice of Qualification of GEOLO/ CGP 17C JV LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/26/25. Office location: New York County, LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 5/19/21. 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. Purpose: any lawful activity. 071025-2 7/18/25-8/22/25

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF Herschmann Benson Bowen LLP. Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/5/2025. Office location: New York County, LLP formed in Texas on 5/2/2025. 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 LLP served upon him/her is 96 Perry St., #2B, New York, NY 10014. The principal business address of the LLP is 96 Perry St., #2B, New York, NY 10014. Certificate of LLP filed with Secretary of State of Texas located at PO Box 13697, Austin, Texas. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070825-2 7/18/25-8/22/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CASA ALTAR LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/31/2025. Office location: Bronx 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 418 Broadway, STE, R, Albany, NY 12207. The principal business address of the LLC is 2096 White Plains Road, PMB #11, Bronx, NY 10462. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070725-5 7/18/25-8/22/25

Notice is hereby given that an On-Premise Restaurant Full Liquor License, NYS Application ID: NA-0340-25-119675 has been applied for by East Church Street LLC d/b/a The Gem Saloon serving beer, wine, cider and liquor to be sold at retail for on premises consumption in a restaurant with one additional bar, for the premises located at 375-377 3rd Avenue New York NY 10016. 071425-3 7/18/25-7/25/25

Notice is hereby given that an On-Premise Restaurant Full Liquor License, NYS Application ID: NA-0340-25-120418 has been applied for by East Bothar Bugha LLC d/b/a The Penny Farthing, Linen Hall serving beer, wine, cider and liquor to be sold at retail for on premises consumption in a restaurant with two additional bars, for the premises located at 101-103 3rd Avenue New York NY 10003. 071425-2 7/18/25-7/25/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Prosper Legal Management LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/30/2025. 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 300 East 93rd St., Apt. 43D, New York, NY 10128. The principal business address of the LLC is New York County. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070725-6 7/18/25-8/22/25

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF The Harvey & Ruth Miller Charitable Fund for the year ended April 30, 2025 is available at its principal office located at c/o Hertz Herson CPA LLP, 575 Lexington Avenue, 34th Floor, 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. Stephen Karotkin. 070725-2 7/18/25

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Notice of formation of GOTHAM CREST HOLDINGS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/10/25. Office location: NY County, SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 400 W 61st St., Apt. 1911, NY, NY 10023. Purpose: any lawful act. 062625-7 7/4/25-8/8/25

MADISON 44E LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 6/5/25. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent for process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: c/o The LLC, 17 Rudder Rd., Vero Beach, FL, 32963-2934. A Certificate of Change was filed 6/12/2025 changing the address to c/o The LLC, 217 Rudder Rd., Vero Beach, FL, 32963-2934. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 061325-2 7/4/25-8/8/25

CHELSEA 3L LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 6/5/25. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent for process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: c/o The LLC, 17 Rudder Rd., Vero Beach, FL, 32963-2934. A Certificate of Change was filed 6/12/2025 changing the address to c/o The LLC, 217 Rudder Rd., Vero Beach, FL, 32963-2934. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 061325-3 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Formation of Dear Dazy LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 6/18/25. Office location: NY County. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 777 3rd Ave., NY, NY 10017, principal business address. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 062625-3 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Qualification of Bilt Travel LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/19/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 31 Bond St., NY, NY 10012. LLC formed in DE: 10/15/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom

LEGAL NOTICES

process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc. (CGI), 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. DE addr. of LLC: CGI, 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. 062625-5 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Qualification of Bilt Cafe LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/19/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 31 Bond St., NY, NY 10012. LLC formed in DE: 9/16/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc. (CGI), 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. DE addr. of LLC: CGI, 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. 062625-4 7/4/25-8/8/25

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION, CARE AND PROTECTION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, DOCKET NUMBER 24CP0098DE. Trial Court of Massachusetts, Juvenile Court Department, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk County Juvenile Court 1288 Central St., Stoughton, MA 02072, (781) 329-1500. TO: Rousseau Redvil: A petition has been presented to this court by Coastal Office DCF, seeking as to the following child: Ralph L Perrette, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody or guardianship or any other disposition of the child named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition. You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and

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BY ANNE D'INNOENZIO
Associated Press

Inside a Walmart store in New Jersey last month, a worker put the finishing touches on a cake with an edible ink Sponge Bob on top. A colleague created a buttercream rosette border for another confection, while another co-worker frosted a tier of what will be a triple-deck dessert.

It was graduation season, the busiest time of year for the 6,200 employees of the nation's largest retailer trained to hand-decorate cakes per customers' orders. The cakes themselves come, pre-made, frozen and in a variety of shapes and sizes, from suppliers, not Walmart's in-store bakeries.

But there's no sugar-coating the importance the company places on its custom cake business. Its army of icing artisans are the highest paid hourly workers in a typical U.S. Walmart, excluding managers. Cake decorators earn an average of \$19.25 per hour, compared with \$18.25 for all non-managerial store workers, a company spokesperson said.

Melissa Fernandez, 36, started working in the electronics area and then the wireless services department of the Walmart in North Bergen, New Jersey, before she transferred to the deli area in search of better pay. But Fernandez had her eye on a cake decorating job and after spending two months getting trained by a store colleague, she picked up a piping bag full-time in 2021.

"I love baking at home. I love painting," Fernandez said. "I love doing anything artistic, and I just always wanted to be a part of it." After 11 years with Walmart, she said she now makes about \$24.40 an hour.

Despite their elite status within

Customers want increasingly complicated designs.

Walmart, the retailer's cake decorators have attracted detractors on social media.

The company promotes its personalized baked goods on TikTok, and the workers behind such creations do the same with their own profiles. As the content has grown in popularity, critics have accused Walmart decorators of stealing ideas and undercutting the work of professional cake artists with their low-priced products.

After TikTok videos praising Walmart's \$25 heart-shaped cakes with borders that resemble vintage lace cropped up before Valentine's Day this year, a few bakers produced their own videos explaining why their cakes cost so much more and critiquing Walmart's.

Debates ensued in the comments sections over whether Walmart represented evils of capitalism or served the needs of the masses.

A customized sheet cake that can be sliced to serve 96 people costs \$59 at Walmart, about one-third to half the price that a nationwide sample of independent bakeries list online for similarly sized cakes. For \$5.20 more, Walmart customers can add strawberry or "Bavarian creme" fillings, which like the bare cakes, are vendor-supplied.

The slice of the celebratory occasion cake market Walmart holds appears vast based on company-supplied figures. One out of four cakes sold in the U.S. comes from Walmart, and its employees will collectively decorate more than 1 million cakes during May and June, according to a company spokesperson.

Sells 1 out of 4 cakes nationwide

The number of cakes decorated each day at the location where Fernandez works nearly doubles to 50-60 when school graduations come around, compared to 30-35 a day during the rest of the year, said Michael DeMarco, the manager of the store's fresh food department. He credits the decorators' talent and promotional efforts on TikTok.

"We're getting a lot of repeat customers. We're doing a lot more business because of just the viral sensations," DeMarco said.

A TikTok video that showed Fernandez designing a \$24 version of a customized bouquet cake — 12 cupcakes that are individually decorated and arranged to look like a bunch of flowers — received nearly



Andres Kudacki/AP Photo

A cake decorator worked her craft inside a Walmart Supercenter in North Bergen, N.J., in May.

a half-million views. The bouquet design was one of the North Bergen store's most popular cakes last month, a company spokesperson said.

The dressy heart-shaped cakes, as well as cakes that resemble meals like sushi or a pile of spaghetti and meatballs, are popular too, she said. Fernandez also has created "burn away" cakes: an iced cake topped with an image printed on paper, which is set ablaze to reveal a different image underneath.

"TikTok helps me stay up to date," she said. "A lot of trends that I see on there, within that week or within that month, customers will come asking about it. And we're pretty up to date as well."

Jazzing up a cake by hand requires skill, whether or not someone else did the baking, she said. Funneling buttercream frosting through a bag and various sized piping tips to yield the desired design without misplaced blobs is not the same as drawing or painting, Fernandez explained.

"There's a lot of pressure points that you have to practice in order to get the borders correct and the right thickness or the right texture," she said.

Tiffany Witzke, who has been a Walmart cake decorator since July 2016 and works at a store in Springfield, Missouri, has more than 912,000 followers on TikTok. The job attracts people who "can be extremely skilled and talented," Witzke said, adding that customers want increasingly complicated designs.

"When I first started, it was basically just borders and writing," she said. "Now, everybody wants more and more and more on their cake."

Liz Berman, owner of The Sleepy Baker, in Natick, Massachusetts, said she's not worried about losing customers to Walmart because of her attention to detail and the premium ingredients she uses.

She charges \$205 and up for a half-sized sheet cake, the bouquets made up of two dozen miniature cupcakes cost \$110. All the cakes are made from scratch, and Berman said she

designs everything herself.

"It's just a totally different business model," she said. "Everything I do is custom."

For Walmart, the cake decorating business delivers higher profit margins than some other areas, such as groceries and electronics, according to Marshal Cohen, chief retail advisor at market research firm Circana. But it's also resonating with shoppers looking for affordable luxuries.

"We've gone into a period where the consumer is saying, 'This is good enough,'" Cohen said.

Customers interviewed at the North Bergen store on a recent weekday seemed to be satisfied. George Arango, 34, picked up two customized cakes, one to celebrate a co-worker's retirement and the other for a colleague getting another job. After researching prices on various store websites, he decided to give Walmart a try.

"The price is fantastic," he said. "I'm walking out with two cakes for \$40."

Massive tax hike on pro gamblers could bankrupt the industry

Senate Republicans say no dice to repeal

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Associated Press

Senate Republicans have blocked an attempt to reverse a little-noticed provision from their tax and spending cuts law that professional gamblers warn could be the end of their industry.

Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada sought unanimous passage of a bill that would roll back the change on gambling tax deductions, but Republican Senator Todd Young of Indiana objected, stalling the proposal for now.

The emerging fight over the gambling provision is likely only the beginning of the fallout from the new tax law and its impact on the country. Spanning more than 900 pages, the bill signed into law by President Donald Trump earlier this month contained a slew of provisions changing federal programs and the tax code, many of which lawmakers admit they are only now beginning to fully digest.

"My understanding is many Republicans, many Democrats did not even know it was part of that process," Cortez Masto said of the gambling provision.

Under the new tax law, starting in 2026, individuals can only deduct 90 percent of their gambling losses up to the amount of their winnings. That's a change from the previous rule, which allowed gamblers to deduct 100 percent of their losses, up to the amount they won.

The change will only significantly impact those who gamble larger amounts and who take the extra steps to itemize and deduct their

losses. But for those individuals, the impact could be steep.

In practice, for example, under the old rule, someone who wins \$100,000 and loses \$100,000 could deduct the full \$100,000 in losses and owe nothing. Under the new rule, they would only be able to deduct \$90,000 and would still owe taxes on the remaining \$10,000, despite having lost all their winnings.

"This new amendment to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act would end professional gambling in the U.S. and hurt casual gamblers, too," Phil Galfond, a professional poker player, said on social media just days ahead of the bill's final passage.

The provision was included in the bill's text released on June 16 by Senate Finance Committee Chair Mike Crapo, an Idaho Republican. Some senators have said they weren't aware of the provision, and it only publicly came to light days ahead of the bill's passage, with professional gamblers and media figures drawing attention to it.

"Now I see Republican senators walking all over the Capitol saying they didn't even know anything about this policy," said Senator Ron Wyden, the top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee.

"The fact is, when you rush a process like this, this way, and cram in all of these policies that you haven't really thought about, you risk consequences for people back home. That is what is going on here," Wyden said.

The provision is estimated to generate over \$1.1 billion in tax revenue over eight years. The entirety of the tax break and spending cuts bill will increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

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Notice of Qualification of **GRAPEVINE VENTURES LP**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/30/25. Office location: NY County. LP formed in Delaware (DE) on 07/25/24. Princ. office of LP: 101 5th Ave., 11th Fl., NY, NY 10003. NYS fictitious name: GRAPEVINE VENTURES LP. Location of LP is Perpetual. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Name and addr. of each general partner are available from SSNY. DE addr. of LP: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of LP filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of **Rochelle PropCo LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/30/25. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 04/24/25. Princ. office of LLC: 345 Park Ave., NY, NY 10154. 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. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Formation of **EMERALD CREEK CAPITAL 4, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/30/25. 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 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of **FORECAST BLUE LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/02/25. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/07/25. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Illyse Dolgenas, Esq., Withers Bergman LLP, 430 Park Ave., 10th Fl., NY, NY 10022. DE addr. of LLC: c/o the Corporation Service Co., 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **WILD CAUGHT COOKIES LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/6/2025. 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 400 Park Avenue South, #23C, New York, NY 10016. The principal business address of the LLC is 400 Park Avenue South, #23C, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Cookie company. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Formation of **MT UWLS LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/29/25. 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 Jeremy Cohn, 2515 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60616. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Formation of **Brodsky Development South LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 5/16/25. Office location: NY County. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC

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upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o The Brodsky Organization, 400 W. 59th St., NY, NY 10019, principal business address. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Formation of **25 Sunset Drive LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/23/2025. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1 Gracie Sq./Unit 11, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

CHAOTIC GOOD DIGITAL PROJECTS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/18/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 19 W 21st Street, Ste 1004, NY, NY 10010. Reg Agent: Jesse Coren, 19 W 21st Street, Ste 1004, NY, NY 10010. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 6/13/25-7/18/25

HOLLISTON GROUP, LLC. Appl. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 05/29/25. Originally filed with the secretary of State of California on 12/10/2019. Office: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1134 N. Holliston Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Name: **Brownsville Arts Beneficial Owner LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York ("SSNY") on May 23, 2025. NY office location: New York County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to c/o Gilbane Development Company, 7 Jackson Walkway, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. Purpose/character of LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Formation of **421 Basement Units, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 5/30/25. 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 Gallet Dreyer & Berkey, LLP, 845 Third Ave, 5th Fl, NY, NY 10022. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **Robby Productions & Events, LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/15/2024. Office location: Bronx 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 736 Allerton Ave., Suite 204, Bronx, NY 10467. The principal business address of the LLC is 736 Allerton Ave., Suite 204, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of **SOIL SAFE, LLC**. Authority filed with Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/21/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/19/03. 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

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System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

Notice of Qualification of **Stonepeak Asia Fund Associates II (LUX) S.A.R.L., L.L.C.**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/15/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (GDL) on 3/6/25. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 55 Hudson Yards, 500 W 34th St, FL 48, NY, NY 10001. GDL address of LLC: 3, rue Jean Piret, L-2350 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Cert. of Formation filed with Luxembourg Business Registers, L-2961 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **Marina Gabriela Brink Architects PLLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/16/2025. 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 PLLC served upon him/her is 200 Rector Place, 8N, New York, NY 10280. The principal business address of the PLLC is 200 Rector Place, 8N, New York, NY 10280. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **Dreamers4care, LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/21/2025. 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 8 W 126th Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10027. The principal business address of the LLC is 8 W 126th Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **DORI GOODS LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/12/2025. 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 171 Avenue C, 3A, New York, NY 10009. The principal business address of the LLC is 171 Avenue C, 3A, New York, NY 10009. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/13/25-7/18/25

TRAVELBYANNELIESE LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 5/21/25. Office Location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent for process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: c/o The LLC, 101 Warren St., Apt. 2550, NY, NY, 10007. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 6/20/25-7/25/25

Notice of Qualification of **GALAXY FINZ LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/29/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/4/24. 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, #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. 6/20/25-7/25/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **TRR GROUP LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/15/2025. Office location: Bronx 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 2923 Harding Ave., #1, Bronx, NY 10465. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/20/25-7/25/25

Notice of Qualification of **GALAXY OPPORTUNISTIC FUND I GP**,

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LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/29/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/8/24. 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, #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. 6/20/25-7/25/25

Notice of Qualification of **FYLGA WUDLEOMA LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/04/25. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 06/02/25. Princ. office of LLC: We Work c/o Zoe Kim, 500 7th Ave, 8th Fl, NY, NY 10018. 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. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Qualification of **HBFB SHELL EGG LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/11/25. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/20/23. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 555 W. 57th St., Ste. 1103B, NY, NY 10019. 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. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Qualification of **CJN OpCo, LLC**. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/05/25. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/14/25. Princ. office of LLC: 380 N. Rockingham Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049. 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. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of the State of DE, 401 Federal St., Ste. 3, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Maritime salvage operations. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Qualification of **Tenfore 4IR Value Opportunity Holding Company, L.P.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 6/16/25. Office location: NY County. LP formed in DE: 12/21/12. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 712 5th Ave., 12th Fl., NY, NY 10019, principal business address. DE address of LP: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Name/address of genl. ptr. available from NY Sec. of State. Cert. of LP filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Formation of **AIP GP, L.P.** Certificate filed with NY Dept. of State: 6/12/2025. Office location: NY County. Secy. of State designated agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 50 Hudson Yards, NY, NY 10001, principal business address. Name/ address of general partner available from NY Sec. of State. Term: until 12/31/2125. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 6/27/25-8/1/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **TETTO LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/14/2025. 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 489 5th Ave., 7th Fl., NY, NY 10017. The principal business address of the LLC is 489 5th Ave., 7th Fl., NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/27/25-8/1/25

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **Design by KMM LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/12/2025. 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 1280 Lexington Ave., Frnt 2, #1379, New York, NY 10028. The principal business address of the LLC is 1280 Lexington Ave., Frnt 2, #1379, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Qualification of **GALAXY INTERACTIVE FUND I GP LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/29/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 2/24/21. 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, #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. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Qualification of **GALAXY INTERACTIVE FUND II GP LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/29/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 2/3/22. 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, #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. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Polyphonic Productions, LLC filed w/ SSNY 12/29/10. Off. in NY Co. Process served to SSNY - desig. as agt. of LLC & mailed to United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. The reg. agt. is United States Corporation Agents, Inc. at same address. Any lawful purpose. 6/17/25-3 6/27/25-8/1/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **HANBO YANG LITERARY LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/16/2025. 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: Hanbo Yang, 788 Columbus Ave., Apt. 14S, New York, NY 10025. The principal business address of the LLC is 788 Columbus Ave., Apt. 14S, New York, NY 10025. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/17/25-8/1/25

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **Route&Reign Logistics LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/28/2025. Office location: Bronx 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 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11225. 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: Daniel Klaynberg, 554 5th Ave., 5th Fl, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/17/25-9 6/27/25-8/1/25

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF **WW Lexington Members LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/7/2025. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in DE on 1/20/25. SSNY 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 Daniel Klaynberg, 554 5th Ave., 5th Fl, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/17/25-9 6/27/25-8/1/25

CITATION File No. 2025-254 SURROGATE'S COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent To: John Doe and/or Jane Doe being potential issue of Isidore Parneshesky, a/k/a Isidore Parnes, a/k/a Isidor Parnes, a/k/a Israel Parnes, a/k/a Izzy Parnes, alleged paternal uncle of decedent or if deceased, their issue, John Doe and/or Jane Doe being potential issue of Fanny Parneshesky, a/k/a Fanny Parnes, a/k/a Fanny Parnes, alleged paternal aunt of decedent or if deceased, their issue, Helen Mary Kalman, whose whereabouts are unknown, if living, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown; and to the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Gerald Parnes, deceased, if living, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown; and to the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Gerald Parnes, deceased, if living, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, 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; Howard Parnes, Public Administrator of the County of New York, Attorney General of the State of New York An amended petition having been duly filed by Alissa Ploshnick who is domiciled at 113 Robertson Way, Lincoln Park, New Jersey 07035 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at New York, New York, on August 25th, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Gerald Parnes lately domiciled at 25 Sutton Place S., New York, New York 10022, admitting to probate a Will dated April 27, 2023, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Gerald Parnes deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: [X] Letters Testamentary issue to: Alissa Ploshnick *To all Parties: No in person appearances shall be made at the return date. If you wish to object to this matter, you may do so in writing in accordance with the annexed New York County Surrogate's Court Notice to Cited Parties. Dated, Attested and Sealed, June 12, 2025, Seal: HON. HILARY GINGOLD, Surrogate, Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk, Attorney for Petitioner: Steven E. Hiller, Esq. Telephone Number: 212-477-2135. Address of Attorney: 172 E. 24 St., New York, NY 10010. E-mail Address of Attorney: SHiller763@aol.com. [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 appear for you.] SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK, 31 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10007, (646) 386-5800. NOTICE TO CITED PARTIES You have been served with a citation for a matter that is scheduled to be heard at a New York County Surrogate's Court calendar. The citation that you have received contains a return date. Please do not appear in the courthouse on that date. The following choices are available to you: - If you do not object to the relief requested, you do not need to contact the court or do anything else. - If you do object to the relief sought on the citation, you or your lawyer must send a document to the court signed by you or your lawyer indicating that: 1. You object to the relief or you are requesting discovery; OR 2. You are requesting the opportunity to appear in person or by using Skype for Business or by telephone conference; OR 3. You are requesting an adjournment to consult with or retain counsel. Your written response must be received by the court three (3) business days before the return date and must include either an email address or telephone number, or both, where you or your lawyer can be reached during business hours. Your communication to the court may be sent by email to: Probate_General@nycourts.gov or by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above or you may bring it in person to the court. The attorney for the petitioner must be copied in your communication. If your written communication to the court indicates that you would like to proceed as described in choice number 1 above, your case may be referred to a court attorney-referee for a conference. The case will be adjourned to a future date, if you request the opportunity to appear in person or by electronic means or to consult or retain counsel (choices number 2 and 3). If you do not contact the court by the date on the citation, the record will reflect that you do not object to the relief requested. If an attorney plans to appear on your behalf, he or she must file a Notice of Appearance. This Notice may be filed by delivering it in person to the Probate Department of this court or mailing it addressed to the Probate Department at the address listed above or through the e-filing system (NYSCEF), at www.nycourts.gov/efile. If you have questions about responding to the citation, you may contact the Probate Department at Probate_General@nycourts.gov. Please note that court staff are prohibited from giving legal advice but they are available to answer any question about procedure. The Probate Department of the New York County Surrogate's Court. 6/17/25-8/1/25

LEGAL NOTICES

NY 10036. The principal business address of the LLC is 554 5th Ave., 5th Fl, NY, NY 10036. Certificate of LLC filed with Secretary of State of DE located at 120 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 6/27/25-8/1/25

Notice of Formation of **CAMBRIDGE ARMS PRESERVATION, L.P.** Cert. of LP filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/24/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LP: 30 Hudson Yards, Fl. 72, NY, NY 10001. Latest date on which the LP may dissolve is 6/23/2125. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Name and addr. of each general partner are available from SSNY. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/27/25-4 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Formation of **CAMBRIDGE ARMS DEVELOPER, LLC**. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/23/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 30 Hudson Yards, Fl. 72, NY, NY 10001. 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. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 6/27/25-5 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Qualification of **GALAXY BLOCKCHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/30/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Cayman Islands (KY) on 11/18/24. 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. KY address of LLC: PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-104. Cert. of Formation filed with KY General Registry Dept., 133 Elgin Ave, Box 123, Grand Cayman, KY1-9000. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/24/25-2 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Qualification of **FOLLETT HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP, LLC**. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/17/25. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Illinois (IL) on 2/10/22. 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. IL address of LLC: 3 Westbrook Corporate Ctr, Ste 200, Westchester, IL 60154. Cert. of Formation filed with IL Secy of State, 501 S. 2nd St, Rm 350, Springfield, IL 62758. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6/24/25-1 7/4/25-8/8/25

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PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2024-1889. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent. TO: Mary Joy Ratterree, New York County Public Administrator, and unknown heirs of George Boras, if living and if not, his heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, assignees, and successors in interest, if any thereby, all of such persons whose names, places of residence and post-office addresses are unknown. A petition having been duly filed by Elizabeth Williams, who is domiciled at 2394 Mariner Square Drive, Apt. 130, Alameda, California 94501. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on August 11, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of George Boras lately domiciled at 440 W 24th Street, Apt. 48, New York, New York 10011, United States admitting to probate a Will dated January 22, 2019, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of George Boras deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Elizabeth Williams. *To all Parties: No in person appearances shall be made at the return date. If you wish to object to this matter, you may do so in writing in accordance with the annexed New York County Surrogate's Court Notice to Cited Parties. Dated, Attested and Sealed, June 12, 2025, Seal: HON. HILARY GINGOLD, Surrogate, Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk, Attorney for Petitioner: Navpreet K. Gill, Esq. Firm Name: Gill & Kadochnikov P.C. Telephone: (718) 577-3261. Address: 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 600, Kew Gardens, New York 11415. Email (optional): pgill@sbagk.com 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 appear for you. SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK, 31 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10007, (646) 386-5800. NOTICE TO CITED PARTIES. You have been served with a citation for a matter that is scheduled to be heard at a New York County Surrogate's Court calendar. The citation that you have received contains a return date. Please do not appear in the courthouse on that date. The following choices are available to you: - If you do not object to the relief requested, you do not need to contact the court or do anything else. - If you do object to the relief sought on the citation, you or your lawyer must send a document to the court signed by you or your lawyer indicating that: 1. You object to the relief or you are requesting discovery; OR 2. You are requesting the opportunity to appear in person or by using Skype for Business or by telephone conference; OR 3. You are requesting an adjournment to consult with or retain counsel. Your written response must be received by the court three (3) business days before the return date and must include either an email address or telephone number, or both, where you or your lawyer can be reached during business hours. Your communication to the court may be sent by email to: Probate_General@nycourts.gov or by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above or you may bring it in person to the court. The attorney for the petitioner must be copied in your communication. If your written communication to the court indicates that you would like to proceed as described in choice number 1 above, your case may be referred to a court attorney-referee for a conference. The case will be adjourned to a future date, if you request the opportunity to appear in person or by electronic means or to consult or retain counsel (choices number 2 and 3). If you do not contact the court by the date on the citation, the record will reflect that you do not object to the relief requested. If an attorney plans to appear on your behalf, he or she must file a Notice of Appearance. This Notice may be filed by delivering it in person to the Probate Department of this court or mailing it addressed to the Probate Department at the address listed above or through the e-filing system (NYSCEF), at www.nycourts.gov/efile. If you have questions about responding to the citation, you may contact the Probate Department at Probate_General@nycourts.gov. Please note that court staff are prohibited from giving legal advice but they are available to answer any question about procedure. The Probate Department of the New York County Surrogate's Court. At the Surrogate's Court held in and for the County of New York, at the Court-house therein, on the 12th day of June in the year 2025. ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF CITATION. File No. 2024-1889. PRESENT Honorable Rita Mella Surrogate. PROBATE PROCEEDING. WILL OF George Boras Deceased. Upon reading and filing the verified petition of Elizabeth Williams propounding the Last Will and Testament of George Boras, deceased, by which the petitioner has made proof to my satisfaction: *that of the person(s) to be cited herein the whereabouts of each of the following named persons is unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained by the petitioner herein: *that they may be persons to be cited herein whose names and whereabouts are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained by the petitioner herein; NOW, on motion of Navpreet K. Gill, Esq., it is ORDERED that the service of the citation in the above entitled matter upon any persons herein above named whose whereabouts are unknown and also upon any persons whose names and whereabouts are unknown be made by publication thereof in the following newspaper: The Chief once a week in each of four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made at least twenty-eight days before the return date fixed in the citation. /s/ Rita Mella, Surrogate. *Strike inapplicable material. 6/27/25-7/18/25

PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2023-4761. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, TO Martha Ann Williams, if living and if dead, to her heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if she died subsequent to the decedent herein, to her 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 Alice Marie Jacobson, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained. Stephen Gupton, Martha Thurman, Kathey Reese Long, and New York County Public Administrator. An amended petition having been duly filed by Steven E. Hiller who is domiciled at 172 E. 24 St., New York, NY 10010. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, NEW YORK County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on August 11th, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the FORE noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Alice Marie



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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

- CLOSE JULY 22
6028 Automotive Service Worker \$42,387
- 6066 Landscape Architect \$78,740
- 6073 Mason's Helper \$46.82 per hour
- 6074 Mechanical Engineer \$78,740
- 6089 Program Evaluator (ACS) \$77,211
- 6306 Motor Vehicle Operator \$46,441
- 6307 Motor Vehicle Operator (CUNY) \$45,496
- CLOSES JULY 29
6330 Traffic Enforcement Agent \$37,126
- CLOSES JULY 31
5303 Correction Officer \$54,652
- CLOSES AUGUST 26
6029 Call Center Representative \$40,770

CUNY EXAMS

- CLOSES JULY 22
6307 Motor Vehicle Operator (CUNY) \$45,496
- CLOSES AUGUST 27
2088 Principal Custodial Supervisor \$66,728
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

- 2059 Campus Security Assistant \$39,873
- 2060 Campus Peace Officer \$40,810

MTA EXAMS

- CLOSE AUGUST 15
6600 Bus Operator (NYCT) \$28.76 per hour
- 6601 Railroad Stock Worker \$36.64 per hour
- 6602 Structure Maintainer - Group C (Iron Work) \$37.16 per hour
- CLOSES AUGUST 31
5317 Bus Operator (MTA Bus) \$28.76 per hour

NASSAU COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSE JULY 30
24021020 Information Technology Assistant Manager \$100,601-\$171,370
- 24022020 Information Technology Manager \$75,000-\$125,000
- 50022025 Attorney I, Social Services \$53,581-\$111,654
- 50032025 Audiologist I/Audiologist \$49,306-\$102,986; NHCC: \$59,748-\$84,507
- 50042025 Clinical Pharmacist

- \$120,349-\$138,858
- 50052025 Interventional Radiologic Technologist \$90,343-\$108,876
- 50062025 Mammography Technologist \$77,608-\$91,619
- 50072025 Speech Pathologist I \$68,620-\$84,507
- 50132025 MRI Technologist \$70,648-\$99,744
- 60042270 Correction Officer \$41,540-\$114,081

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
7078 CR(D) Cytotechnologist I \$74,114-\$99,744
- 7094 CR(D) Cytotechnologist II \$83,915-\$118,479
- 7095 CR(D) Cytotechnologist III \$106,880-\$144,480
- 61-639 CR Librarian I
- 60-180 CR Librarian I, Bilingual (Spanish Speaking)
- 5263 CR(D) Medical Technologist I \$79,212-\$91,619

- 5002 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Acute Care) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5003 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Adult Health) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5004 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Community Health) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5005 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Family Health) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5006 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Gerontology) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5007 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Neonatology) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5008 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Obstetrics/Gynecology) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5009 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Oncology) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5010 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Palliative Care) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5011 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Pediatrics) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5012 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Perinatology) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5013 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Psychiatry) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 5014 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Women's Health) \$96,274-\$118,479
- 3138 CR(D) Occupational Therapist Assistant \$43,176-\$81,760; NHCC: \$55,373-\$78,048
- 7288 CR(D) Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapist I \$63,872-\$97,339; NHCC: \$77,054-\$108,876
- 3139 CR(D) Pharmacist I \$102,320-\$128,481
- 3140 CR(D) Physical Therapist Assistant \$43,176-\$81,670; NHCC: \$55,373-\$78,048
- 9030 CR(D) Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist I \$63,872-\$97,339; NHCC: \$82,754-\$108,876
- 9029 CR(D) Physician Assistant I \$91,225-\$128,481
- 8049 CR(D) Radiologic Technologist (General) \$68,620-\$84,507

- 0205 Account Clerk \$42,500-\$51,891
- 0211 Account Clerk (Spanish Speaking) \$42,500-\$51,891
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
0221 Accountant
- 0220 Accountant Trainee \$47,450
- 0231 Auditor \$54,392
- 0230 Auditor Trainee \$47,450
- 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) \$49,642
- 2701 Drug Counselor \$49,642

WESTCHESTER EXAMS

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
01-155 Cardiothoracic Surgical Physician Assistant
- 02-030 Senior Assistant General Counsel
- 02-032 Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
- 02-100 Entry Level Clerk - Office Support Series
- 02-102 Data Entry Operator
- 02-107 Environmental Health Technician I \$55,975-\$68,920
- 02-108 Sanitarian Trainee \$55,975-\$68,920
- 02-110 Admissions Clerk - WCC (Spanish Speaking)
- 02-129 Senior Information Systems Clerk
- 02-140 Office Assistant (Automated Systems)
- 02-142 Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)
- 02-200 Inte02-818 Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems - Spanish Speaking) \$50,055-\$60,990

STATE EXAMS

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
20-101 Actuary Trainee (Dept. of Financial Services) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-102 Actuary Trainee (State Insurance Fund) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-103 Actuary Trainee (Teachers' Retirement System) \$41,042-\$53,549
- 20-690 Addictions Counselor I \$50,722-\$64,557

JOB HIGHLIGHT Ironworker jobs with MTA start at \$37 an hour, increase to \$43+ in 6th year

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is accepting applications through Aug. 15 for ironworkers, for practical-skills tests scheduled to begin Oct. 6.

The starting pay is \$37.16 an hour, increasing to \$43.72 in the sixth year. Benefits include night and weekend salary differentials, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, a comprehensive medical plan and a pension plan. The application fee is \$88.

THE JOB

Structure Maintainer-Group C, ironworkers, perform ironwork on subway, surface and elevated structures, including stations, enclosures and related buildings. Jobs also include other structural work as necessary, including incidental painting, and shoring, welding,

burning, rigging, high-strength bolting and rivet removal on steel columns, girders, stairways, gratings and station controls.

They also perform electric welding, brazing, acetylene cutting, and sheet metal work on bodies of multiple-unit rail cars, including repair and alteration of framing, sheeting and other rail-car-body components; load, unload and drive trucks and vans; and perform related work.

Some of the physical activities performed by ironworkers and environmental conditions they experience are working on or near tracks and where live high-voltage equipment is present, climbing and descending ladders, working on elevated structures at heights of up to 160 feet and in confined spaces, working on suspended scaffolding, reaching into dark spaces and making tactile inspections, walking along trackways and catwalks in dimly lit areas, hearing and re-

sponding to warning whistles and sounds of oncoming trains, crawling under subway cars in maintenance pits, working outdoors in all weather conditions and operating heavy machinery.

QUALIFICATIONS

By Aug. 15, applicants must either 1) have completed a four-year, full-time apprenticeship in the ironwork trade recognized by the New York State Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor or any state apprenticeship/ council which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor; or 2) have three years of satisfactory full-time experience as a journey-level ironworker and also have or have fulfilled one of the following before obtaining your journey-level experience:

- A) Two years of satisfactory full-time experience as a helper or trainee performing or assisting in the work described above; or B) Graduated from a vocational high school with a major course of study in ironwork or a closely related

field; or C) Graduated from a trade school or technical school with a major course of study in ironwork, or a closely related field, totaling 600 hours; or D) An associate degree or higher in ironwork or a closely related field.

Qualifying part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis.

REQUIREMENTS

Appointees must have a valid driver's license with no disqualifying restrictions that would preclude the performance of the duties of this title. They will be medically examined to ensure they can perform the essential functions of the position. They also must pass a drug screening in order to be appointed. City residency is not required.

THE TEST

Applicants will be given a competitive practical skills test and a qualifying climbing assessment. The tests will be given in a single session on the same day. A score

of at least 65 percent is required to pass the competitive practical skills test and a score of 100 percent is required to pass the qualifying climbing assessment. Scores on the competitive practical skills test are used to determine places on the eligible list.

SELECTIVE CERTIFICATION

Applicants with a New York City welder license, a New York State Department of Transportation 3G and 4G welder certification, or an American Welding Society D1.1 Certification, may be considered for appointment to a position through a process called Selective Certification. Those who qualify for Selective Certification may be given preferred consideration for a position that requires this certification.

For complete information on the position, including on how to apply, go to <https://www.mta.info/document/177851>.

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

ASSOCIATE CASHIER (TA)—31 eligibles (Nos. 1-31) on List 3612 for 10 jobs at NYC Transit.

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE WORKER—50 eligibles (Nos. 1-50) on List 5024 for 1 job in Department of Sanitation.

CERTIFIED IT DEVELOPER (APPLICATIONS)—37 eligibles between Nos. 35.5 and 259 on List 1149 for 5 jobs in Comptroller's Office.

COMPUTER ASSOCIATE (OPERATIONS)

—27 eligibles between Nos. 312 and 655 on List 8043 for 5 jobs in Comptroller's Office.

STOCK WORKER—5 eligibles (Nos. 31, 41, 43, 129 and 143) on List 2100 for 1 job in Department of Environmental Protection

SUPERVISOR OF STOCK WORKERS—51 eligibles (Nos. 1-51) on List 4106 for 1 job in DEP.

PROMOTION

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER—252 eligibles between Nos. 3 and 341 on List 1552 for 6 jobs in Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services.


ASSOCIATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST—62 eligibles between Nos. 17 and 139 on List 4572 for 32 jobs at Administration for Children's Services.

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LABOR AROUND THE WORLD

Nursing homes struggle with Trump's ongoing immigration crackdown

Employees increasingly afraid to come to work

BY MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

Nursing homes already struggling to recruit staff are now grappling with President Donald Trump's attack on one of their few reliable sources of workers: immigration.

Facilities for older adults and disabled people are reporting the sporadic loss of employees who have had their legal status revoked by Trump. But they fear even more dramatic impacts are ahead as pipelines of potential workers slow to a trickle with an overall downturn in legal immigration.

"We feel completely beat up right now," says Deke Cateau, CEO of A.G. Rhodes, which operates three nursing homes in the Atlanta area, with one-third of the staff made up of foreign-born people from about three dozen countries. "The pipeline is getting smaller and smaller."

Eight of Cateau's workers are expected to be forced to leave after having their Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, revoked. TPS allows people already living in the U.S. to stay and work legally if their home countries are unsafe due to civil unrest or natural disasters and during the Biden administration, the designation was expanded to cover people from a dozen countries, including large numbers from Venezuela and Haiti.

While those with TPS represent a tiny minority of A.G. Rhodes' 500 staffers, Cateau says they will be "very difficult, if not impossible, to replace" and he worries what comes next.

"It may be eight today, but who knows what it's going to be down the road," says Cateau, an immigrant himself, who arrived from Trinidad and Tobago 25 years ago. Nearly one in five civilian workers



Dining room staff listened to instructions from their manager just before the start of an Independence Day buffet service at the Toby and Leon Cooperman Sinai Residences, an independent living community in Boca Raton, Fla.

Rebecca Blackwell/AP Photo

in the U.S. is foreign born, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but as in construction, agriculture and manufacturing, immigrants are overrepresented in caregiving roles. More than a quarter of an estimated 4 million nursing assistants, home health aides, personal care aides and other so-called direct care workers are foreign born, according to PHI, a nonprofit focused on the caregiving workforce.

The aging of the massive Baby Boom generation is poised to fuel even more demand for caregivers, both in institutional settings and in individuals' homes. BLS projects more growth among home health and personal care aides than any other job, with some 820,000 new positions added by 2032.

Nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies and other such businesses were counting on immigrants to fill many of those roles, so Trump's return to the White House and his administration's attack on nearly all forms of immigration has sent a chill throughout the industry.

Katie Smith Sloan, CEO of LeadingAge, which represents nonprofit care facilities, says homes around the country have been affected by the immigration tumult. Some have reported employees who have stopped coming to work, fearful of a raid, even though they are legally in the country. Others have workers who are staying home with children they have kept out of school because they worry about roundups.

Many others see a slowdown of job applicants.

"This is just like a punch in the gut," she says.

'I'm going to Canada'

Rachel Blumberg, CEO of the Toby and Leon Cooperman Sinai Residences in Boca Raton, Florida, has already lost 10 workers whose permission to stay in the U.S. came under a program known as humanitarian parole, which had been granted to people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. She is slated to lose 30 more in the coming weeks with the end of TPS for Haitians.

"I think it's the tip of the iceberg," says Blumberg, forecasting further

departures of employees who may not themselves be deported, but whose spouse or parent is.

Blumberg got less than 24 hours' notice when her employees lost their work authorization, setting off a scramble to fill shifts. She has already boosted salaries and referral bonuses but says it will be difficult to replace not just aides, but maintenance workers, dishwashers and servers.

"Unfortunately, Americans are not drawn to applying and working in the positions that we have available," she says.

Front-line caregivers are overwhelmingly female and a majority are members of minority groups, according to PHI, earning an average of just \$16.72 hourly in 2023.

Long-term care homes saw an exodus of workers as Covid made an already-challenging workplace even more so. Some facilities were beginning to see employment normalize to pre-pandemic levels just as the immigration crackdown hit, though industry-wide, there is still a massive shortage of workers.

Some in the industry have watched in frustration as Trump lamented how businesses including farming and hospitality could be hurt by his policies, wondering why those who clean hotel rooms or pick tomatoes deserve more attention than those who care for elders. Beyond rescinded work authorizations for people living in the U.S., care homes are having difficulty getting visas approved for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses they recruit abroad.

What used to be a simple process now stretches so long that candidates reconsider the U.S. altogether, says Mark Sanchez, chief operating officer of United Hebrew, a nursing home in New Rochelle, New York.

"There are lines upon lines upon lines," says Sanchez, "and now they're saying, 'I'm going to go to Canada' and 'I'm going to go to Germany and they're welcoming me with open arms.'"

Tracking Medicaid patients' work status may prove difficult for states

As many as 1.1 million in NYS could lose coverage

BY SHALINA CHATLANI
stateline.org

States must begin verifying millions of Medicaid enrollees' monthly work status by the end of next year — a task some critics say states will have a hard time carrying out.

A provision in the tax and spending bill President Donald Trump signed into law July 4 will require the 40 states plus Washington, D.C., that have expanded Medicaid to check paperwork at least twice a year to ensure those enrollees are volunteering or working at least 80 hours a month or attending school at least half time.

The new law provides states \$200 million for fiscal year 2026 to get their systems up and running. But some experts say states will have difficulty meeting the deadline with that funding and worry enrollees might lose their health benefits as a result.

A year and a half to comply is likely not going to be enough time for most states, especially since the federal government must craft guidance on how they should implement their programs, said Dr. Benjamin Sommers, a health economist at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He predicted it will be difficult to create technology simple enough — such as a phone app — to streamline the process for all enrollees.

"Two hundred million [dollars] is not going to cover the 40 expansion states that we have," he told Stateline. "There is not a silver bullet here, and there isn't a single app out there that's going to keep people who should be in Medicaid from losing coverage. That's just not realistic."

In New York, it could cost the state \$500 million to administer the new requirements, New York Department of Health spokesper-



Aaron Schwartz/Sipa USA via AP Images

People protesting against cuts in Medicaid were detained outside the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on June 25. The Trump-led 'Big Beautiful Bill' adds additional work requirements and may cause millions of Americans to lose their coverage.

son Danielle De Souza wrote in an email.

Between 600,000 and 1.1 million individuals who are eligible for and enrolled in Medicaid could potentially lose coverage because of work reporting requirements, she wrote, based on what happened when states were required to re-check eligibility after the COVID-19 health emergency ended.

"The department will remain steadfast in its commitment to protecting the health of all New Yorkers and will work to mitigate the impacts of this law," De Souza wrote.

A spokesperson for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Hannah Jones, told Stateline that "it will take a significant amount of time and investment in order to implement work requirements."

Jones said an estimated 255,000 people in North Carolina could lose coverage because of these requirements and their "administrative burden."

"More automation reduces manual work on beneficiaries and eligibility case workers, but it requires more time, funding, and staff resources to implement," Jones wrote in an email.

The new rules apply to states that expanded Medicaid to adults between the ages of 19 and 64 with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty line (about \$22,000 for an individual), an option that was made available under the 2010 Affordable Care Act. More than 20 million people were enrolled through Medicaid expansion as of June 2024 — those are the patients who will face work requirements.

Brian Blase, president of the Paragon Health Institute, a conservative policy group that advises congressional Republicans, said he thinks concerns about the new requirements are overblown because there's more advanced technology now.

Stateline, founded in 1998, provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

Trump's deportations could cost 6M jobs, report finds

New York among states that could have most losses

BY KEVIN HARDY
stateline.org

President Donald Trump's deportation plans could cost nearly 6 million jobs, according to an analysis released last week.

If successful, Trump's goal of deporting 4 million people over four years will cost jobs held by both immigrants and U.S.-born workers, according to the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute.

EPI's analysis found California, Florida, New York and Texas will have the highest number of job losses, because of larger immigrant populations in those states.

The construction industry will see the biggest drop in employment, with an estimated 861,000 U.S.-born and 1.4 million immigrant jobs lost, according to the analysis. The child care sector is expected to lose half a million jobs.

Immigrants are a crucial component of the American economy, representing nearly 20% of the nation's workforce last year, according to federal data.

Because jobs held by U.S.-born and immigrant workers are often complementary and economically linked, the shrinking supply of im-

migrant labor can adversely affect employer demand for jobs held by both groups of workers, the Economic Policy Institute report said.

Immigrant workers are also consumers, meaning that group will spend less in local economies as their earnings and employment decline.

"Regardless of the exact mechanisms, deportations can cause a sharp and abrupt enough fall in labor supply that some employers will respond by shutting down operations entirely," the analysis said.

The major spending and tax bill Trump signed July 4 allocated \$170 billion for immigration enforcement and border protection measures. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement would be the highest-funded law enforcement agency in the country, at nearly \$30 billion through September 2029.

Already, the number of jobs being performed by foreign-born workers is declining, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

And those losses are not leading to more U.S.-born workers in the workforce, labor economist Mark Regets, a senior fellow at the National Foundation for American Policy, told Forbes this week.

That contradicts Republican claims, said Ben Zipperer, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute.

"While Trump and other conservatives claim that increased deportations will somehow magically create jobs for U.S.-born workers, the existing evidence shows that the opposite is true: they will cause immense harm to workers and families, shrink the economy, and weaken the labor market for everyone," Zipperer said in a Thursday news release.

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ICE

More than 80 people said to have entered the country illegally and working at Louisiana's Delta Downs Racetrack were taken into custody by federal immigration personnel with the help of the Louisiana State Police in June.