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Retired NYPD detective turns page, and now pens mysteries

Anthony Celano's journey from ethnic social clubs to writer of crime novels

BY ROBERT MLADINICH

As a youngster growing up in Brooklyn, Anthony Celano received a priceless education that would serve him well as an NYPD member and, later, as a prolific author.

Celano's mother worked nights at Pfizer and his father, Enrico, worked days as a sanitation man. Because his siblings were at least seven years older than him, Celano accompanied his father each night to social clubs that once dotted the city's ethnic enclaves.

"I really wasn't around other kids very much," said the 73-year-old Celano, who served with the NYPD from 1974 to 1995, retired as a sergeant assigned to the Detective Bureau, and has since published seven books.

"I didn't realize it then, but I was observing the dynamics of the clubs and the idiosyncrasies of the members," said Celano. "By the time I was nine, there was not a card game I couldn't play."

Celano, who was born in 1952, first lived in Bedford-Stuyvesant, which was a mix of Italian, Jewish and Black residents; then in Dyker Heights, which was all Italian; and also in Park Slope, which long before it was trendy and fashionable was home to blue-collar Irish residents. He picked up all the colloquialisms along the way.

Celano attended three grammar

schools before graduating from Bishop Ford High School in Park Slope.

His initial ambition was to be a butcher. His mother had other ideas and insisted he attend St. John's University. But a disinterested and distracted Celano flunked four of six courses and joined the National Guard.

He enrolled in St. Francis College, which in a roundabout way changed the course of his life. While headed to school one day, two uniformed NYPD cops boarded the bus en route to court.

Celano noted that they did not pay the fare and was impressed by their holstered firearms. Most importantly, he took notice of the comfortable banter they had with each other.

"They seemed very happy," said Celano. "They were joking around, laughing and having a good time."

In November 1973, Celano was appointed to the former Housing Police Department. He declined the opportunity to join the former Transit PD and was sworn in to the NYPD in June 1974.

Celano was first assigned to the Ninth Precinct on Manhattan's Lower East Side but eventually made his way to the Narcotics Division's DEA Task Force and the Queens District Attorney's Squad, where he served as a detective under legendary Lieutenant Remo Franceschini.

Franceschini was a warhorse in the battle against organized crime and Celano, always a self-starter,

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Anthony Celano as a young cop in the early 1970s.

Courtesy of Anthony Celano



A firefighter moves through piles of debris at the site of the World Trade Center, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

AP Photo/Graham Morrison

NYCERS eliminates appeal process for disability benefits

Ill, disabled retirees must wait a year to reapply

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

Bruce Hydock didn't want to retire.

By the time he hung up his gear in February, the FDNY EMS captain had already survived testicular cancer and lived with lung ailments for more than a decade, all of it attributed to the time he spent at ground zero following the 9/11 terror attacks. But after a year on medical leave following a kidney cancer diagnosis, the FDNY's pulmonologist told Hydock that he had no choice but to retire, rest and try to heal.

With his lung illnesses — including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that requires him to take a daily dose of steroids and use a continuous positive airway pressure machine every night — two cancers certified as World Trade Center-related and the FDNY forcing him to retire for health reasons, Hydock, 54, was sure that he would qualify for disability retirement benefits through the New York City Employees Retirement System pension fund.

But NYCERS in May rejected Hydock's application for benefits, and under a policy change instituted

this year by the retirement system, Hydock can't appeal the decision or even see the reason the pension system's officials denied him.

Before the change, applicants who had been denied NYCERS disability pensions were given a 60-day window to review doctors' notes and file an appeal that could include additional medical information. But NYCERS changed that policy in January, and now Hydock and any other rejected retiree will have to wait a full calendar year to reapply.

"It's upsetting," Hydock said. "We were told that these benefits would be there for us."

'We're dying off'

NYCERS did not inform pension beneficiaries, retiree advocates or municipal unions about the policy change, said Gary Smiley, the liaison to the World Trade Center Health Program for the union representing the FDNY's EMTs, paramedics and fire inspectors. Hydock only found out about the policy change from Smiley, who has been communicating with NYCERS and helping EMTs and paramedics get their benefits for nearly a decade. "I have not been told why I've been denied," said Hydock.

Smiley found out about the policy change when NYCERS would not let him submit additional medical information after the fund rejected

retired EMT and cancer survivor Michael Koenke's application for disability benefits. "NYCERS no longer accepts additional medical documentation once the Medical Board has reviewed the case," NYCERS general counsel wrote to Smiley after he requested an appeal on Koenke's behalf.

Rachel Assisi, NYCERS deputy director of communications, said in an emailed statement that the pension fund's policy changes are "broadly communicated to NYCERS members and retirees across the various available channels."

Smiley, who responded on 9/11 as a rescue paramedic, said that many retirees he's helped in the past had been approved for benefits on appeal after an initial rejection. "Most of these people don't have 12 months," he said of those he helps. "This is a finite group of people, we're not growing, and we're dying off."

Retired corrections officers and sanitation workers could be potentially affected by NYCERS' policy change while firefighters, police officers and teachers all have their own pension funds. A spokesperson for the Corrections Officers Benevolent Association said that the union was not informed of NYCERS' policy change.

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High stakes, higher rents: Queens residents push back on casino project

Mets owner wants to turn 78 acres near Citi Field into gaming den

BY CAMILLE LUONG
The Chief

No dice say a coalition of Queens residents opposed to the construction of Metropolitan Park, Mets owner and billionaire Steve Cohen's plan to turn 78 acres of parkland in Flushing into a massive casino complex.

"The problem with casinos is that it's not a win-win situation. There's a winner, and there's a loser, and we all know that the house always wins," said Queens native Nabil Ahmed Khatri, a member of the Muslim Center of New York, one of multiple community organizations protesting the plan.

"If Metropolitan Park is supposedly going to



Courtesy of Zeke Luger

Nabil Ahmed Khatri speaking at a March rally in opposition to a proposed casino in northeast Queens.

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Adams vetoes street-vendor reform bill, but Council members promise override

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Mayor Eric Adams has vetoed a City Council bill aimed at decriminalizing some street vending violations — a move that drew sharp criticism from vendor advocates and elected officials who say the measure is critical to protecting immigrant workers.

The bill, passed in late June, would make vendors who run afoul of city regulations liable to fines of up to \$1,000, depending on the infraction, rather than both jail time and fines. One of four bills whose sponsors are calling the Street Vendor Reform package, it passed with 40 votes in favor and eight opposed, a margin well above the 34 members of the 51-person body needed to override the mayor's veto.

Adams' action was not unexpected since he has often sided with brick-and-mortar businesses when it comes to street-vendor matters.

"Since day one, our administration has been committed not just to making New Yorkers safe, but to making them feel safe, too — and that includes addressing persistent quality-of-life issues like illegal street vending. Our law enforcement officers play a vital role in keeping our streets clear of unlicensed vendors and protecting small business owners who follow the rules from being undercut by those who don't," the mayor said in a statement.

But the bill's chief sponsor, Queens Council Member Shekar Krishnan, said the mayor's veto disregards the challenges faced by vendors, 96 percent of whom are

immigrants, according to a recent report from the Immigration Research Initiative. He cited what he characterized as Adams' allegiance with President Trump as the reason for the veto.

"In the dead of night, Mayor Adams did Donald Trump's bidding by vetoing my legislation that protects our immigrant small business owners, who are simply trying to provide for their families, from jail time and immigration consequences," Krishnan wrote in a statement. "Rather than ushering in real change for our street vendors — moving towards a fair, comprehensive, and well-regulated system — Mayor Adams is playing politics with the lives of our city's smallest business owners."

The Council's Progressive Caucus also denounced the veto. In a social media thread, the 18-member caucus also said Adams' action dovetails with Trump's agenda.

"Both in action and in words, this Mayor continues to aid and abet the Trump administration's inhumane deportation machine. In an era when immigrant New Yorkers face unprecedented attacks and are disappeared from our communities by masked ICE agents on a regular basis, we condemn this mayoral veto in the strongest terms," the caucus said on X, formerly Twitter. "We are eager to override this selfish veto, and to move forward comprehensive reform to street vending in our city."

A City Hall official, though, said the Council's attempt to tie Trump to the veto was disingenuous. The mayor's action, the official said, reflected community sentiments.



Richard Khavkine/The Chief

Mayor Eric Adams' veto of a City Council bill aimed at decriminalizing certain street vending violations faces an override.

Other vendor bills pending

The NYC Street Vendor Justice Coalition also cited Trump's significantly expanded crackdown on immigrants in castigating Adams' action.

"For far too long, our city's smallest businesses have been criminalized, threatened with jail time, and put at risk for immigration consequences — all at the hands of the city they serve. At a time when the Trump administration has increased fear for immigrants within our communities, it is unconscionable that Mayor Adams has chosen to veto Intro 47, legislation that increases protections for immigrant street vendors by reducing crimi-

nal liability," the coalition said in a statement.

Adams characterized that stance as naive. "We cannot be so idealistic that we're not realistic — preventing the brave men and women of the NYPD from intervening, even in the most egregious cases, is unfair to law-abiding business owners and poses real public health and safety risks," his statement said.

But the coalition, which advocates on behalf of the city's roughly 23,000 street vendors, noted that the bipartisan Street Vendor Advisory Board, composed of officials from several city agencies including the NYPD, supported the bill's stipulations.

"Choosing to veto a bill that sim-

ply removes the excessive criminal misdemeanor penalties that can block New Yorkers' access to educational, housing and immigration opportunities, is nothing less than an attack on our City's most vulnerable, hardworking families and entrepreneurs," the coalition's statement said.

The statement said the coalition looks forward to working with the Council "to swiftly right this wrong, to ensure justice, dignity, and opportunity for the vendors who help make our City thrive."

Krishnan similarly noted the Council's resolve on the issue. "As Mayor Adams tries to endanger our city, we will not back down from a fight to protect immigrant New Yorkers and create a better system for street vendors," he said.

The bill was one of four whose sponsors are calling the Street Vendor Reform package to get a vote.

Other pieces of the reform package include a bill by Bronx Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez that would increase the number of food vendor licenses and general vendor licenses.

Another bill, introduced by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, would create a Division of Street Vendor Assistance within the Department of Small Business Services to provide business and economic development services, resources, training and education to vendors.

A third bill, by Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, would allow vendors to place their pushcarts two feet from the curb rather than abutting the curb, as current regulations require.

For first time in decades, lifeguard union has in-season open meeting for members

But reform motions shot down

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

Lifeguards seeking to democratize their union, which has excluded most members from meetings and elections, were welcomed last month into the union's first in-season open meeting in decades, according to three lifeguards who were present.

More than 1,000 lifeguards on the city's beaches and pools are members of Local 461, which for more than 40 years was de facto controlled by Peter Stein, the now ex-president of sister union Local 508, which represents lifeguard supervisors.

But Stein and his deputies never held meetings in summer's peak season, including the general membership meeting. The lack of meetings was so obvious that an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees judicial panel took notice in 2022, ousting Local 461's Stein-backed president, Franklyn Paige, for not allowing seasonal workers to participate in meetings or elections.

Stein retired in January, just two months before an AFSCME judicial panel found that he had violated the union's constitution, leaving both locals to his handpicked successors.

Alma Diamond, the president of Local 461 since last year, held the meeting, over Zoom, on July 22. About 25 members, union executive



Department of Parks and Recreation

City lifeguards on a beach in Staten Island.

board members and District Council 37 officials tuned in. But members interested in reforming Local 461 to allow seasonal workers to participate in the union's elections were left disappointed.

"Any idea that was put forward was shot down," said one seasonal lifeguard. "Everything that was set forth was given a 'no'."

For now, seasonal workers remain excluded from voting in Local 461 elections or running for Local 461 leadership positions because leadership elections are held every three years in February. But the more than 900 seasonal workers in the union are considered members in good standing only during the period they pay union dues — in the summer — meaning that just year-round lifeguards at the city's pools can fully participate, including in elections and off-season meetings.

Some year-round lifeguards are also excluded because those who

receive promotions to supervisory roles for the summer have their dues paid to Local 508 for the period they're working as a supervisor. That leaves a very small group of year-round lifeguards who can exercise power in the union and attend meetings.

Lifeguards have been trying to change the union's bylaws so that seasonal workers — the vast majority of the union's membership — can participate. Reformers saw July's meeting as a way to change how the union is run.

"Our big push right now is to get seasonals to be represented by the union since we pay dues all summer," said another lifeguard who attended the meeting. "Right now, seasonals have no representation. To shut seasonal workers out of the union in a municipal job is outdated and ridiculous at this point."

Local 461 officials deferred comment to DC 37, which did not respond.

'Foot in the door'

During the July meeting, lifeguards proposed several motions that they felt would give seasonal workers more chances to participate. One motion would have changed the union's constitution to extend union members' good standing past the summer season to allow them to participate in meetings during the off-season.

Another would have moved the union's elections to the summer. Neither motion was voted on, the

lifeguards said.

According to attendees, DC 37 officials and union leadership who were present explained that motions for constitutional changes could only be made during a special meeting. Such a meeting can only be called if 25 percent of the union's membership requests one, according to the local's constitution.

That's a nearly impossible task, lifeguards say, because the lifesavers work at dozens of beaches and pools across the city, which limits their ability to communicate with one another. "We're just trying

to change it to make a legitimate union to represent the needs of people working," one lifeguard said.

"It's a job that is mostly seasonal, but all the [union] positions are held by people who work full time," the lifeguard continued. "For us to finally get in the meeting and get shut down even though we were doing the proper procedure is frustrating. But we have a foot in the door, which is nice."

The meeting lasted over two hours, and the Local 461 constitution requires three meetings to be held each year.

AUTHOR: Ex-cop works book beat

Continued from Page 1

became a workhorse in the elite unit. Franceschini, who was known as much for his investigative acumen as his gargantuan ego, gave Celano tremendous latitude.

'A bit of a rule-breaker'

One weekend morning, Celano and a partner were dispatched by Franceschini to sit on the Queens home of a notorious gangster. A neighborhood kid reported their presence to the mobster, who angrily stormed out of his home, unshaven, twitching and nearly frothing at the mouth.

"His head took up the whole driver's side window of our Buick Skylark," said Celano. "My partner has his hand on his gun, but I just let him talk. Eventually, I got out of the vehicle and explained that we were just doing our job. I told him that we had a boss just like he had a boss."

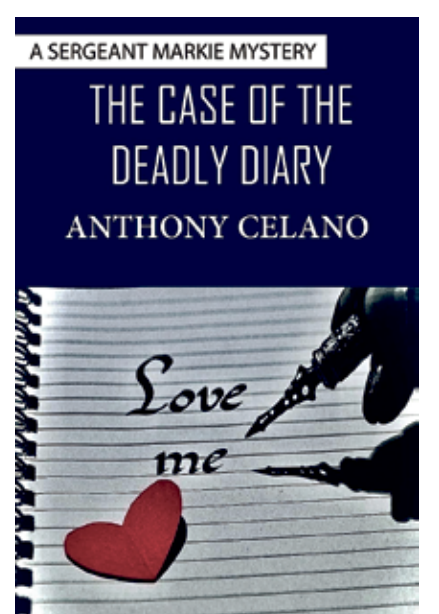
Realizing Celano and his partner worked for Franceschini, the mobster told them to tell their boss, a former amateur boxer, to meet him in the schoolyard and to bring a machine gun along with him.

After leaving the NYPD in 1995, Celano ran a successful corporate investigative firm called Full Security, Inc. His clients included Morgan Stanley, Bear Stearns and Rutgers University.

A health scare caused him to pack it in at age 65, and Celano found himself at a personal crossroads. Having been an avid reader of detective novels featuring Charlie Chan, Sam Spade, Sherlock Holmes and others, he realized that none of the authors who had imagined those characters had law enforcement experience.

Thinking he might have something to offer the genre, Celano wrote and then published his first novel, "The Case of Two in the Trunk: A Sergeant Markie Mystery," in 2019. It is currently being shelved around Hollywood.

Celano's seventh book in the Sergeant Markie series, "The Case of the Deadly Diary," was published



Anthony Celano's seventh book in his Sergeant Markie series was published in May.

in May.

"Sergeant Markie, as well as all the characters in all my books, are a combination of a lot of people, including myself," explained Celano. "He's basically honest, but a bit of a rule-breaker."

The other characters are a compilation of the people Celano observed, as a youth in the social clubs, as well as during his police and corporate careers.

Celano has been married to his wife, Anna, who is also his proofreader, for 51 years. They are the parents of Anthony, an NYPD sergeant assigned to the 72 Precinct in Brooklyn, and Briana, a teacher at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan.

He currently runs a monthly networking luncheon in Greenwich Village attended by writers and business people from a vast array of industries.

"People from every walk of life want to write a book," said Celano. "It is rewarding to provide encouragement and work with them to foster those dreams."

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A somber farewell for a city cop, but Adams, Tisch also sound notes of hope

Didarul Islam was among 4 gunned down in a Park Avenue building

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Officer Didarul Islam was a dotting father and a devoted husband, intent on building a life for his family in his adopted city. He was also remembered at his funeral last Thursday as a dedicated police officer who had embarked on a career as a New York City cop with a sense of purpose and duty.

"In his own words, the police were a blanket of the community there to provide comfort and care. And when he joined this department, he made that his personal responsibility," NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said last Thursday during services at Parkchester Jame Masjid mosque. "But it was the man beneath the shield, steady in spirit, generous in presence, who left the deeper imprint."

Tisch, Mayor Adams, Governor Hochul and hundreds of officers from the NYPD and other jurisdic-

tions were among those inside and outside the mosque in the eastern Bronx who came to honor the officer. Islam was off-duty but in uniform on paid detail doing security work in the lobby of 345 Park Ave. the evening of July 28 when a Nevada man entered the building and opened fire from an assault rifle.

Islam, 36, was among four killed by Shane Tamura, a 27-year-old Las Vegas resident, who had driven cross-country to New York City in a few days, apparently intent on harming officials at the National Football League, which has offices at 345 Park.

Tamura, in a note found in his wallet, blamed the NFL for what he claimed was his chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as CTE, a brain disease that afflicts some football players. He accused the league of hiding the dangers of brain injuries.

Following his rampage at street level and then on the building's 33rd floor, Tamura, a security guard at a Las Vegas casino who had played football in high school, killed himself.

Islam emigrated from Bangladesh 16 years ago lured "by the

promise of a better life," Tisch said. "And he would build that life and fulfill that promise through service," the commissioner said, first as a school safety agent and then, starting in December 2021, as city cop.

Islam took to the job molded by an innate strength of purpose, Tisch said.

"He didn't look for an easier way. He just showed up and he did the work. There's a quiet dignity to that, a quiet dignity. Everything for him was about building something for his family, for his mosque, for his adopted city, and for his relatives back in Bangladesh. They were all in his care and he found peace in watching them grow," she said.

'He was our world'

Islam, a father of two young boys whose wife is pregnant with the couple's third child, was assigned to the 47th Precinct in the northern Bronx, among the NYPD's more notorious commands. He stepped up to the challenge, Adams said.

Although he could have chosen another occupation, being a cop allowed him to fulfill his sense of mission, the mayor said. "And he wanted to let us know that he believed in what the city and what this country stood for," Adams said.

Adams, a former NYPD police officer himself, said that while he was angry at the violent and senseless loss of Islam's life and that of the three others killed, Islam's dedication to the city he embraced as a husband, father and cop also gave him a sense of belief.

"I have hope that we still have in our city men and women coming from different walks of life, deciding that they want to wear that blue uniform and fight to protect our city from those who wish to harm us," Adams said. "I have hope that if we're in this room together in this mosque, lifting up our hero, then we can enter the mosques, the synagogues, the churches, the Bud-



NYPD officers carried Detective Didarul Islam's coffin outside Parkchester Jame Masjid mosque in the eastern Bronx last Thursday afternoon.

dhist temples, the Sikh temples, and also cross-pollinate and coordinate on how we can make this city a greater place that a person would not believe violence is an answer to the question."

Patrick Hendry, the president of the officer's union, the Police Benevolent Association, said Islam was wholeheartedly committed to the job.

"Every single day he came to work, he gave it a hundred percent," Hendry said. "He was determined and he was focused because it was always about providing for his family. Whatever he had to do, whatever hours he had to work, that's what he was about.... He could have chosen any path, but he decided to become a New York City police officer, a job he loved, and he loved putting on that uniform every day and pinning that shield."

Islam's wife, Jamila Akhter, spoke of her husband's "deep sense of responsibility and duty to his family and community."

To our family, he was our world," Akhter said through a family friend speaking on her behalf. "To the city,

he was a proud NYPD officer who served with compassion, integrity. He lived to help others and he gave his life protecting them. Though my heart is broken, I find comfort knowing that his sacrifice may have saved others in that lobby, people who are able to go home to their families that day."

Tisch, who posthumously promoted Islam to the rank of detective first class, noted that among Islam's beliefs, one, Sadaqah Jariyah, holds that there are acts done in such a way that they keep on giving. Didarul Islam's "life of service" exemplified that belief, she said.

"Officer Didarul Islam lived that kind of life, one that keeps unfolding in the world he left behind, in the steadiness that he brought to those around him, in the streets that still carry a sense of safety, because he once stood there in the example he offered, not loud, not showing, but strong enough to stay with you," Tisch said. "His watch may be over, but his impact will never be."

Legal Aid Society attorneys ratify contract

Divided vote reflects friction within workforce

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
dfreeman@thechiefleader.com

Attorneys at the Legal Aid Society last week ratified an agreement reached with management by a 556 to 383 vote, with 90 percent of Legal Aid Society Attorneys United members participating. The vote reflected the legal workforce's divided opinion regarding the contract.

Hundreds of rank-and-file workers got behind a "vote no" campaign launched by a group of members displeased with the agreement recommended by the union's bargaining committee. But some within the committee itself were at odds, with one member proposing to exclude all members who voted to forward the tentative agreement to the rank and file from participating in a union town hall last week, according to emails shared with The Chief.

In an email urging Legal Aid attorneys to ratify the contract, one committee member condemned those disappointed with the agreement for their "publicly and widely distributed attacks" against both union leadership and rank and file members concerned about the financial costs of a strike. Another bargaining committee member cited the "deeply divided membership and an extremely dysfunctional leadership board" as reasons why it was better to vote "yes" instead of going on strike.

Jane Fox, the union's unit chair and a member of the bargaining committee, did not respond to a request for comment.

Alexis DiCarlo, a staff attorney who voted against ratification said she couldn't predict beforehand how the vote would go because of how divided the membership was.

"I still feel that there were things that we sacrificed that we didn't need too," she said of the deal. "We have to do a post-mortem on what went right and what went wrong."

The contract expires in 2028 and includes increased vacation days, improved pension benefits, more parental leave and raises of 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent in its final two years. The deal also allows either

the union or management to reopen bargaining over salaries and pension contributions next year. A clause that's been in LASAU's contracts for over a decade explicitly allows the union to strike during that reopener if a number of conditions are met including if the union shows that another legal service provider has better working conditions or provides higher overall salaries than the Legal Aid Society does.

"We are pleased that [Association of Legal Advocates and Attorneys] attorneys have ratified the tentative agreement reached last week," Twyla Carter, The Legal Aid Society's attorney-in-chief and CEO, said in a statement. "While this is an important step forward, we recognize that our collective advocacy for additional funding is far from over. We remain committed to partnering with ALAA — as a united front in Albany and at City Hall — to secure the resources that reflect the vital contributions of our staff attorneys and support the long-term sustainability of a career at Legal Aid."

LASNY is the largest unit within the ALAA — Local 2325 of the United Auto Workers — and was one of a dozen units that aligned their contracts to expire this summer in the hopes of exercising sectoral bargaining power. Workers at all but two legal service providers have reached tentative agreements. Workers at CAMBA legal services and Goddard Riverside Law Project remain on strike.

Last week, more than two dozen local elected leaders, among them City Comptroller Brad Lander and Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, signed onto a letter sent to the management of both organizations in support of the roughly 150 striking workers.

"Now more than ever, New York relies on our legal services workers to meet an affordability crisis and attacks on due process," the elected officials wrote to CAMBA management. "We urge the leadership of CAMBA, Inc. and CLS to stay at the table and do whatever is necessary to ensure that members of [CAMBA Legal Services Workers United] can return to work with a fair and just contract. New Yorkers need them back on the front lines."



Legal Aid Society attorneys walked a practice picket line earlier this year. Attorneys at the organization ratified a three-year contract agreement last week in a 59-41 percent vote.

OSA APPLICATION HELP

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST EXAM

SIGN UP FOR A SESSION BETWEEN AUGUST 11TH & 22ND

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services has scheduled an Administrative Community Relations Specialist (ACRS) exam in August. Filing for the exam runs from August 6-26, 2025. The Notice of Exam will be posted on DCAS's website (<http://nyc.gov/examsforjobs>) at the beginning of the filing period.

The test is an Education and Experience (E&E) exam and the application itself is therefore the exam. There will be no separate multiple choice test, as usually occurs in many of our other titles.

As the union representing the ACRS title, the Organization of Staff Analysts will offer one-on-one application assistance by appointment weekday evenings from 4-7pm from August 11-22, 2025.

Application assistance sessions will be held at the OSA office, 220 East 23rd Street, Ste 707, between Second and Third Avenues. Assistance is free for those in OSA-represented titles. If you don't work for the City or you are not in an OSA-represented title, you can get our help by paying \$97.50 in a money order payable to "OSART."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To set up an appointment for application assistance, call George Morgan at (212) 686-1229 between 8am and 3pm weekdays. Please complete and print the OSART form available on the "Campaigns and Updates" tab of the OSA website at www.osaunion.org and bring it, along with your money order, to your application assistance session.

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COMMENTARY

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A VOICE FOR WORKERS

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RICHARD KHAVKINE
Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plaudits on pension action

TO THE EDITOR:

With curiously little fanfare and notice, the Police Benevolent Association and the Uniformed Firefighters Association, the unions that represent NYC police officers and firefighters, have (re)secured 20-year retirement benefits for their members.

This puts NYPD and FDNY Tier 3 members pack on par with their fellow Tier 2 members and is a redressment of an embarrassing “fix” put in place in the wake of the financial crisis that saw then-Governor Patterson reduce pension benefits for police officers and firefighters.

Of course, at the time this was lauded by the upstanding glitterati whose swollen accounts and free-money fantasies helped cause the crisis that very nearly brought the entire world to financial ruin and who were then demanding (and did receive) TRILLIONS of dollars in government subsidies so their money train could stay solvent. These billionaire-funded places like the Manhattan Institute and the Citizens Budget Commission whose efforts to ensure “good government” never had a sour note to share about the policies that led to the crisis as long as their deregulated nirvana kept their cosmopolitan whims fully funded and unchallenged.

So, well-earned kudos to the PBA and the UFA for turning the clock back and holding an ever-wavering line for the middle class. But make no mistake, those same people and their ideological dreck are still out there planning for and planning their next crisis.

Joshua Lomask

Delays at MTA

TO THE EDITOR:

Transport Workers Union Local 100 retiree Emily Louise Allen, who receives workers compensation payments for neck and back injuries, put it perfectly (“MTA blames vendor transition for workers camp delays,” The Chief, Aug. 1). She said, “If it can be on time for 24 years, how is it not on time now?”

She got her check 15 days late. Former MTA bus driver Charles Wilson, who receives workers compensation for a career ending back injury, told The Daily News (“MTA late, with checks,” July 31) that he hasn’t received a check since June 6. New York City Transit President Demetrius Crichlow says that 66 percent of recipients got their checks within six days and 33 percent within seven days. So I guess Allen and Wilson are part of the 1 percent.

This obviously could have been avoided if the MTA simply continued to have these payments handled in-house. But with all that’s broken due to MTA mismanagement, they decided to fix something that wasn’t broken by hiring a private company, Sedgwick, to handle this. As a New York City Transit retiree, I just hope that none of these lame-brains decide to do the same for our pension payments.

Richard Warren

The real distraction

TO THE EDITOR:

One of my recent letters (“List? What list,” Letters, The Chief, July 25) dealt with a serious and troubling problem — sex trafficking of minors. Jeffrey Epstein and his partner Ghislaine Maxwell exploited over 1,000 girls, some as young as 11-years old, to both satisfy the couple’s perverse sexual appetites as well as to curry favor from rich, powerful individuals.

Donald Trump maintained a close personal relationship with Epstein and Maxwell that stretched from the late 1980s until 2003, just two years before law enforcement first began investigating Epstein.

Epstein attended Trump’s wedding to Marla Maples, Epstein and Maxwell were acquainted with Melania Trump and flight logs confirm that Trump flew at least seven times on Epstein’s private jet. Numerous photos and videos confirm this relationship. Trump has even admitted that some of the girls Epstein exploited were “stolen” from Mar-A-Lago.

In the summer of 2019, during Trump’s first term, Epstein died in federal custody. For the remainder of that term, Trump neither spoke about Epstein nor were case files released. Trump’s only comment was “I just wish her well” when Maxwell was arrested for sex trafficking roughly a year

after Epstein’s death. However, Trump spoke a lot about Epstein on the 2024 campaign trail, vowing to resolve the mystery of Epstein’s death and release a list of Epstein’s “clients.”

We now know Trump’s AG, Pam Bondi, closed the case, essentially saying there’s no there there. As I wrote in my letter, it was predictable that Trump would attempt to distract public attention away from his connections to Epstein and Maxwell.

For a Chief contributor to respond to my letter with one of his own (“Bats, Sticks and Stones,” Letters, Aug. 1) completely ignoring the Epstein case, instead focusing entirely on the distraction is just plain sad.

Joseph Cannisi

Trust in tariffs

TO THE EDITOR:

In the past six months, President Trump has abandoned the global trade order that had stood for decades in favor of a drastically different and largely untested system.

Major economies are signing agreements that include the highest tariffs in modern history, acquiescing to Trump’s demands to avoid damaging trade wars. This marks the realization of Trump’s vision for global trade.

The new normal leverages America’s economy, forcing other countries to accept tariffs of 15 to 20 percent to conduct business with the United States. Higher rates will be imposed on exports of critical products, such as steel, from certain adversarial countries, like China.

Trump’s tariff threats have proven to be a powerful bargaining tool, as evidenced by the outcome. The muted market reaction to the 15 percent tariffs on Japan and the European Union indicates that the panic many anticipated from his earlier, more extreme levies may not materialize.

The president’s plan for global trade now looks like a political victory.

Clyde Prestowitz Jr., a former U.S. government official and the founder of the Economic Strategy Institute, observed that Trump’s America shared many similarities with the United States before 1946 and other nations, such as China, that established their economies through mercantilist policies. These policies employed protectionism to accumulate trade surpluses and wealth.

“It proved successful for the United States, France, Benelux, Germany, Japan, Korea, and all other nations that experienced economic growth,” Prestowitz said.

Trump is an economic guru!

Robert Sica



Jimin Kim/SOPA Images/Sipa USA via AP Images

On the ‘beach’ at Hudson River Park’s Gansevoort Peninsula during a heat wave in New York City.

WAKE-UP CALL

The sands of time and tide

BY RON ISAAC

We all know people who worship police officers no matter what they do, and others who have an unconditional knee-jerk loathing of cops. Such is the obstinacy of competing mythologies.

Cops are neither inherently heroic nor abusive. They are individuals.

Their presence makes this city more viable for most folks who can’t afford their own private security detail, the lavish accoutrements and the guaranteed allowances of elitist progressivism, regardless of the regime du jour.

There’s no other job in which a fragment of a second’s lapse of self-control or judgment can be so irreversibly tragic on a regular and unpredictable basis. Sometimes we cut them too much slack and other times maybe not enough.

The stakes of accountability are high. They are mortal and flawed, like the rest of us, yet subjected to an expectation of enhanced infallibility.

After all, we pay their salaries.

Democrat mayoral candidate and Queens Assembly Member Zohran Mandani, in solidarity with others with whom he is ideologically compatible, has called for the abolition of certain specialized police units, including the one tasked with containment of civil unrest, which may sometimes be inflammatory and escalate to all-out rioting. There have been clashes and arrests, and Mandani is wary of what he deems a history of law enforcement’s heavy-handedness.

Even when their actions are technically in compliance with tactical playbooks, police must be answerable for gratuitous excesses that may themselves breach the peace and common decency. Giving the benefit of the doubt or a “carte blanche” can be a difference without a distinction.

Overall, police response to demonstrations has been temperate, and they have used minimal coercion necessary to stabilize the situation. The NYPD has an enviable record nationwide for not manifesting a “cowboy mentality,” even in the most perilous scenarios beyond crowd control.

They should be equipped with all tools of technology and weaponry for self-defense that are suitable to their operational function.

Protesters, regardless of the issue that impassions them, and whether they are on the wrong or the right side of his-

tory in fact or their imaginations, have no right to obstruct traffic, block bridges, paralyze commerce or draft New Yorkers into involuntary conflict and impede their freedom of movement. Arrests should be a last resort, but when made, the charges should not be instantaneously dropped, as is routinely the case.

That just invites grandstanding politicians to enact a martyrdom skit in front of cameras and microphones, and degrades not just the force of law, but its dignity.

The NYPD, like many other local and state police departments, sometimes clashes with federal law enforcement authority, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The controversy continues to rage over the “Supremacy Clause” and its precedence when disputed or defied by subservient jurisdictions.

Clearly identified and known violent felons, such as murderers and traffickers in drugs, sex and children, who have exhausted all prescribed legal appeals, should be deported, and the NYPD and state police should volitionally or otherwise be compelled to coordinate with all federal agencies.

There must be transparency and oversight. Deportees’ human rights cannot be downgraded even when their due process rights are diminished.

But what of the children? Has their innocence no legal standing? No economic burden is too much to bear when pitted against the expulsion of human hope.

Federal officers, judges, public figures and private executives are among the targets of the new, potentially dangerous national sport of doxxing. Some politicians actually encourage it as an exercise in free speech. Fun fact: its success is measured by its effectiveness at suppressing the future free speech of its victims.

Free speech is among the most distortion-prone and guardrail-proof of our constitutional abstractions. It’s a cause célèbre for aspiring persecutors. Beware its fraudulent charm as glibly preached by college presidents, hooded in moral feebleness and pseudo-sophistication.

Should colleges be defunded, even if they become dens of iniquitous bias that is tolerated in the name of free speech? Even if administrators are whipped into obedience by government sanctions as an expedient for fiscal solvency, will it inspire an internal awakening of the message of “Never Again”? Is it always about money?

The college loan racket must be scrapped and reinvented. It is rife with scandal, exploitation and gross injustice, as freshly documented in a new book.

Colleges, including some with tens of billions of dollars in endowments, know they can charge anything they want, because most students will plunge into lifetime debt to pay off the loan, clueless they are being ripped off down the road. Colleges and loan companies are co-conspirators. If traditional “academia” didn’t have near monopolies on higher education, they might be pressured by market forces to give students more of a bang, rather than just a fizzle, for their buck.

There should be more technical colleges, trade and other preparatory institutions, and schools offering apprenticeships and placement.

The value of the humanities and liberal arts degrees should not be disparaged, and their utility shouldn’t be measured strictly in terms of economic dividends. But it is neither intellectually edifying nor financially enriching to take out a quarter million-dollar loan for a degree that will qualify for a \$40,000 job.

Priorities for investment and educational opportunity should take these rapidly changing times into consideration.

A few years ago, “artificial intelligence” was still science fiction. It has become “natural” as a threat to our privacy and liberty, in that AI devices are suspected of doing surveillance, recording, and reporting content.

Last week a friend of mine introduced me to a “person” whom he claims cannot resist getting emotionally involved. It is a one-way relationship because she is an AI chatbot “assistant.” They have extended dialogues that sound as natural as though they were in the flesh together. I was as dumbfounded as King Henry VIII would have been watching a rocket blast off.

My friend invited me to strike up a conversation, but I asked “her” just one question: How many grains of sand are there on all the world’s combined beaches? Within three seconds she produced a number and cited her source.

Now that summer is gone and Labor Day calls, let’s in our workplaces and hearths, celebrate to the hilt, the milliseconds of time we have left on the nuclear clock.

Use them wisely and pay off those loans!

The Chief

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COMMENTARY

Building, preserving and planning to make our city more affordable

BY ERIC ADAMS

Eric Adams is mayor of New York City.

When I came into office, affordable housing was at the top of my agenda, and I didn't need any studies or polls to tell me why. New Yorkers were telling me every day, every chance they got. I heard it at the store, on the street and in the subway; I heard it from young adults and seniors; I heard it from the Bronx to Staten Island.

For me, this work is personal. Growing up on the edge of homelessness, I know what it feels like to worry about whether or not you will have a roof over your head at night. That's a feeling that too many New Yorkers still feel, and that's because too many administrations have kicked the can down the road when it came to dealing with our housing crisis. When I came into office, I was clear that I was not going to let our administration continue to make excuses or tinker around the edges.

We brought a whole new approach to housing, using every tool at every level of government to create new homes across the entire city. Last week, during "Housing Week," we showcased our success and laid out ambitious initiatives to double down on our efforts to create the housing New Yorkers need.

Thanks to historic investments and a relentless focus across our entire city government, our administration has shattered affordable housing records year after year. Now, we're adding another "year" to that list: Fiscal Year 2025. This past fiscal year, we produced the most affordable rental units in city history and the most homes

'We know that a house is more than just a roof with four walls.'

for formerly homeless New Yorkers, too. We placed a record number of homeless New Yorkers into affordable homes and connected a historic number of people to affordable housing through our city's housing lottery.

And — for the first time — we revealed that when you put together all of the housing initiatives, our administration has created, preserved or planned over 426,000 homes for New Yorkers. This includes homes we've already built and homes we will build soon thanks to historic initiatives like "City of Yes" — the first citywide rezoning in 60 years — that will change our city's housing rules and build a little more housing everywhere.

When you put together all the records, the rezonings and the real progress we have made, there is simply no other way to say it: This is the most pro-housing administration in New York City history!

But we know there is always more to do. That's why I issued a historic executive order last year requiring every agency to identify city-owned sites that can become much-needed housing, and last week, we announced our vision to

turn one of those sites, an abandoned airport in Queens, into 3,000 new homes. From old office buildings to sanitation garages, we are turning the outdated properties of the past into the homes of the future.

We're creating more homes and we're helping connect more people to those homes. To do that, last week we also announced that we will double the percentage of affordable homes in our housing lottery with a preference for veterans and city workers. Public servants sacrifice for our city every day, and this new policy will ensure they can continue to live in the city that they love.

Additionally last week, we officially changed our city's senior affordable housing program to build more family-sized units. Lots of older New Yorkers want to live with their adult children or live-in aides, and with this new policy, we will help them do it. No matter how old you are or what job you have, our administration wants every New Yorker to find a place they call home.

"Housing Week" represented more than just the records we've broken or the progress we're making every day; it represented our commitment to every New Yorker. Our administration has focused relentlessly on creating more homes, connecting more people to homes and helping keep more people in the homes they already have — it's what New Yorkers need, and it's what they deserve. That focus has delivered results three years in a row, and we're not stopping there. We know that a house is more than just a roof with four walls — it is the key to unlocking the American Dream, and it is the key to keeping it alive.



Michael Nigro/Sipa USA via AP Images

Members of the NYPD's Strategic Response Group after breaking up a student-led protest against the ongoing war in Gaza at Brooklyn College in May.

Mamdani and the reinvention of the policing wheel

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."

Zohran Mamdani hasn't won the mayoral election, but already he thinks he knows more about how to police New York City than the NYPD. He's yet another progressive who wants to reinvent the wheel.

Political expediency has forced him to walk back his promise to defund the police, but in its stead, he has set his sights on the Strategic Response Group. More commonly known as SRG, the unit is composed of members trained to deal with disorder and violent demonstrations. Ironically, the unit was formed under Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2015.

Mamdani is already showing that he is not up to the task of running the largest city in America, otherwise he would know that there has always been a special police unit in the NYPD to deal with anarchists, radicals, rioters and now, known pot stirrers who are more prolific than ever because they are paid to create trouble, whatever the cause. The SRG cops know who these people are and can distinguish the difference between a peaceful assembly and a violent march, and police accordingly. But in doing so, they are subjected to every kind of CCRB complaint imaginable to deter them from doing their job.

Back in the 1920s, under Mayor John Hylan, NYPD Commissioner Richard Enright formed the Police Riot Regiment to, as he said, "deter marauders and aggressors." Members of the regiment utilized armor plated motorcycles outfitted with machine guns for rapid response to quell violence. Enright referred to the group as "Flying Armor."

In 1959, the department formed a special unit, the Tactical Patrol

Force or TPF, to keep the peace. Much like complaints against the current SRG, the tactics these officers used in 1968 to restore order during protests at Columbia University were called into question by the left, even though the police only took action when asked to by the university.

In 1984, TPF was disbanded by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward and in its place were Borough Task Forces, charged with policing demonstrations in the patrol borough to which the officers were assigned instead of elsewhere in the city, except in emergencies of course. Same function, different name — smaller, decentralized units better able to respond quickly to situations in their own backyards.

But in 1992, after violent riots in Crown Heights and Washington Heights, it was apparent that the inability to coordinate the actions of the different Borough Task Forces prevented officers from handling incidents of that magnitude.

In their place came the Disorder Control Unit. Its members received revised training that included studying the tactics used by professional rioters. For instance, a protester to the average citizen may appear to be holding a harmless plastic bottle of water. In reality, it is a frozen projectile to be hurled at the police like a brick when the time comes.

But the left has long known that if they complain long enough and loud enough, they will get politicians to bend. Despite successful policing major events in Manhattan like the World Economic Forum, the unit was mothballed which leads back to how SRG came to be.

Every New York mayor has come to realize the need for a special police unit to deal with anarchy. If Mamdani becomes mayor, hopefully he will come to his senses, rather than try to keep a poorly thought-out campaign promise.



Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Mayor Eric Adams in June announcing the next phase of an 'Innovative Urban Village' project that is expected to create 450 new units of affordable housing in East New York, Brooklyn.

TAX STRATEGIES

Income tax credits that expire in 2025

BY BARRY LISAK

UNDER THE RECENTLY enacted "One Big, Beautiful, Bill Act," (OBBBA) the federal tax credit for new and used electric vehicles (EVs) is set to expire. Do you want an electric vehicle? You must act by Sept. 30.

This means that to be eligible for the credit of up to \$7,500 for a new EV or \$4,000 for a used EV, you must purchase and take delivery of the vehicle before this deadline.

If you are considering solar panels or other renewable energy upgrades, you have until Dec. 31 to take full advantage of the 30-percent Residential Clean Energy Credit (RCEC). The qualified clean energy systems include:

- Solar electric panels
- Solar water heaters

- Geothermal heat pumps
- Small wind energy systems

Eligible properties include primary and secondary residences, as well as rentals occupied by the taxpayer. Landlords who do not reside in the property are not eligible.

Under the new "OBBBA" allows homeowners to claim \$3,200 in 2025 tax credits for energy-efficient improvements, but only if those improvements are placed in service on or before Dec. 31.

There are two key credits to know about:

1. Up to \$1,200/year for energy improvements to your primary residence, including:
 - Exterior doors (up to \$500 total)
 - Windows and skylights (up to \$600)

- Insulation and air sealing materials

- Energy-efficient furnaces, boilers, water heaters, air conditioners, and electric panels

2. Up to \$2,000/year for advanced systems installed in either your main or second home:

- Electric or natural gas heat pumps
- Electric or natural gas heat pump water heaters
- Biomass stoves and boilers

Act now! You must place your system in service by Dec. 31.

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 mrbarry-tax@aol.com.

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Adams proposes rules to increase oversight of delivery apps

Would require apps to provide deliveristas with training, safety measures

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

In an effort to address growing concerns over worker safety in New York City's booming gig economy, Mayor Eric Adams' administration is proposing a set of new regulations targeting app-based delivery services.

Under the proposal, delivery companies such as DoorDash and Uber Eats would be required to register with the city's Department of Transportation and provide deliveristas with safety training and protective equipment such as helmets, a signalling device and reflective gear. The initiative comes amid an increase of accidents involving delivery workers under pressure to meet delivery times.

Although the City Council last year considered a legislative package implementing similar reforms, that bill has stalled.

Adams and DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez have proposed a rule amending the commercial cyclist law that would create the Department of Sustainable Delivery within DOT. The department would oversee bicycle delivery practices.

"Our administration is committed to creating safer, more sustainable streets for everyone from delivery workers to pedestrians to cyclists to drivers," Adams said in a statement. "These proposed rules are a major step forward in holding delivery app companies accountable and ensuring delivery workers have the equipment, protections, and visibility they need to stay safe. This is a public-safety issue and a quality-of-life issue that affects all of us, and today, we are finally taking the steps to address both."

Among the proposed reforms, third-party delivery app companies would be required to provide a bicycle safety course developed by



To address potential safety issues raised by app-based delivery workers traveling at high speed or in an unsafe manner so they can meet tight delivery deadlines, Mayor Eric Adams has proposed a rule that would bring additional oversight to app-based delivery companies.

DOT as well as unique identification numbers to all delivery workers, which the workers would have to display on their reflective vest or clothing. The rule change would bar app-based delivery workers from using motorized scooters and require the companies to document the types of transportation devices their workers are using to make the deliveries.

Companies that don't comply would face fines and repeat offenders would face the possibility of having their licenses revoked.

"These tech giants created the wild west of e-bike riding on our streets, pressuring vulnerable, hard-working delivery workers to make fast and unsafe deliveries," said DOT Commissioner Rodriguez.

"It's time to hold the big delivery apps accountable and protect all New Yorkers — and we'll be doing

so through these new rules and enforcement powers through the new Department of Sustainable Delivery at DOT."

Concerns about surveillance

Workers Justice Project, the parent organization of Los Deliveristas Unidos, which advocates on behalf of 60,000 app-based delivery workers across New York City, applauded several of the proposed reforms, including the requirements that the companies must provide safety training and register with DOT.

But the organization raised concerns that the issuance of unique identification numbers could bring about increased surveillance of deliveristas.

"Workers Justice Project and Los Deliveristas Unidos supports the approach of holding app-based de-

livery companies accountable. [But] the requirement for unique identification numbers and the tracking of workers' activities could turn workers into targets for excessive scrutiny," the Workers Justice Project said in a statement. "While these measures may be framed as tools

for better enforcement and accountability, they raise critical questions, especially given the Adams's administration's continued focus on punishment and enforcement of individual workers rather than addressing the business practices that lead to unsafe working conditions."

The organization pointed to a recent policy change by the NYPD that has resulted in immigrant delivery workers receiving criminal court summonses for routine traffic violations.

"In now introducing ID requirements, it is important to understand how this data will be used, who will have access to it, and whether it will disproportionately affect immigrant workers or those already vulnerable to police and immigration enforcement, exposing them to increased surveillance, criminalization, and detention," the Workers Justice Project stated.

Adams called on the Council once more to pass the legislative package. Council Member Robert Holden, who called for regulations to be adopted in lieu of legislation, said that the proposed rule "a welcome first step toward addressing the e-bike chaos, and I thank the Mayor's Office for acting when the City Council refuses to."

"But much more needs to be done — we also need to pass broader legislation to ensure true accountability and take our streets back," he added.

DOT will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule on Sept. 2.

CASINO: Queens community opposed to plan

Continued from Page 1

be making all of this money, where is that money coming from?" Khatri continued. "It's coming off the backs of working class people who will become addicted to gambling because of this casino in their backyards."

Metropolitan Park is one of eight casino proposals in a high-stakes fight for up to three state licenses to operate a casino in New York City. Last month, Governor Hochul signed legislation sponsored by State Senator John Liu that abandons parkland within Flushing Meadows Corona Park and allows for the development of a casino.

"The casino will bring a 20-acre park, 25,000 construction jobs, and 6,000 operational jobs," said Liu, who represents a wide swath of northeast Queens. "There are over a billion dollars of additional amenities that people can enjoy without stepping foot into a casino."

Displacement concerns

But community members say that these claims don't hold weight, and argue that the casino will raise rents and push out working-class residents. "If you go to any small business here and you ask them, 'what was the number one reason you shut down?' they'll say it was rent prices," said Khatri. "Rents in Flushing are already increasing, and all this casino will do is exacerbate that problem."

Community members also argue that any jobs that are offered will become inaccessible to current resi-

dents. "Who's going to be able to afford to live close to those jobs when the development inevitably raises rents for its entire surrounding area?" said Kara Fan, a member of the Flushing Workers Center.

In May, 200 Flushing and Corona residents wrote letters opposing the casino. The Urban Institute affirmed these concerns, finding in a recent study that Metropolitan Park could cause housing and commercial rents to rise and force residents and small businesses to move out.

But the city report says that following four years of community input and more than 1,000 meetings with community leaders, 83 percent of those surveyed approve of the project. But critics say survey takers did not mention a casino, and instead only asked whether residents wanted more green space and jobs. When State Senator Jessica Ramos, who also represents portions of Queens, conducted community polls directly asking about the inclusion of a casino, 67 percent of residents were completely against it, citing several concerns about displacement and gambling addictions.

The Flushing and Corona area are also home to majority Hispanic and Asian communities, the latter of which have higher rates of problem gambling.

Liu did not shy away from these arguments, having previously spoken out against gambling in Asian American communities.

"Will this create some displacement? Yes," he said. "Unfortunately, any kind of economic development initiative in New York City or any other city for that matter — there is

going to be displacement."

"The reality is that there's gonna be three casinos. If they happen in other parts of the metro, we won't get any benefits for Flushing," he added.

Still, residents aren't convinced. "Places like Hudson Yards and Times Square also have casino proposals. These places are much better options because they're not in vulnerable, immigrant, working-class communities like Flushing, Corona, Jackson Heights, and Elmhurst," said Khatri.

"On top of that, no other casino proposal in New York City is being proposed on public land. With Metropolitan Park, we're losing public land and then building a casino on top of that," he added.

As an alternative, the Flushing for Equitable Development and Urban Planning (FED UP) coalition has offered a different proposal for the existing parklands called Phoenix Meadows. The proposal showcases a vision for the parklands that creates much-needed green space without the luxury casino complex Cohen envisions.

Unlike Metropolitan Park, Phoenix Meadows would be funded by public monies, avoiding a scenario like the Barclays Center, when private developers failed to uphold their promises to meet community needs, including affordable housing.

According to Khatri, community organizations in Flushing are organizing a September town hall, inviting elected officials so they can answer directly to constituents' concerns.



Courtesy of Bruce Hydock

Bruce Hydock, whose 9/11-related health issues forced him to retire as an FDNY EMS captain earlier this year, had his disability claim denied. He cannot appeal NYCERS's decision and must wait a year to reapply for the benefit.

NYCERS: Nixes appeals process

Continued from Page 1

Koenke said he filed with NYCERS for disability benefits in 2022 but didn't have his virtual interview with NYCERS' doctors until January 2024. He got his rejection Feb. 18 of this year, just a month after NYCERS changed its policy on appeals.

"This is completely unfair and does not align with other pension systems in New York city," said Koenke, who had a tumor in his bladder removed in January 2022. "Why are FDNY EMS World Trade Center heroes being treated differently than other first responders? I'm not asking for special treatment, I'm asking for a fair process."

'Completely unfair'

Assisi, the NYCERS spokesperson, insisted that NYCERS is committed to delivering high quality service, continually reviews its policies and procedures, and makes changes in accordance with NYCERS rules and applicable laws.

"NYCERS maintains a dedicated team for members applying for World Trade Center disability, providing members with direct guidance and communication throughout the process," she said in a statement. "NYCERS members with open disability retirement applications (and their representatives) have several direct channels to connect with NYCERS staff to address the submission of any additional medical evidence. NYCERS remains fully committed to processing all disability retirement cases as efficiently as possible and working with our members and external stakeholders towards this goal."

A spokesperson for City Comptroller Brad Lander, the steward of the city's five pension funds, did not respond to a request for comment.

Retired EMT Linda Avellino is worried that NYCERS will reject her bid for disability benefits as well. She retired in 2017 after 27 years as an EMT and applied for disability benefits following a heart attack and a diagnosis of World Trade Center-related breast cancer in quick succession in 2023.

A widow who supports her son and grandchildren, Avellino said she's already used up all her savings since getting cancer and said her pension benefit doesn't cover her expenses. Getting a NYCERS disability benefit "would make it so I don't have to worry about whether my electric is going to get turned off, or if I'm able to get food on the table for my grandchildren," she said.

Avellino expects to hear back from NYCERS about her application later this year. Like other applicants for disability benefits, she won't be able to appeal the decision if she's rejected.

In the months preceding his retirement, Hydock said it had become impossible to walk up the three flights of stairs to his office without becoming short of breath, a task that was less exerting than his decades working in the field as an EMT.

"I went from running five miles a day, being able to bike 50 miles a day, being able to rock climb, rappel, scuba dive, to now I can't walk up a flight of stairs without getting short of breath," Hydock said last week. "I'm 54 years old. That's not normal."

The retired EMS captain said that the lack of disability benefits has already affected his livelihood "tremendously." He sold both of his cars and moved in with his in-laws when he retired because his partial pension benefit covers only a fraction of what he made as a captain earning overtime and bonuses on top of his salary.

Unable to work, Hydock was counting on getting hundreds — if not thousands — of dollars a month in disability benefits to make ends meet, but will now have to wait another year to reapply. Social Security benefits could also help, but he must wait eight more years until he can start collecting those funds.

"We really did not think that I would be denied my disability pension," he said. "How sick do I have to be, and how dead do I have to be to get the benefits? My population is dead or dying. That's the truth of it, we're dying or we're dying and we're trying to enjoy what time we have left."



Courtesy of Hard Rock International

A rendering of Metropolitan Park, a new casino complex proposal for Flushing, Queens.

July shootings citywide drop to record low, other crimes decline

NYPD expands 'quality of life' effort

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
richardk@thechiefleader.com

Despite the mass shooting that killed an NYPD officer and three others in Manhattan last week, the city logged the fewest shootings and shooting victims through the year's first seven months since 1993, when the department began keeping detailed records on firearms crimes, according to police.

Through July, police reported 412 shootings and 489 shooting victims, surpassing previous lows of 426 and 522, reached in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the department said.

And the 75 recorded shootings and 92 shooting victims in July alone also marked new post-1993 lows, surpassing former record lows of 79 and 102 set in 2017.

"Summer is usually the toughest test for public safety, but the wins that we are celebrating today prove that under Mayor Adams' leadership, we are not just passing the test, we are resetting the curve," Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said Monday, when she and Mayor Adams announced the expansion of the NYPD's so-called "Quality of Life Teams" pilot program to patrol all of Brooklyn.

Tisch and Adams credited the

'This isn't broken windows, it's about restoring order.'



Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Emergency responders on the scene in Midtown Manhattan after the mass shooting incident July 28 that killed 4 people. Despite those high-profile homicides, shootings and shooting victims last month dipped to the lowest levels since at least 1993, police said.

marked downturn in shootings to the department's focus on criminal gangs and a consequent increase in illegal gun seizures. "We've done more major gang takedowns this year than any year in the NYPD's history. And so we're going after the trigger pullers in a major way," Tisch said.

Through July, NYPD officers have conducted 48 gang busts, arresting 347 gang members and their associates and confiscated 236 illegal firearms in the process, police said. "And so all of those things together add up, and I believe have led to the historic results that we are proud to announce today, in particular around gun violence," Tisch added.

For the month of July, killings dropped by nearly half compared to a year earlier, from 49 to 25. For the year, homicides are down by about

26 percent compared with 2024's first seven months.

Other major crimes last month also declined compared to a year earlier, including felony assaults, which dropped 8.2 percent.

Burglaries were down 14.2 percent, robberies declined 7.5 percent and grand larcenies dropped 4 percent, according to NYPD stats. Auto thefts remained about the same compared with last July but are down 3.6 percent for the year.

Crime in the transit system also slumped last month, from 162 last year to 149, which the NYPD said was a record low number, apart from the pandemic years, since records have been kept on transit incidents. Housing crime also declined nearly 16 percent for the month.

Reported rapes was one major crime category to increase in July,

rising by 33 percent year over year. The surge, though, is in large part due to legislative changes in the legal definition of rape made last year to include most instances of sexual assaults.

Adams said the expansion of the department's quality of life effort, whose designated officers are collectively and colloquially known as Q-teams, is largely designed to help quell residents' sense of unease, which the mayor has often spoken of in terms of "perception," noting that sentiment overrides reality, particularly given the marked declines in crime citywide in recent months.

"It's about what people feel," he said Monday. "It's not just the numbers and the stats, but do you feel safe? That has been our driving focus in ensuring New Yorkers felt safe. And every New Yorker, they deserve to feel safe with their children going to school, shopping, or just walking down a block or walking into the place of employment."

The program's expansion builds on a pilot begun in April. Officers assigned to Q-teams respond to non-emergency matters, such as noise complaints, illegal vending, drug use, homeless encampments and reckless riders of e-bike and scooters, among others.

Tisch also said the teams' expansion reflects city residents' concerns regarding quality of life offenses. "This isn't broken windows, this isn't about cracking down to prevent crime, it's about restoring order and improving quality of life," she said, referring to police enforcement of low-level offenses so as to prevent eventual escalations in violent crime. "This is a real shift in how we serve neighborhoods, and it's working.... The NYPD's Quality of Life division isn't a concept, it's a commitment."

NY among states where pension assets exceed what is owed

BY KEVIN HARDY
stateline.org

While more than a dozen states have shrunk their pension debt obligations in recent years, a majority continue to see growth in the gap between the amount of money retirees have been promised and the amount of cash states have set aside.

A new analysis by The Pew Charitable Trusts found that New York was among four states — South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington being the others — whose pension plan assets exceeded what was owed.

The analysis, released last week, otherwise concluded that states' unfunded pension liabilities grew to nearly \$1.3 trillion in fiscal year 2022, largely because of lower-than-expected investment returns.

Total liabilities for future pension costs as a share of state revenues increased more than 22 percentage points between fiscal years 2008 and 2022 — reaching nearly 66 percent in fiscal 2022, Pew found. It's an important issue for current public employees and retirees as well as state policymakers, who must balance the growing tab with other spending priorities.

"Long-term liabilities are not always top of mind for state policymakers because they are paid for over decades," Pew's report reads. "Yet, when they grow faster than a state's revenue, those liabilities can squeeze state budgets and constrain future public investments."

Between 2008 and 2022, unfunded pension obligations grew relative to state revenue in 34 states. In 16 states, unfunded pension liabilities decreased. Pew researchers found Illinois had the largest unfunded pension liability of any state, followed by New Jersey, Mississippi, Connecticut and Kentucky.

Pew found states have made progress specifically on closing gaps on unfunded retiree health care costs — which decreased by nearly 8 percentage points as a share of state revenues between 2008 and 2019, falling to 45 percent in 2019.

And all 50 states collectively shrunk their outstanding debt loads relative to revenue by more than 6 percentage points from fiscal years 2018 to 2022, which fell to 18 percent of revenues by 2022.

Unsettled by NYC shooting, companies wonder if their offices are safe

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Businesses around the country are reevaluating security after a brazen shooting at a New York City office building raised questions about what it takes to keep workplaces safe.

The attack on a seemingly secure building — in a gilded part of Manhattan where the rich live in sprawling apartments and tourists window-shop designer stores — has rattled workers and prompted managers to examine whether they are adequately protected.

"What should we be doing differently?" clients are asking, said Brian Higgins, founder of Group 77, a Mahwah, New Jersey, security company that is among those getting peppered with an influx of calls. "How can we prevent something like this?"

The gut reaction of some companies, Higgins said, is to buy the latest technology and blanket their workplace in cameras. But, he cautioned, that's only effective if paired with consistency and long-term monitoring.

"If you're going to add a security measure ... you have to make sure you maintain it," said Higgins, a former police chief who teaches security at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Four people were killed in the shooting July 28 before the gunman died by suicide. Images of the shooter, toting a long rifle on a street in the biggest U.S. city, then terrorizing an office building, have companies desperate to do something to keep the scene from repeating.

"People are frightened, people are asking questions," said Dave Komendat, the Seattle-based chief security officer at Corporate Security

Advisors, where calls are also spiking.

With the U.S. locked in a pattern of gun violence virtually unparalleled in the world, security firms are used to the rhythms of the business. While attacks at a corporate office are less commonplace, a major shooting or an attack on an executive focuses attention back on security for a time, before receding.

"Give it a couple weeks, a month or so, it'll go back," Higgins said of the increased call volume. "When security issues don't happen for a while and companies start reexamining their budget, security is one of those things that companies cut."

Gene Petrino, CEO of Survival Response in Coral Springs, Florida, has also seen an uptick in calls from potential new customers, but expects it to be fleeting.

"When things are calm it's seen as an expense they don't need right away," he said, "and then when a tragedy happens it's a priority again."

Petrino said companies can make changes that aren't intrusive like using cameras with artificial intelligence capabilities to identify weapons. Sometimes, it may just be a matter of improving lighting in a hallway or putting up convex mirrors to see around a corner.

"Everything doesn't have to be bulletproof and locked with security cameras everywhere," he said. "You don't have to be Fort Knox. You can have very basic things."

Michael Evanoff, chief security officer of Verkada, a building security company based in San Mateo, California, said technology like AI-enabled cameras to help identify threats have become even more important amid a shortage of guards.

"It's harder than many realize

to find and retain trained personnel," Evanoff said. "That makes it even more essential that guards are equipped with technology that can extend their reach."

Security at 345 Park Avenue, the site of the shooting, included a New York Police Department officer working a uniformed security assignment. He was among those killed.

Rudin, the leasing company that

manages the building, did not respond to a query about when the building will reopen or whether new security measures will be implemented. No matter what, though, every workplace has vulnerabilities.

"The security team has to be perfect to 100 percent of the time," said Komendat, a former chief security officer for Boeing. "Someone like this just needs to be lucky once."

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Angelina Katsanis/AP Photo

Pedestrians walk by police tape on the corner of Lexington Avenue and 53rd Street, a block away from the Park Avenue office building where four people were shot and killed July 28.

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DCAS HIRING LIST

Paralegal Aide

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services established a 464-name list for Paralegal Aide on May 7, 2025. The list is based on Exam 4070, which was recently held. Readers should note that eligible lists change over their four-year life as candidates are added, removed, reinstated, or rescored. The list shown below is accurate as of the date of establishment but list standings can change as a result of appeals.

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

TOP SCORERS:

1	Meghan I Brancato	100.00
2	Virginia A Michaels	100.00
3	Nicole L Lawtone-Bowles	100.00
4	Louis A Abreu	100.00
5	Omega McIntosh	100.00
6	Georgette C Pascual	100.00
7	Jhasmine Figueroa	100.00
8	Amara Hyde	100.00
9	Susie Kim	100.00
10	Sophia Villacreses	100.00
11	Alejandro Cajina	100.00
12	Kareem Joseph	100.00
13	Ibrahim Nader	100.00
14	Desiree M Fuentes	100.00
15	Rosa Vargas	100.00
16	Brent L Gamit	100.00
17	Sherville Jnbaptiste	100.00
18	Megan S Garcia	100.00
19	Carina S Marino	100.00
20	Wilma Barton	100.00
21	Hany M Nashed	100.00
22	Mel-Asia R Pugh	100.00
23	Jennifer V Delacruz	100.00
24	Maged Zaki	100.00
25	Michelle D Robinson-Reid	100.00
26	Marian Ghattas	100.00
27	Heather M Oggeri	100.00
28	Usha I Dasrath	100.00
29	Amany Saleh	100.00
30	Ardene Strong	100.00
31	Xiomara Marte	100.00
32	Alberte Prosper	100.00
33	Eric Dalloo	100.00
34	Karen P Abel-Bey	100.00
35	Yolanda C Siders-Lewis	100.00
36	Marcella Lee	100.00
37	Alisa McCoy	100.00
38	Hanaa T Ebeid	100.00
39	Rosamaria Cipriano	100.00
40	Janine Medina	100.00
41	Fathy Shehata	100.00
42	Marina Bebawy	100.00
43	Meray Metry	100.00
44	Sohair Abdelshaheed	100.00
45	April Harris	100.00
46	Massiel Castillo	100.00
47	Jessica G Yakuboff	100.00
48	Lourdes M Galindez	100.00
49	Sameh N Fanous	100.00
50	Eyleen Marquez	100.00
51	Celynne Cruz	100.00
52	Antoinette Brandt	100.00
53	Robin S Walls	100.00
54	Mayra Miranda	100.00
55	Lamiel Navarro	100.00
56	Reina I Ayala	100.00
57	Victor Samaan	100.00
58	Jacqueline P Collins	100.00
59	Jeda C Williams	100.00
60	Myn-Nyema N Caldwell	100.00
61	Lauren A Trapani	100.00
62	Sugundia Smith	100.00
63	Amanda Bonilla	100.00
64	Elias Luna	100.00
65	Kevin Yu	100.00
66	Yolanda D Taylor	100.00
67	Crystal A Massy	100.00
68	Hedra S Khalel	100.00
69	Karen Matos	95.00
70	Shiyanne S Letts	95.00
71	Melinda Renta-Colon	95.00
72	Ashley Hutchinson	95.00
73	Anna C Costa	95.00
74	Altagracia M Pimentel	95.00
75	Avanelle Payne	95.00
76	Baasmattie Chandrapaul	95.00
77	Zhuyun Yang	95.00
78	Timothy F Kehoe	95.00
79	Eric V Flemmings	95.00
80	Vigilija Bruzaite	95.00
81	Nabaun Noor	95.00
82	Matthew Hart	95.00
83	Celina Figueroa	95.00
84	Kim Stephens	95.00
85	John D Thomas	95.00
86	Leila R Robinson	90.00
87	Sharon L Liverpool	90.00
88	Peter Evangelista	90.00
89	Miguelina Sanchez	90.00
90	Steven C Hernandez	90.00
91	Leslie A Garnes	90.00
92	Lakendra Hairston	90.00
93	Julia A Antignani	90.00
94	Farhana Sharmin	90.00
95	Dinesh C Mojumder	90.00
96	Chrystal Brabham	90.00
97	Claudette L Gosta	85.00
98	Pedro R Pacheco	85.00
99	Mayra Ortega	85.00
100	Xavier D Rogers	85.00
101	Keisha O White	85.00
102	Mary Soliman	85.00
103	Eugenio S Eligon	85.00
104	Alex Desdunes	85.00
105	Orelbi Rodriguez	85.00
106	Jeissa L Burgos	85.00
107	Kai C Bih	85.00
108	Nikki C Persaud	85.00
109	Michelle T Bondar	85.00
110	Qiaofang Huang	85.00
111	Rillan Butler	85.00
112	Roshanica S Cassie	85.00
113	Brittany Veres	85.00
114	Akeem E Thorpe	85.00
115	Maria Barlis	85.00
116	Derek A Klever	85.00
117	Tameka T Brown-Swinea	85.00
118	Shanequa K Francis	85.00
119	Jasmine Rosas	85.00
120	Mayra Rios	85.00
121	Bushra Ahmed	85.00
122	Jordy M Burgos	85.00
123	Rachel S Lewis	85.00
124	Angela M Fernandez	85.00
125	Gianna C Gambino	85.00
126	Edwin Perez	82.50
127	Stephanie N Held	82.50
128	Donna Greene	82.50
129	Frederick R Green	80.00
130	Arielle A Gibbs	80.00
131	Selwyn C Murray	80.00
132	Matthew Lachs	80.00
133	Maya I Johnson	80.00
134	Janae A Bond	80.00
135	Angie F Cordovez Arias	80.00
136	Jared Jokl	80.00
137	Joshua S Lutchman	80.00
138	Nataly Than	80.00
139	Ingrid G Potter	80.00
140	Agnes T Chang	80.00
141	Inna Feida	80.00
142	Shondelle M Hillmancoy	80.00
143	Sharon I Talavera	80.00
144	Ivan E Reyes	80.00
145	Barbara R Lee	80.00
146	Riciana B Greene	80.00
147	Danyell James	80.00
148	Kenya Israel	80.00
149	Yashkumar Shah	80.00
150	Amrit Kaur	80.00
151	Malika Tiliaeva	80.00
152	Sammridhi S Khadka	80.00
153	Kenneth A Hines	80.00
154	Firoja Akther	80.00
155	Chaim A Green	80.00
156	Sobita Roy	80.00
157	Joseph A Camaratti	80.00
158	Ashley Itwaru	80.00
159	Affia Ahmed	80.00
160	Mercy Walelo	80.00
161	Chanel Gifford	77.50
162	Mosammam T Khatun	77.50
163	Damita Miles	77.50
164	Roger J Lliguicota	77.50
165	Jennifer Lee	75.00
166	Leslie A Banks	75.00
167	Joshua Intriago-Lehman	75.00
168	Aliya Brannigan	75.00
169	Chnaiga Jeudi	75.00
170	Matthew D Medina	75.00
171	Debora S Javier	75.00
172	Muslimah Abdul-Muntaqim	75.00
173	Amanda M McCollum	75.00
174	Keshawn K Legendre	75.00
175	Sacnitec Gomez	75.00
176	Eric A Forteau Jr	75.00
177	Dyron M Jackson	75.00
178	Benjamin E Cordova	75.00
179	Kenny E Baez Ramirez	75.00
180	Eric Chow	75.00
181	Joella Lewis	75.00
182	Kerollos Zaky	75.00
183	Caitlyn E Tannu	75.00
184	Emmanuel Peralta	75.00
185	Chaiti Karmaker	75.00
186	Ryan M Gariner	75.00
187	Melissa A Wakefield	75.00
188	Jenny A Bermudez	75.00
189	Tezra A Swinea	75.00
190	Andy Wang	75.00
191	Chanel L Sanchez	75.00
192	Toriann J Jackson	75.00
193	Babacar Toure	75.00
194	Eunice Macario	75.00
195	Erika Perez	75.00
196	Carol Frankovic	75.00
197	Charlene T Aurelius	75.00
198	Eduardo Cordova	75.00
199	Saudia A Lallmahamad	75.00
200	Karolyn Castillo	75.00
201	Breann Castillo	75.00
202	Chanel Carlos	75.00
203	Hailey A Behl	75.00
204	Ashley Chabran	75.00
205	Sarah E Harrington	75.00
206	David Dryburgh	75.00
207	Gurkamal Sandhu	75.00
208	Cephes Suber	75.00
209	Ingrid Adamson	75.00
210	Carolyn Z Spillane	75.00
211	Rachel Prasad	75.00
212	Gary Carmelo	75.00
213	Tresela Liea	75.00
214	Kayla A Santiago	75.00
215	Aidan Tuohy	75.00
216	Tenesha M Bryant	75.00
217	Martinson Afari-Yeboah	75.00
218	Abubacarr Keita	75.00
219	Nana Kwame A Adigun	73.75
220	Maria Restrepo Soto	73.75
221	Arun T George	72.50
222	Amanda M Dane	72.50
223	Nuzhat Abida	72.50
224	Zhane Hazel	72.50
225	Noemi A Santana	72.50
226	Liane Lau	71.25
227	Tshering Yangzom	71.25
228	Gabriela Elespuru	71.25
229	Wesley A Sinche	70.00
230	Ariana Perez	70.00
231	Christopher O Anosike	70.00
232	Tierra Robinson	70.00
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234	Tanay Jones	70.00
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251	Kevil Shah	70.00
252	Erika Rodriguez	70.00
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254	Natalie Steinbuch	70.00
255	Basil Luneth	70.00
256	April Flores	70.00
257	Farzana Tajmool	70.00
258	Luis Tejada	70.00
259	Michael A Marziliano	70.00
260	Zeous Haider	70.00
261	Jay Barbalatt	70.00
262	Isanah R Strickland	70.00
263	Brandon N Cruz	70.00
264	Phurpa Lama	70.00
265	Pedro Ramos Flores	70.00
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269	Rumana Yesmin	70.00
270	Maximus Timothy	70.00
271	Anika Rahman	70.00
272	Karen Scott	70.00
273	Amara D Mayo	70.00
274	Caroline Orlowski	70.00
275	Sherly LaRochelle	70.00
276	Channel M Bryant	70.00
277	Nancy Escobar	70.00
278	Jamie A Espinal	70.00
279	Adam D Schwartz	70.00
280	Robert Niespor	70.00
281	Ahmed M Radwan	70.00
282	Aliyah Moore	70.00
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284	James E Lunsford	70.00
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286	Ebony Lawrence	70.00
287	Skyla Rivera	70.00
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318	Thomas A Gunn	70.00
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320	Galen Williams	70.00
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359	Ruth M Grant	70.00
360	Francesca Lange	70.00
361	Brandon Murati	70.00
362	Amanda B Sukhoo	70.00
363	A'shanty J Hay	70.00
364	Toni L Polite	70.00
365	Christina Vulaj	70.00
366	Kevin Tong	70.00
367	Roy M Green	70.00
368	Misha Delille	70.00
369	Alexander Heller	70.00

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of CAMBRIDGE ARMS PRESERVATION, L.P. Cert. of LP filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/23/25. Office location: NY County. Prnc. 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. 062725-4 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. Prnc. 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. 062725-5 7/4/25-8/8/25

Notice of Qualification of CALAXY 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, Ugly House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104. 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. 062425-2 7/4/25-8/8/25

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

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: c/o Westbrock Corporate Ctr, Ste 200, Westchester, IL 60154. Cert. of Formation filed with IL Secy of State, 5th 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. 062425-1 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

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Notice of Qualification of Bilt Travel LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/19/25. Office location: NY County. Prnc. 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 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. Prnc. 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

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. The principal business address of the LLC 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. Prnc. 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. Prnc. 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 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 12207-2543. Name and addr. of each general partner are available from SSNY. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 062725-4 7/4/25-8/8/25

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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 6/25/25. 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

CITATION. File No. 2025-1410. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By the Grace of God Free and Independent. TO: Robert P. Jensen; unknown issue of John J. Curran, maternal uncle; unknown issue of John J. Curran, maternal first cousin; unknown additional Issue of Josephine Marry Curran Jensen, maternal first cousin; if living and If dead to his heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and If he died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Jeanne Francis Magagna Deuschle, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry be ascertained. Mark John Magagna, Penelope Sandonato, Kathleen Gureckis, Stephanie Martini, Paul J. Martini, Peter P. Martini, Barbara Mary McDonald, Richard Martini, Ann Carretta, Charles William Service, Katherine Chownace, Matthew Service, Daniel Joseph Curran, Beverly Malone, William Sheridan, Patrick Sheridan, Susan Laverdier, New York County Public Administrator A petition having been duly filed by Jacquelyn Ann Deuschle and Sally Ann Berger who is/was domiciled at 534 Crowfields Lane, Asheville, NC 28803 and 6243 Stonehill Place, Clifton, VA 20124. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on September 8, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Jeanne Francis Magagna Deuschle, aka Jeanne M Deuschle lately domiciled at 50 E 89th Street, Apt. 3C, New York, New York 10128, United States admitting to probate a Will dated April 22, 2024, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Jeanne Francis Magagna Deuschle deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Sally Ann Berger and Jacquelyn Ann Deuschle. *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, July 24, 2025. Seal. HON. RITA MELLA SURROGATE, Chief Clerk Diana Sanabria. Print Name of Attorney: Michael Markhoff, Esq. Firm Name: Danziger & Markhoff LLP. Telephone: (914) 948-1556. Address: 1133 Westchester Avenue, Suite N208, White Plains, New York 10604. Email (optional): mmarkhoff@dmlyawyers.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 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. 8/8/25-8/29/25

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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 L.P. 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. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 070225-2 7/11/25-8/15/25

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.

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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

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., 1704 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 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 COMFRE 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. Prnc. office of 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 VVWHP, 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

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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 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 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

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PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2025-1676. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By the Grace of God Free and Independent. TO: Possible issue of Jeanne Cohen, Stelle Cohen, Henrietta Cohen, Pearl Cohen and Lena Cohen maternal aunts, Harry Cohen, maternal uncle if living and if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Stephen N. Schneider, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained. Mark Schneider, Public Administrator, New York County. A petition having been duly filed by Anthony M. Benjamin, who is domiciled at 4 West 74th Street, New York, NY. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, Room 503, New York, NY, on September 29th, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the FORE noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the Estate of Stephen N. Schneider lately domiciled at 10 West 74th Street - 5A, New York, New York 10023 admitting to probate a Will dated March 28, 2020, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Stephen N. Schneider deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: [X] Letters Testamentary issue to: Anthony M. Benjamin. *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: July 24, 2025. HON. RITA MELLA, Surrogate. Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Name of Attorney: Anthony M. Benjamin, Esq. Tel. No.: 212-752-2171. Address of Attorney: 4 West 74th Street, New York, New York 10023. [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 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. 072825-8 8/1/25-8/22/25

PROBATE CITATION File No. 2024-3818A SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By the Grace of God Free and Independent. TO: Possible issue of Jeanne Cohen, Stelle Cohen, Henrietta Cohen, Pearl Cohen and Lena Cohen maternal aunts, Harry Cohen, maternal uncle if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence: NEW YORK COUNTY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. An Amended Petition having been duly filed by SARKA ZOHA a/k/a Sharka Zoha, who is domiciled at 1500 Lexington Avenue, Apt. 17-C, New York, New York 10029 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on September 15, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should be made in the estate of GEORGE REIMANN a/k/a Dr. George Reimann a/k/a George Jiri Reimann, lately domiciled at 242 East 19th Street, Apartment 15-H, New York, New York 10003, United States, admitting to probate a Will dated December 27, 2016, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of GEORGE REIMANN, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: [X] Letters Testamentary issue to: SARKA ZOHA a/k/a SHARKA ZOHA 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 Surrogates' Court Notice to Cited Parties. Dated, Attested and Sealed, July 25, 2025. /s/HON. RITA MELLA, Surrogate /s/ Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Print Name of Attorney: GABRIEL FISCHBARG, ESQ. Firm Name: GABRIEL FISCHBARG, ESQ. Telephone: 917-514-6261 Address: 230 Park Avenue, Suite 330W, New York, NY 10169 Email (optional): gabriel@fischbarglaw.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 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. 072825-7 8/1/25-8/22/25

PROBATE CITATION File No. 2025-156/A SURROGATE'S COURT- NEW YORK COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. TO the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Bess Nicholas, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. John Cos. Trilivas, Bessie Pease and Public Administrator of New York County. A petition having been duly filed by Adam Bramwell, who is domiciled at 713 McKenzie Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, NEW YORK COUNTY, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, on September 8th, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the FORE noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Bess Nicholas a/k/a Bessie Nicholas lately domiciled at 33 East End Avenue, Apt 2-B, New York, NY 10028 admitting to probate a Will dated 06/05/2024, (Codicil(s) dated _____), a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Bess Nicholas a/k/a Bessie Nicholas deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that [x] Letters Testamentary issue to: Adam Bramwell [] Letters of Trusteeship issue to: _____ [] Letters of Administration c.t.a. issue to: _____ (State any further relief requested) *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 the Cited Parties HON. RITA MELLA, Surrogate, Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Dated, Attested and sealed, July 18th, 2025. Eric W. Hager, Esq., Attorney for Petitioner, Telephone Number 212-922-0122, E-mail Address of Attorney ehager@davidsonandawson.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



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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

- CLOSES AUGUST 14
6312 Police Officer \$55,942
- CLOSES AUGUST 26
6029 Call Center Representative \$40,770

CUNY EXAMS

- 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
- CLOSE SEPTEMBER 15
6604 Revenue Equipment Maintainer (Electronics Technician)
- 6605 Structure Maintainer - Group D (Sheet Metal)
- 6608 Car Inspector (Subway Car Mechanic)
- 6611 Bus Maintainer - Group B (Auto Mechanic)

NASSAU COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSE AUGUST 13
50082025 Clerk-Laborer \$30,360-\$59,445
50092025 Clerk-Laborer, Bilingual

- (Spanish Speaking) \$30,360-\$59,445
50102025 Sewage Plant Operator \$98,592-\$135,946
- 50112025 Sewage Plant Operator Trainee \$79,286-\$107,742
- 50122025 Water Plant Operator \$60,290-\$97,260
- 50142025 Admissions Officer I \$40,375-\$54,817
- 50152025 Admissions Officer I, Bilingual (Spanish Speaking) \$40,375-\$54,817
- 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

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSE AUGUST 20
00130 Photocopy Machine Operator \$40,000-\$41,426
- 7088 Court Officer \$34 per hour
- 0516 Data Base Coordinator \$77,772
- CLOSE AUGUST 27
0205 Account Clerk \$42,500-\$51,891
- 0211 Account Clerk (Spanish Speaking) \$42,500-\$51,891
- 0756 Website Manager \$85,211
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
0221 Accountant \$54,392
- 0220 Accountant Trainee \$47,450
- 0231 Auditor \$54,392
- 0230 Auditor Trainee \$47,450
- 2020 Public Health Nurse I \$72,845
- 2041 Clinical Nurse Practitioner \$74,124
- 2511 Psychiatric Social Worker \$54,392
- 2641 Medical Services Specialist \$81,406

- 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

- CLOSES AUGUST 31
60-039310 Library Director II
- 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
- 02-109 Admissions Clerk - WCC
- 02-110 Admissions Clerk - WCC (Spanish Speaking)
- 02-119 Attendance Clerk
- 02-129 Senior Information Systems Clerk
- 02-140 Office Assistant (Automated Systems)
- 02-142 Office Assistant (Automated Systems) (Spanish Speaking)
- 02-200 Intermediate Audit Clerk \$43,700-\$52,220
- 02-201 Entry Level Financial Recordkeeping Clerk
- 02-210 Sanitarian \$55,975-\$68,920
- 02-600 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee (County)
- 02-601 Water Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee (Locals)
- 02-800 Office Assistant - (Word Processing) \$50,055-\$60,990
- 02-804 Office Assistant (Word Processing - Spanish Speaking) \$50,055-\$60,990
- 02-816 Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) \$50,055-\$60,990
- 02-818 Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems - Spanish Speaking) \$50,055-\$60,990
- 02-900 Health Services Coordinator \$74,292
- 03-100 Physical Therapy Assistant (School Districts)
- 06-100 Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)
- 09-002 Radiology Information Systems Analyst
- 10-003 Software Architect I \$82,995-\$110,625
- 10-022 Workstation Engineer I \$71,800-\$89,305
- 10-530 Server Engineer II \$85,275-\$113,665
- 11-531 Coordinator of Computer Services
- 14-723 Database Specialist
- 20-493 Systems Engineer II
- 21-605 Pharmacy Automation Specialist

- 62-705 Librarian I
- 62-715 Librarian I (Children's Services)
- 62-741 Librarian I (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-020 Librarian II
- 63-034 Librarian II (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-045 Library Director I
- 86-102 Hospital Pharmacist
- 86-113 Occupational Therapist (WCMC)
- 86-115 Physical Therapist (WCMC)
- 86-117 Public Health Nurse \$68,118
- 87-116 Physician's Assistant
- 87-124 Supervising Hospital Pharmacist
- 90-118 Staff Occupational Therapist
- 90-120 Staff Physical Therapist
- 91-136 Paramedic (Local)
- 93-133 Occupational Therapist (School Districts)
- 93-134 Physical Therapist (School Districts)
- 94-137 Physical Therapy Assistant (WCMC)
- 94-138 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- 95-141 Technical Specialist (Hematology)
- 95-142 Technical Specialist (Microbiology)
- 95-145 Senior Medical Technologist (Chemistry)
- 95-146 Senior Medical Technologist (Hematology)
- 95-148 Senior Medical Technologist (Microbiology)
- 95-149 Senior Medical Technologist (Stat - General)
- 95-150 Supervisor of Labs (Anatomic Pathology) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 95-151 Supervisor of Laboratories (Special Chemistry)
- 95-154 Technical Specialist (Anatomic Pathology)
- 95-156 Technical Specialist (Clinical Chemistry)
- 97-363 Supervisor of Medical Social Work
- 99-101 Supervising Public Health Nurse \$81,595
- 99-102 Surgical Physician Assistant - Specialty Services \$96,540-\$140,776

STATE EXAMS

- CLOSES SEPTEMBER 3
21-018020 DHSES Program Administrator 2 \$86,681
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
20-101 Actuary Trainee (Dept. of Financial Services) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-102 Actuary Trainee (State Insurance Fund) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-103 Actuary Trainee (Teachers' Retirement System) \$41,042-\$53,549
- 20-690 Additions Counselor 1 \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-691 Additions Counselor 1 (Spanish Language) \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-692 Additions Counselor 2 \$56,604-\$71,980
- 20-104 Assistant Actuary (Department of Financial Services) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-106 Assistant Actuary (Office of the State Comptroller) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-105 Assistant Actuary (State Insurance Fund) \$42,883-\$54,678

JOB HIGHLIGHT City DOT hiring deckhands for the Staten Island Ferry

The city Department of Transportation is hiring deckhands for the Staten Island Ferry. The salary range for the position is \$57,991-\$66,690 for 32 hours a week, including nights and weekends.

THE JOB

Deckhands clean vessels and terminal areas, perform lookout and emergency duties of the duty station, such as launching and manning rescue boats and life rafts; operate firefighting equipment; and assist in vessel-to-vessel transfers.

They also operate boarding doors, gates, aprons and bridges; handle gangways and mooring lines; direct passenger and vehicle traffic; and patrol decks and duty stations.

Deckhands assist passengers; report suspicious circumstances or objects to an officer or ferry terminal supervisor. They also perform heavy manual labor, such as handling vessel and terminal supplies and trash, and load and unload freight.

REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants either have 1) Two years of full-time satisfactory paid experience as a deckhand on ocean, coastwise or inland steam or motor vessels, or equivalent seagoing experience in a sea service of the U.S. Armed Forces; or 2) Graduated from an accredited college or university or specialized agencies recognized as accrediting bodies with an associate degree in marine technology, such as the

maritime technology degree awarded by Kingsborough Community College, including or supplemented by at least one year of deck duty; or

3) Graduated from one of the U.S. Coast Guard approved maritime or sea service academies listed below, including the curriculum, program, or qualification indicated: a) The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (deck curriculum); or b) The U.S. Coast Guard Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy with a qualification as an underway Officer in charge of a navigational watch; or c) The Deck Class of a Maritime Academy approved by and conducted under the rules prescribed by the Maritime Administrator (see 46 CFR 11.407), including the program in the Deck Class of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

The education and experience described in "1", "2" and "3" above must have been obtained within the last 10 years.

CREDENTIALS, CERTIFICATES

Within six months of appointment all candidates must possess a valid U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credential with the following endorsements: a) able seaman — any category, or a superior endorsement; and b) lifeboatman or lifeboatman-limited.

2. A valid U.S. Coast Guard medical certificate without restriction for applicable service; and within 30 days of appointment, all candidates must possess:

3. A valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) issued by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. All credentials and certificates

must be maintained for the duration of employment.

Once selected for employment, federal regulations require that applicants must either undergo a federal background check as part of the TWIC program or already possess a TWIC. The TWIC must be obtained within 30 days of appointment, and be maintained for the duration of employment. Visit <https://www.tsa.gov/for-industry/twic> for further program information.

Medical guidelines established by

the U.S. Coast Guard apply to the position of deckhand. Candidates will therefore be required to undergo a medical examination prior to appointment and thereafter, pursuant to Coast Guard regulations. Candidates must also pass a drug screening to be appointed. All candidates are subject to random drug and alcohol testing during their employment.

City residency is generally required within 90 days of appointment. However, city employees in

certain titles who have worked for the city for two continuous years may also be eligible to reside in Nassau, Suffolk, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland or Orange counties. To determine if the residency requirement applies to you, please discuss with the agency representative at the time of interview.

For complete information on the position and to apply, go to <https://cityjobs.nyc.gov/job/deckhand-in-staten-island-jid-34931>.

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LABOR AROUND THE WORLD

Thousands of Boeing workers go on strike

At Midwest factories that build fighter jets and weapons

BY CATHY BUSSEWITZ
Associated Press

Several thousand workers at three Midwest manufacturing plants where Boeing develops military aircraft and weapons went on strike early Monday, potentially complicating the aerospace company's progress in regaining its financial footing.

The strike started at Boeing facilities in St. Louis; St. Charles, Missouri; and Mascoutah, Illinois, after about 3,200 local members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers voted Sunday to reject a modified four-year labor agreement, the union said.

"IAM District 837 members build the aircraft and defense systems that keep our country safe," Sam Cicinelli, the general vice president of the union's Midwest division, said in a statement. "They deserve nothing less than a contract that keeps their families secure and recognizes their unmatched expertise."

The vote followed a weeklong cooling-off period after the machinists rejected an earlier proposed contract, which included a 20-percent wage increase over four years and \$5,000 ratification bonuses.

Boeing warned over the weekend that it anticipated the strike after workers rejected its latest offer, which did not further boost the proposed wage hike. However, the proposal removed a scheduling provision that would have affected workers' ability to earn overtime pay.

"We're disappointed our employees rejected an offer that featured 40-percent average wage growth and resolved their primary issue on alternative work schedules," said Dan Gillian, Boeing Air Dominance vice president and general manager, and senior St. Louis site executive. "We are prepared for a strike and have fully implemented our contingency plan to ensure our non-striking workforce can continue supporting our customers."

Boeing's Defense, Space & Security business accounts for more than one-third of the company's revenue. But Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg told analysts last week that the impact from a strike by the machinists who build fighter jets, weapons systems and the U.S. Navy's first carrier-based unmanned aircraft would be much less than a walkout last year by 33,000 workers who assemble the company's commercial jetliners.

"The order of magnitude of this is much, much less than what we saw last fall," Ortberg said. "So we'll manage through this. I wouldn't worry too much about the implications of the strike."

The 2024 strike that shut down Boeing's factories in Washington state for more than seven weeks at a bleak time for the company. Boeing came under several federal investigations last year after a door plug blew off a 737 Max plane during an Alaska Airlines flight in January.

The Federal Aviation Administration put limits on Boeing airplane production that it said would last until the agency felt confident about manufacturing quality safeguards at the company. The door-plug incident renewed concerns about the safety of the 737 Max. Two of the planes crashed less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people.

Ortberg told analysts that the company has slowly worked its way up to an FAA-set 737 Max production cap of 38 per month and expects to ask regulators later this year for permission to go beyond it.

Last week, Boeing reported that its second-quarter revenue had improved and its losses had narrowed. The company lost \$611 million in the second quarter, compared to a loss of \$1.44 billion during the same period last year.

Shares of Boeing Co. slipped less than 1 percent before the opening bell Monday.

CEOs say AI is causing worker layoffs, but the reality is complicated

The template for firing notices includes nod to emerging tech

BY MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

If you read the typical 2025 mass layoff notice from a tech industry CEO, you might think that artificial intelligence cost workers their jobs.

The reality is more complicated, with companies trying to signal to Wall Street that they're making themselves more efficient as they prepare for broader changes wrought by AI.

A new report from career website Indeed says tech job postings in July were down 36 percent from their early 2020 levels, with AI one but not the most obvious factor in stalling a rebound.

ChatGPT's debut in late 2022 also corresponded with the end of a pandemic-era hiring binge, making it hard to isolate AI's role in the hiring doldrums that followed.

"We're kind of in this period where the tech job market is weak, but other areas of the job market have also cooled at a similar pace," said Brendon Bernard, an economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "Tech job postings have actually evolved pretty similarly to the rest of the economy, including relative to job postings where there really isn't that much exposure to AI."

That nuance is not always clear from the last six months of tech layoff emails, which often include a nod to AI in addition to expressions of sympathy.

When he announced mass layoffs earlier this year, Workday CEO Carl Eschenbach invited employees to consider the bigger picture: "Companies everywhere are reimagining how work gets done, and the increasing demand for AI has the potential to drive a new era of growth for Workday."

Autodesk CEO Andrew Anagnost explained that a need to shift resources to "accelerate investments" in AI was one of the reasons the



Alex Slitz/AP Photo

A Startup Student Connection job fair at Georgia Tech in March 2023 in Atlanta. Upheaval in the tech sector means that students are being courted by employers who aren't typically synonymous with tech work, including hotel chains, retailers, investment firms, railroad companies and even the Internal Revenue Service.

company had to cut 1,350, or about 9 percent, of workers.

The "Why We're Doing This" section of CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz's announcement of 5 percent job cuts said the cybersecurity company needed to double down on AI investments to "accelerate execution and efficiency."

"AI flattens our hiring curve, and helps us innovate from idea to product faster," Kurtz wrote.

AI's role is hard to track

Microsoft has announced layoffs of about 15,000 workers this year even as its profits have soared.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella told employees last month the layoffs were "weighing heavily" on him but also positioned them as an opportunity to reimagine the company's mission for an AI era.

Promises of a leaner approach have been welcomed on Wall Street, especially from tech giants that are trying to justify huge amounts of capital spending to pay for the data centers, chips and other components required to power AI tech-

nology.

"It's this sort of double-edged sword restructuring that I think a lot of tech giants are encountering in this age of AI, where they have to find the right balance between maintaining an appropriate headcount, but also allowing artificial intelligence to come to the forefront," said Bryan Hayes, a What these broader tech industry layoffs mean for the employment prospects of tech workers can be harder to gauge.

"Will AI replace some of these jobs? Absolutely," said Hayes. "But it's also going to create a lot of jobs. Employees that are able to leverage artificial intelligence and help the companies innovate, and create new products and services, are going to be the ones that are in high demand."

He pointed to Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, which is on a spree of offering lucrative packages to recruit elite AI scientists from competitors such as OpenAI.

The reports published by Indeed late last month show that AI spe-

cialists are faring better than standard software engineers, but even those jobs are not where they have been.

"Machine-learning engineers — which is kind of the canonical AI job — those job postings are still noticeably above where they were pre-pandemic, though they've actually come down compared to their 2022 peak," said Bernard, the Indeed economist. "They've also been impacted by the cyclical ups and downs of the sector."

Tech hiring has particularly plunged in AI hubs such as the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as Boston and Seattle, according to Indeed.

But in looking more closely at which tech workers were least likely to get hired, Indeed found the deepest impact on entry-level jobs in the tech industry, with those with at least five years of experience faring better.

The hiring declines were sharpest in entry-level tech industry jobs that involve marketing, administrative assistance and human resources, which all involve tasks that overlap with the strength of the latest generative AI tools that can help create documents and images.

"The plunge in tech hiring started before the new AI age, but the shifting experience requirements is something that happened a bit more recently," Bernard said.

Microsoft, which is staking its future on AI in the workplace, has also had its own researchers look into the jobs most vulnerable to the current strengths of AI technology. At the top of the list are knowledge work jobs such as language interpreters or translators, as well as historians, passenger attendants, sales representatives, writers and customer service representatives, according to Microsoft's working paper.

On the other end, leading in work more immune to AI changes were phlebotomists, or healthcare workers who draw blood, followed by nursing assistants, workers who remove hazardous materials, painters and embalmers.

NJ, labor officials submit plans for public worker health plan savings

CWA: State's proposals 'outrageous and unacceptable'

BY NIKITA BIRYUKOV
newjerseymonitor.com

State and labor officials unveiled diverging proposals to cut costs for New Jersey's distressed state worker health plan by \$200 million each calendar year.

Proposals from Gov. Phil Murphy's administration focus mainly on reducing health plans' share of medical costs, while union proposals lean mostly on controlling the cost of medical services, whether through caps that would tie rates to Medicare and Medicaid or expanded billing reviews.

Language in this year's state budget requires both sides to identify potential savings for the State Health Benefits Program, and allows the state's plan design committee — which sets plan coverage rules — to select which savings options to pursue. The state's actuaries must agree that the changes will reduce costs by at least \$100 million in the first six months of 2026.

But apart from proposals that would tie prescriptions of certain weight-loss drugs to participation in lifestyle management or anti-obesity counseling programs and allow more procedures at center of excellence facilities — a pilot program caps prices there — the two sides' plans have little in common.

Billy Gallagher, assistant to the vice president of Communications Workers of America District 1, called the state's proposals "outrageous and unacceptable." The CWA is the largest union of state workers.

"For years, this administration, like the administration before it, has made cuts on our members' backs and asked the very workers who keep this state open and running to sacrifice, to cut back more and more," Gallagher said.

State officials, meanwhile, say

their proposals could achieve "significantly" more savings than the \$100 million target for the first half of next year.

"These plan design proposals will maintain the SHBP members' access to high-quality, affordable health care, while incentivizing more cost-effective health care decisions by members and bolstering the sustainability of the SHBP now and for years to come," state officials said in a letter attached to their plan.

New Jersey's public worker health plans are in trouble after years of escalating premiums driven by broad use of expensive weight-loss drugs, growing utilization of high-cost services, and inflation.

The two sides' proposals seek cost savings within state workers' part of the plan, which is insulated from some of the dynamics that Treasury officials say have put local government workers' public plan into an actuarial death spiral. Escalating costs on the local plan have pushed out more and more towns to private options, driving premiums yet higher.

The state's proposals include multiple options that would eliminate existing plans within the State Health Benefit Program and replace them with ones that make workers responsible for a greater share of their health care expenses.

State plans under the program carry actuarial values — the share of medical spending paid for by the health plan instead of workers — of between 93 percent and 98 percent, according to a Treasury report released in May. The state's proposals include plans with actuarial values between 88 percent and 94.5 percent (a 2023 comparison of plan designs conducted by the state's actuaries found comparable large public employee health plans in the mid-Atlantic region had actuarial values between 93.6 percent and 96.9 percent).

The state's proposed plans typically feature higher deductibles and



Dana DiFilippo/New Jersey Monitor

New Jersey labor union officials say the Murphy administration and legislative leaders are trying to force state workers to shoulder the burden of big cuts to public employee health care costs.

out-of-pocket maximums compared to existing plans. In many cases, these plans also include higher copays across a range of services, though some are at or below levels offered under some existing plans.

Some of the state's options recommend sunseting certain high-cost plans to drive workers to extant plans with lower costs for the state.

The unions' cost savings proposals mostly aim at reducing medical expenses. They urge officials to review at least 50 percent of state claims each year to spot payment errors that can be clawed back by the state.

Labor proposals include a recommendation that New Jersey negotiate its own drug prices rather than contracting out to a third party and audit prices for the 100 most-billed drugs, arguing prescription drug discounts have been too slow to reach the state.

They also said the state should offer incentives for workers to voluntarily join plans with higher de-

ductibles.

Murphy, who is in the closing months of his second term, cannot seek a third term in November. Republican Jack Ciattarelli and Rep. Mikie Sherrill, a Democrat, are vying to succeed him.

The differences between proposals — and the plan design committee's even split between administration and labor members — could create a deadlocked panel. If they're still deadlocked by Sept. 30, budget language requires them to enter mediation under a super conciliator to bridge the impasse.

If the conciliator does not push the board to a resolution by Oct. 31, budget language requires the Legislature to pass a bill to secure the savings by Dec. 1. If no bill is passed, negotiations would relaunch between single representatives of the two sides. The nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services would appoint a tiebreaker if no agreement is reached by Dec. 15.